

*Note:* After the Fall 2018 pages went to press, several additional solutions were received. These include #1348 by Kenneth Davenport.

**#1356:** *Proposed by Greg Oman and Ikko Saito, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.*

**Problem.** Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function such that  $f(0) = 0$ . For  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ , say that  $f$  is *homomorphic at  $r$*  if  $f(r+x) = f(r) + f(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Next, set  $\mathcal{H}_f := \{r \in \mathbb{R}: f \text{ is homomorphic at } r\}$ . One can check that  $\mathcal{H}_f$  is an additive subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}$  (which may be assumed in your solution). For the purposes of this problem, say that a subgroup  $G$  of  $\mathbb{R}$  is *realizable* if  $G = \mathcal{H}_f$  for some continuous  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(0) = 0$ .

- (a) Prove that every (additive) cyclic subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}$  is realizable.
- (b) Find all non-cyclic realizable subgroups of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**#1357:** *Proposed by Ron Evans (UCSD) and Steven J. Miller (Williams).*

Let  $n$  be a positive integer. A pin of length  $n$  units is dropped randomly onto a large floor ruled with equally spaced parallel lines 1 unit apart. When it lands, the pin can intersect  $k$  parallel lines, where  $k$  is an integer between 0 and  $n+1$  inclusive. If the center of the pin lands halfway between two adjacent lines, which value of  $k$  is most probable?

**#1358:** *Proposed by Ron Evans (UCSD) and Steven J. Miller (Williams).*

Let  $n$  be a positive integer. A pin of length  $n$  units is dropped randomly onto a large floor ruled with equally spaced parallel lines 1 unit apart. When it lands, the pin can intersect  $k$  parallel lines, where  $k$  is an integer between 0 and  $n+1$  inclusive. Which value of  $k$  is most probable? (Note unlike the previous problem, now there is no restriction on the location of the center.)

**#1359:** *Proposed by Robert C. Gebhardt, Chester, NJ.*

Determine the following sums:

$$\begin{aligned} (a) \quad & \frac{1}{1+2} - \frac{1}{3+4} + \frac{1}{5+6} - \frac{1}{7+8} + \cdots \\ (b) \quad & \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 4} + \frac{1}{5 \cdot 6} + \frac{1}{7 \cdot 8} + \cdots \\ (c) \quad & \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} - \frac{1}{3 \cdot 4} + \frac{1}{5 \cdot 6} - \frac{1}{7 \cdot 8} + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

**#1360:** *Proposed by Stanley Wu-Wei Liu, East Setauket, Long Island, New York.*

Cutting a cake, be it round or otherwise, is a fun skill with real-world applications. When mathematicians work on such dissection problems starting out with a *quadrilateral*-shaped cake and whimsically demanding that the constituent pieces be *similar polygons* (in the precise Euclidean sense), a lot is known when the number of these similar polygons is chosen to be four. Consider the case of an **isosceles trapezoid with side-length ratios of 1:1:1:2**. There are many fascinating solutions; find at least four partitions of the 1:1:1:2 isosceles trapezoid into four similar polygons.