

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 5 – FEBRUARY 2009 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 2 - continued**

$$\text{C) } 13x + 11y = 316 \rightarrow y = \frac{316-13x}{11} = 28 - x + \frac{8-2x}{11} = 28 - x + 2\left(\frac{4-x}{11}\right)$$

Thus, the smallest positive integer  $x$  to try is 4.

$$x = 4 \rightarrow y = 24 + 2(0) = 24 \rightarrow \text{partition } 316 = 52 + 264 \rightarrow \underline{(52, 264)}$$

$$x = 15 \rightarrow y = 13 + 2(-1) = 11 \rightarrow \text{partition } 316 = 195 + 121 \rightarrow \underline{(195, 121)}$$

Since the slope of the given linear equation is  $-13/11$ , we note that when  $x$  is increased by 11,  $y$  is decreased by 13. Therefore,  $x$  and  $y$  will no longer both be positive integers and the search stops.

Alternate solution (using congruence notation):

If you familiar with numerical congruence, read on!

If not, ask a teammate or teacher before continuing.

$$11x + 13y = 316 \rightarrow 11x \equiv 316 \pmod{13} \quad [\equiv \text{ is the congruence operator}]$$

Removing the largest multiple of 13, we have  $11x \equiv 4 \pmod{13}$

The solution to this congruence is  $x \equiv 11 \pmod{13}$ , since  $11(11) = 121 = 13(9) + 4$  and we see that 121 leaves a remainder of 4 when divided by 13. You may wish to verify that over the integer interval  $[0, 12]$ ,  $x = 11$  is the only solution to  $11x \equiv 4 \pmod{13}$ .

$$x = 11 \text{ generates the partition } 121 + 195 = 316 \rightarrow \underline{(195, 121)}$$

$$x = 11 + 13 = 24 \text{ generates the partition } 264 + 52 = 316 \rightarrow \underline{(52, 264)}$$

In each ordered pair, the multiple of 13 must be listed first.