

# Further sequenced problems for functional equations

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## Abstract

In this paper we will create a new sequence of problems for functional equations of type

$$H(f(x+y), f(x-y), f(x), f(y), x, y) = 0,$$

where  $H$  is known function and  $f$  is the unknown function to be determined. Some possible ways of generalization are also given in this note.

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## 1 Introduction

In [2], motivated some results of J. Aczél (see eg. [1][2][3]), we created a sequence of problems for the fostering of talented students on various levels of mathematical education. On the other hand, we found a possible way of generalization (see [5]).

Here we intend to present another sequence of problems for functional equations of the form

$$(1) \quad H(f(x+y), f(x-y), f(x), f(y), x, y) = 0$$

where  $H$  is known function and  $f$  is the unknown function to be determined. On the other hand, some possible ways of generalization are also given in this paper.

## 2 A new sequenced problems for equations of type (1)

**Problem 1.** *Determine all solutions  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of functional equation*

$$(2) \quad f(x) + f(x+y) = f(y) + f(x-y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Solution.** Substitute  $y = 0$  in (2). Then we get that

$$2f(x) = f(0) + f(x) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

This implies that  $f$  satisfies (2) if, and only if,

$$f(x) = c \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}),$$

where  $c = f(0)$  is an arbitrary constant.

Our solution implies the following result.

**Theorem 1.** *The function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies functional equation (2) if, and only if,*

$$f(x) = c \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}),$$

where  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  is an arbitrary constant.

**Problem 2.** *Find all solutions  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the functional equation*

$$(3) \quad f(x) + f(x+y) = 2f(y) + 2f(x-y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Solution.** Substitute  $x = y = 0$  in (3) to obtain the equality  $2f(0) = 4f(0)$ . This implies that  $f(0) = 0$ . Put  $x = 0$  into (3) to get

$$f(0) + f(y) = 2f(y) + 2f(-y) \quad (y \in \mathbb{R})$$

then  $f(0) = 0$  implies

$$(4) \quad f(y) + 2f(-y) = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Substituting  $y = -y$  here we get

$$(5) \quad f(-y) + 2f(y) = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

It is easy to see that the system of equations (4) and (5) can be solved for  $f(y)$  for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  and we get

$$(6) \quad f(y) = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

This implies that  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) is the only possible solution of equation (3). On the other hand, (6) indeed satisfies (3).

Thus we have proved the following result.

**Theorem 2.** *The function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies functional equation (3) if, and only if,*

$$f(x) = 0 \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Problem 3.** *Determine all solutions  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the functional equation*

$$(7) \quad f(x) + f(x+y) = 2f(y) + 2f(x-y) + ay + b \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  are arbitrary constants.

**Solution 1.** Set  $x = y = 0$  in (7) to get the equality

$$2f(0) = 4f(0) + b.$$

This shows that  $f(0) = -\frac{b}{2}$ . Using the substitutions  $x = 0$  and  $x = 0, y = -y$  in (7), respectively we get, for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ , the system of equation

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} f(y) + 2f(-y) &= -ay - \frac{3}{2}b \\ f(-y) + 2f(y) &= ay - \frac{3}{2}b \end{aligned}$$

for  $f(y)$  and  $f(-y)$ . After eliminating  $f(-y)$ , we get from (8) that

$$(9) \quad f(y) = ay - \frac{b}{2} \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which is the only possible solution of equation (7). (9) indeed satisfies (7).

**Solution 2.** One can easily verify the identity

$$-(ax - \frac{b}{2}) - [a(x+y) - \frac{b}{2}] = -2(ay - \frac{b}{2}) - 2[a(x-y) - \frac{b}{2}] - (ay + b)$$

Adding this identity and equation (7) side by side, we get the functional equation

$$f(x) - (ax - \frac{b}{2}) + f(x+y) - (a(x+y) - \frac{b}{2}) = 2[f(y) - (ay - \frac{b}{2})] + 2[f(x-y) - (a(x-y) - \frac{b}{2})]$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , which shows that the function

$$(10) \quad F(x) = f(x) - (ax - \frac{b}{2}) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

satisfies (3). Therefore, Theorem 2 implies that  $F(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Thus, it follows from (10) that

$$f(x) = ax - \frac{b}{2} \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

again.

