```
begin
using LinearAlgebra
end
```

Minimal Solution

The purpose of this notebook is to create a utility for finding the minimal solution of a Flippin puzzle (i.e. requires the fewest moves to solve).

This notebook expands on the results of the one describing how to find any solution to a Flippin puzzle if it exists. That notebook is found here.

Prerequisites

Before doing anything, we will introduce the results from the notebook mentioned previously as constants.

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Steps

We start by defining the start state and end state for the puzzle we are trying to solve.

```
\textbf{startstate} \ = \ \blacktriangleright \ [ \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 0 \ , \ 
             1 startstate = [
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
              4
                                                                                     O;
                                                                                      0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                   0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
    14
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     O;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
    24
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
                                                                                     0;
  27 ]
```

```
endstate = [
    2;
    2;
4
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
    2;
27
```

Now we need to consider the null space of A. All the moves in the null space of A will result in no net change when applied to a board.

The nullity of A is 3 so we want to find 3 vectors in the null space of A that can form the basis for Null(A). The last 3 rows of the matrix S found in the other notebook will suffice.

```
25×25 Matrix{Int64}:
    0
        0
            0
                    0
                            0
                                0
                                    0
                                       0
                                           0
                                               0
                                                                   0
                                                                      0
                                                                          0
                                                                              0
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                                                                                              0
 1
                0
                        0
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                                                       0
                                                           0
                                                               0
                                                                                          0
 2
    1
        0
            0
                0
                    0
                        0
                            0
                                0
                                    0
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            1
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 2
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                2
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                        2
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 1
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                                                                              0
                                                                                  2
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                                                                                          1
                                                                                              0
                    2
 0
    1
            2
                0
                        2
                            0
                                1
                                    1
                                           1
                                               0
                                                   2
                                                       1
                                                           1
                                                               1
                                                                   0
                                                                                              1
    S
```

```
v1 = \mathbb{I}[1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 0, 2, 1, 0, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0]
1 \quad v1 = \mathbb{S}[23, :]
```

```
v2 = \mathbb{P}[1, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2, 2, 0, 1, 1, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 1, 1, 0, 2, 2, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0]
1 \quad v2 = \mathbb{S}[24, :]
```

```
v3 = b[0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 2, 2, 0, 1, 1, 2, 1, 0, 2, 1, 1, 1, 0, 2, 2, 2, 0, 0, 0, 1]
1 v3 = S[25, :]
```

Because v1, v2, and v3 are in the null space of A, adding them (or any linear combination of them) to a solution will produce another valid solution.

Given a solution β , there are 27 total solutions of the form $\beta + c1v1 + c2v2 + c3v3 \pmod{3}$ where c1, c2, and c3 are each either 0, 1, or 2.

Our approach will be to go through the 27 solutions and find the one that uses the fewest moves.

The results below show the number of moves; coefficients for v1, v2, and v3; and minimal solution for a given board.

```
Any[
    1: 18
    2: ▶[1, 0, 2]
    3: ▶[2, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 2]

1 findminimalsolution(startstate, endstate)
```

Notebook Functions

```
findsolution (generic function with 1 method)

1 function findsolution(startstate, endstate)
2    b = mod.(endstate - startstate, p)
3    sb = (S * b) .% p
4    xm = (D * sb) .% p
5    x = (T * xm) .% p
6
7    if (A * x) .% p == b
8        return x
9    else
10        return nothing
11    end
12 end
```

findminimalsolution (generic function with 1 method)

```
1 function findminimalsolution(startstate, endstate)
       β = findsolution(startstate, endstate)
       solution = \beta
4
       if isnothing(β)
           return nothing
       else
           coefficients = [0, 0, 0]
           fewestmoves = sum(\beta)
           for i in 1:26
               c1, c2, c3 = parse.(Int, collect(string(i, base=3, pad=3)))
               potentialsolution = (\beta + (c1 * v1) + (c2 * v2) + (c3 * v3)) .% 3
               movecount = sum(potentialsolution)
               if movecount < fewestmoves</pre>
                    fewestmoves = movecount
                    coefficients = [c1, c2, c3]
                    solution = potentialsolution
               end
           end
           return [fewestmoves, coefficients, solution]
       end
25 end
```

