

Rex H. Wu  
Brooklyn, NY

Solution to *CMJ* Problem 750.

$$\frac{x}{y} = \frac{2y + 1 - n}{2x - 1 - n}$$

can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{(x + y)[2(y - x) + 1]}{y - x} \\ &= \frac{[2x + (y - x)][2(y - x) + 1]}{y - x} \\ &= \left( \frac{2x}{y - x} + 1 \right) [2(y - x) + 1] \end{aligned}$$

for some positive integers  $y > x$  and  $(y - x) | 2x$ .

If we let  $m = y - x$  with  $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  and let  $k = \frac{2x}{y-x} + 1$ , then  $n = k(2m + 1)$  where  $k$  is a positive integer, which requires  $m | 2x$ .

Now look at  $k = \frac{2x}{m} + 1$ . If  $m$  is odd, then  $x$  has to be a multiple of  $m$ , say  $x = mp$ . Then  $k = 2p + 1$  for some  $p = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . If  $m$  is even, then  $2x = mp$  for  $p = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , which means  $k = p + 1$ .

Thus,

$$n = k(2m + 1) \begin{cases} \text{for } m = \text{odd and } k = 3, 5, 7, \dots, 2i + 1, \dots \\ \text{for } m = \text{even and } k = 2, 3, 4, \dots, i, \dots \end{cases}$$

allows the original expression to have positive integral values for  $x$  and  $y$ . ■