

Twitch 059.1

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TWITCH SOLVES ISL

Episode 59

Problem

Find all functions $f: \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$f(2x + 3y) = 3f(x) + 2f(y)$$

holds.

Video

<https://youtu.be/wqNNrhbVlvc>

Solution

The only solution is $f \equiv 0$, which works.

By plugging in zeros, we get $f(0) = 0$, $f(2t) = 3f(t)$, $f(3t) = 2f(t)$. Also, $x = y = t$ gives $f(5t) = 5f(t)$.

Now, for any $t \in \mathbb{R}$, let $y = f(t)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}f(10t + 3t) &= f(4t + 9t) \\3f(5t) + 2f(t) &= 3f(2t) + 2f(3t) \\15y + 2y &= 9y + 4y\end{aligned}$$

Thus $f \equiv 0$.