Appendix

swaprows! swaprows!(M::AbstractMatrix, i::Int64, j::Int64) Swap rows i and j in matrix. Examples julia> a = [0 0; 0 1] julia> swaprows!(a, 1, 2) julia> a [0 1; 0 0]

```
\Pi \Pi \Pi
       swaprows!(M::AbstractMatrix, i::Int64, j::Int64)
4 Swap rows 'i' and 'j' in 'matrix'.
6 # Examples
7 '''julia-repl
8 julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
9 julia> swaprows!(a, 1, 2)
10 julia> a
11 [0 1; 0 0]
12 111
13 """
14 function swaprows! (M::AbstractMatrix, i::Int64, j::Int64)
       i == j && return
       rows = axes(M, 1)
       @boundscheck i in rows || throw(BoundsError(M, (:,i)))
       @boundscheck j in rows || throw(BoundsError(M, (:,j)))
       for k in axes(M, 2)
           Qinbounds M[i, k], M[j, k] = M[j, k], M[i, k]
       end
22 end
```

swapcols!

```
swapcols!(M::AbstractMatrix, i::Int64, j::Int64)
```

Swap columns i and j in matrix.

```
julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
julia> swapcols!(a, 1, 2)
julia> a
[0 0; 1 0]
```

```
swapcols!(M::AbstractMatrix, i::Int64, j::Int64)
4 Swap columns 'i' and 'j' in 'matrix'.
6 # Examples
7 '''julia-repl
8 \text{ julia> a = } [0 \ 0; \ 0 \ 1]
9 julia> swapcols!(a, 1, 2)
10 julia> a
11 [0 0; 1 0]
12 ***
13 """
14 function swapcols!(M::AbstractMatrix, i::Int64, j::Int64)
       i == j && return
       cols = axes(M, 2)
       @boundscheck i in cols || throw(BoundsError(M, (:,i)))
       @boundscheck j in cols || throw(BoundsError(M, (:,j)))
       for k in axes(M, 1)
           Qinbounds M[k, i], M[k, j] = M[k, j], M[k, i]
       end
22 end
```

scalerowmodp!

```
scalerowmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, s::Int64, row::Int64)
```

Scale row row in matrix by s and mod the operation by p.

```
julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
julia> scalerowmodp!(3, a, 4, 2)
julia> a
[0 0; 0 1]
```

```
scalerowmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, s::Int64, row::Int64)
4 Scale row 'row' in 'matrix' by 's' and mod the operation by 'p'.
6 # Examples
7 '''julia-repl
8 julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
9 julia> scalerowmodp!(3, a, 4, 2)
10 julia> a
11 [0 0; 0 1]
12 ***
13 """
14 function scalerowmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, s::Int64, row::Int64)
       sm = mod(s, p)
       sm == 1 && return
       rows = axes(M, 1)
       @boundscheck row in rows || throw(BoundsError(M, (:, row)))
       for col in axes(M, 2)
           @inbounds M[row, col] = mod(M[row, col] * sm, p)
       end
22 end
```

scalecolmodp!

```
scalecolmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, s::Int64, col::Int64)
```

Scale column col in matrix by s and mod the operation by p.

```
julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
julia> scalecolmodp!(3, a, 4, 2)
julia> a
[0 0; 0 1]
```

```
scalecolmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, s::Int64, col::Int64)
4 Scale column 'col' in 'matrix' by 's' and mod the operation by 'p'.
6 # Examples
7 '''julia-repl
8 julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
9 julia> scalecolmodp!(3, a, 4, 2)
10 julia> a
11 [0 0; 0 1]
12 ***
13 """
14 function scalecolmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, s::Int64, col::Int64)
       sm = mod(s, p)
       sm == 1 && return
       cols = axes(M, 2)
       @boundscheck col in cols || throw(BoundsError(M, (:, col)))
       for row in axes(M, 1)
           @inbounds M[row, col] = mod(M[row, col] * sm, p)
       end
22 end
```

subtractrowmodp!

```
subtractrowmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, j::Int64, i::Int64, s::Int64=
1)
```

Subtract row i in matrix from row j in matrix after scaling i by s and mod the operation by p.

```
julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
julia> subtractrowmodp!(3, a, 1, 2, 2)
julia> a
[0 1; 0 1]
```

```
\Pi\Pi\Pi\Pi
       subtractrowmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, j::Int64, i::Int64, s::Int64=1)
4 Subtract row 'i' in 'matrix' from row 'j' in 'matrix' after scaling 'i' by 's' and
   mod the operation by 'p'.
6 # Examples
7 '''julia-repl
8 julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
9 julia> subtractrowmodp!(3, a, 1, 2, 2)
10 julia> a
11 [0 1; 0 1]
12 ***
13 """
14 function subtractrowmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, j::Int64, i::Int64,
15 s::Int64=1)
       sm = mod(s, p)
       sm == 0 && return
       rows = axes(M, 1)
       @boundscheck i in rows || throw(BoundsError(M, (:,i)))
       @boundscheck j in rows || throw(BoundsError(M, (:,j)))
       for k in axes(M, 2)
           Qinbounds M[j, k] = mod(M[j, k] - (sm * M[i, k]), p)
       end
   end
```

subtractcolmodp!

```
subtractcolmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, j::Int64, i::Int64, s::Int64=
1)
```

