

Q: The line with equation $ax + by = c$ is perpendicular to the line with equation $2x + 3y = 5$ and intersects it at $(4, -1)$.

If $|a|$ and $|b|$ are integers with greatest common factor 1, find $|a| + |b| + |c|$.

A:

The line with the equation $2x + 3y = 5$ has a slope of $-\frac{2}{3}$

and a perpendicular line has a slope of $\frac{3}{2}$.

Given that $(4, -1)$ is a point on the line, the equation of the perpendicular line is

$$y + 1 = \frac{3}{2}(x - 4).$$

Coefficients a and b are integers, with no common factors > 1 ,

so the equivalent equation is $3x - 2y = 14$ and $|a| + |b| + |c| = 19$.

Q: A club has N members. The club finds that the number of ways to staff the 8 – member executive committee is 42 times the number of ways to staff the 6 – member nominating committee. Find N .

A: An equation to represent this situation is: $\frac{N!}{(N-8)!8!} = 42 \frac{N!}{(N-6)!6!}$.

Multiplying both sides of the equation by $8!$ yields: $\frac{N!}{(N-8)!} = 42 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 \frac{N!}{(N-6)!}$

Multiplying both sides of this equation by $(N-6)!$ yields: $N!(N-6)(N-7) = 42 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 \cdot N!$.

Dividing out $N!$ gives the quadratic equation $N^2 - 13N - 2310 = 0$,

which has a positive solution at $N = 55$.

Q: Let $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^{512}$. What are the last two digits of b ?

A: Observing the first few powers of $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$...

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 7 \\ 0 & 8 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 15 \\ 0 & 16 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^5 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 31 \\ 0 & 32 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^6 \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 63 \\ 0 & 64 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^7 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 127 \\ 0 & 128 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \dots \end{aligned}$$

So, this question is asking for the last 2 digits of $2^{512} - 1$.

The following observations can be applied:

When n is a multiple of 4, the last digit of $2^n - 1$ is a 5.

Further, when n is a multiple of 4:

if $\frac{n}{4} \bmod 5 = 1$, the last 2 digits of $2^n - 1$ are 15;

if $\frac{n}{4} \bmod 5 = 2$, the last 2 digits of $2^n - 1$ are 55;

if $\frac{n}{4} \bmod 5 = 3$, the last 2 digits of $2^n - 1$ are 95;

if $\frac{n}{4} \bmod 5 = 4$, the last 2 digits of $2^n - 1$ are 35;

if $\frac{n}{4} \bmod 5 = 0$, the last 2 digits of $2^n - 1$ are 75.

When $n = 512$, $\frac{512}{4} = 128$ and $128 \bmod 5 = 3$, so the last two digits of $2^{512} - 1$ are 95.