Find the number of integer solutions to

$$x \equiv 5 \mod 17$$
$$2x \equiv 3 \mod 11$$

with -1500 < x < 1500.

**Solution:** Notice that  $2 \cdot 6 \equiv 1 \mod 11$  and so multiplying both sides of equation 2 above by 6 gives the equivalent system

$$\begin{array}{ll} x \equiv 5 \mod 17 \\ x \equiv 7 \mod 11 \end{array}$$

The Chinese Remainder Theorem now says that there is a unique solution modulo  $17 \cdot 11 = 187$  (valid since gcd(11, 17) = 1). Call this solution *a*. Hence all solutions are given by

$$x = a + 187k$$

where k is an integer. To find a, we use the fact that  $x = 5 + 17\ell$  for some integer  $\ell$  and plug into the second equation to yield

$$5 + 17\ell \equiv 7 \mod 11$$

Simplifying gives

$$6\ell \equiv 2 \mod 11$$

By Congruences and Divisibility, we can divide by 2 to get

$$3\ell \equiv 1 \mod 11$$

Multiplying by 4 yields

$$\ell \equiv 12\ell \equiv 4 \mod 11$$

Hence  $\ell = 4 + 11m$  for some integer m. Plugging back in yields x = 5 + 17(4 + 11m) giving x = 73 + 187m. Since

$$-1500 < x < 1500$$

we have that

-1500 < 73 + 187m < 1500

Simplifying yields

-1573 < 187m < 1427

and once more:

-8.3 < m < 7.6

Hence there are 16 integers.