Subtract column i in matrix from column j in matrix after scaling i by s and mod the operation by p.

```
julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
julia> subtractcolmodp!(3, a, 1, 2, 2)
julia> a
[0 0; 1 1]
```

```
\Pi\Pi\Pi
       subtractcolmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, j::Int64, i::Int64, s::Int64=1)
 4 Subtract column 'i' in 'matrix' from column 'j' in 'matrix' after scaling 'i' by
   's' and mod the operation by 'p'.
6 # Examples
7 '''julia-repl
8 julia> a = [0 0; 0 1]
9 julia> subtractcolmodp!(3, a, 1, 2, 2)
10 julia> a
11 [0 0; 1 1]
12 ***
13 """
14 function subtractcolmodp!(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix, j::Int64, i::Int64,
15 s::Int64=1)
       sm = mod(s, p)
       sm == 0 && return
       cols = axes(M, 2)
       @boundscheck i in cols || throw(BoundsError(M, (:,i)))
       @boundscheck j in cols || throw(BoundsError(M, (:,j)))
       for k in axes(M, 1)
           Qinbounds M[k, j] = mod(M[k, j] - (sm * M[k, i]), p)
       end
   end
```

${\tt find diagonal modp}$

```
finddiagonalmodp(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix)
```

Given matrix M, find a diagonal matrix D and invertible matrices S and T such that $D \equiv SMT \pmod{p}$. p should be a prime number to ensure appropriate results.

```
julia> a = [1 1; 1 1]
julia> finddiagonalmodp(3, a)
julia> a
[[1 0; 0 0], [1 0; 2 1], [1 2; 0 1]]
```

```
\Pi\Pi\Pi
       finddiagonalmodp(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix)
4 Given matrix 'M', find a diagonal matrix ''D'' and invertible matrices ''S'' and
   '`T'` such that '`D\\equiv SMT \\pmod{p}``. 'p' should be a prime number to ensure
   appropriate results.
6 # Examples
7 '''julia-repl
8 julia> a = [1 1; 1 1]
9 julia> finddiagonalmodp(3, a)
10 julia> a
11 [[1 0; 0 0], [1 0; 2 1], [1 2; 0 1]]
12 111
13 """
14 function finddiagonalmodp(p::Int64, M::AbstractMatrix)
       A = copy(M) . % p
       dim = size(A, 1)
       S = Matrix{Int64}(I, dim, dim)
       T = Matrix{Int64}(I, dim, dim)
       # Loop for each value on the main diagonal
       for d in 1:dim
           pivotcol = 0
           # Find a column that has a value in row d
           for col in d:dim
               if A[d, col] != 0
```

```
pivotcol = col
            break
        end
    end
    # Skip if no column has a non-zero value in row d
    if pivotcol == 0
        continue
    end
    # Swap pivotcol with column d if different
    if pivotcol != d
        swapcols!(A, d, pivotcol)
        swapcols!(T, d, pivotcol)
        # Now d is the pivot column
    end
    # Scale pivot column so that value in row d is 1
    if A[d, d] != 1
        s = invmod(A[d, d], p)
        scalecolmodp!(p, A, s, d)
        scalecolmodp!(p, T, s, d)
    end
    # Clear out row value in non-pivot columns
    for col in (d + 1):dim
        s = A[d, col]
        # Skip columns where row value is 0
        if s == 0
            continue
        end
        # Subtract the scaled pivot column to clear row value
        subtractcolmodp!(p, A, col, d, s)
        subtractcolmodp!(p, T, col, d, s)
    end
    # Clear out column value in non-pivot rows
    for row in (d + 1):dim
        s = A[row, d]
        # Skip rows where column value is 0
        if s == 0
            continue
        end
        # Subtract the scaled pivot row to clear column value
        subtractrowmodp!(p, A, row, d, s)
        subtractrowmodp!(p, S, row, d, s)
    end
end
D = (S * M * T) .% p
```

81 return [**D**, **S**, **T**] 82 end