

SMC Department of Mathematics

Problem of the Week

Deadline: Monday, October 5th

The Right Cut. Jonah was attempting to reserve a hotel room, but he had no money. “No Problem,” leered the Clerk. “You have a lovely gold bracelet. Give me all seven links and I’ll let you stay for a week.” Jonah, not trusting the Clerk, replied “No, not now. I’ll have a jeweler cut it so that I can give you one link each day. Then when I get some money at the end of the week, I’ll redeem it.”

On the way to the jewelers, Jonah realized that cutting the links, and then fixing them at the end of the week, would cost money. So he had the jeweler cut the fewest links possible that still allowed him to pay the Clerk. How many cuts did it take?

Bonus: What if the “seven” in the story were replaced by “sixty-three”?



Prizes: The first person to submit a correct solution to Weiwei Pan or Alice Stevens (Galileo 108-B) will have their choice of many fine mathematical prizes. In addition, the person with the most correct submissions this semester will receive a prize at the end of the semester. The final deadline for submission is **3:30 pm on Monday, October 5th.**

Good Luck!