Summarizing, we have proved the following

**Theorem 3.** *The function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies functional equation (7) if, and only if,*

$$f(x) = ax - \frac{b}{2} \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Problem 4.** *Find all solutions  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the functional equation*

$$(11) \quad f(x) + f(x+y) = 2f(y) + 2f(x-y) + cy^2 + ay + b \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

where  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$  are arbitrary constants.

**Solution.** Using the same argument as at the Solution 1 of Problem 3 we get that the function

$$(12) \quad f(x) = -\frac{c}{3}x^2 + ax - \frac{b}{2} \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

the only possible solution of equation (11). But an easy calculation shows that (12) satisfies (11) only if  $c = 0$ .

This implies the following result for equation (11).

**Theorem 4.** *The functional equation (11) has solution if, and only if,  $c=0$  and then*

$$f(x) = ax - \frac{b}{2} \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

*Remark 1.* One can easily verify that the functional equation

$$(13) \quad f(x) + f(x+y) = 2f(y) + 2f(x-y) + a \cdot \sin y + b \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R})$$

has solution only if  $a = 0$  and then

$$f(x) = -\frac{b}{2} \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Problem 5.** *Find all solutions  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the functional equation*

$$(14) \quad f(x) + f(x+y) = [f(y)]^2 + [f(x-y)]^2 \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Solution 1.** Substitute  $x = y = 0$  in (14) to obtain the equality  $f(0) = [f(0)]^2$ . This implies that either  $f(0) = 0$  or  $f(0) = 1$ . Using the substitutions  $x = 0$  and  $x = 0, y = -y$  in (14), respectively, we get for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  the system

$$(15) \quad \begin{aligned} f(0) + f(y) &= [f(y)]^2 + [f(-y)]^2 \\ f(0) + f(-y) &= [f(-y)]^2 + [f(y)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $f(-y) = f(y)$  ( $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ). Thus, from the first equation of (15), we get

$$(16) \quad 2[f(y)]^2 - f(y) - f(0) = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

In case  $f(0) = 0$ , we get from (16) the equation

$$2[f(y)]^2 - f(y) = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which implies that  $\forall y \in \mathbb{R} : f(y) \in \{0, \frac{1}{2}\}$ . Let us assume that  $\exists x_0 \in \mathbb{R} : f(x_0) = \frac{1}{2}$ . Put  $x = y = x_0$  in (14) to get  $f(x_0) + f(2x_0) = [f(x_0)]^2$ . This implies that  $f(2x_0) = -\frac{1}{4}$ , which is a contradiction. Thus, in case  $f(0) = 0$ , we get  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ).

In case  $f(0) = 1$ , we get from (16) the equation

$$2[f(y)]^2 - f(y) - 1 = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which implies  $f(y) \in \{-\frac{1}{2}, 1\}$  for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ . Assuming the existence of  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(x_0) = -\frac{1}{2}$ , then by the substitutions  $x = y = x_0$  in (14), we get

$$f(x_0) + f(2x_0) = [f(x_0)]^2 + 1,$$

that is  $f(2x_0) = \frac{7}{4}$ , which is also a contradiction. This implies, in case  $f(0) = 1$ , that  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ).

It is easy to see that functions  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) and  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) indeed satisfy (14).

**Solution 2.** Substitutions  $x = y = 0$  in (14) imply again that either  $f(0) = 0$  or  $f(0) = 1$ . Using now the substitution  $y = 0$  in (14), we get

$$(17) \quad [f(x)]^2 = 2f(x) - f(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Then by (15) and (17), we obtain functional equation

$$f(x) + f(x + y) = 2f(y) + 2f(x - y) - 2f(0) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which implies that the function  $F$ , defined by

$$(18) \quad F(x) = f(x) - f(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}),$$

satisfies the equation (3) of Problem 2. Thus, Theorem 2 implies that  $F(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ). It follows from (18) that  $f(x) = f(0)$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) and so the functions  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) and  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) are the only possible solutions of equations (14).

We have proved the following result for equation (14).

**Theorem 5.** *The function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the functional equation (14) if, and only if, either  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ).*

**Problem 6.** *Determine all solutions  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the functional equation*

$$(19) \quad f(x) + f(x + y) = [f(y)]^3 + [f(x - y)]^3 \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R})$$

**Solution 1.** Set  $x = y = 0$  in (19). We get the equality  $f(0) = [f(0)]^3$ , which implies that  $f(0) \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ . the substitutions  $x = 0$  and  $x = 0, y = -y$ , respectively, imply the following system of equations

$$(20) \quad \begin{aligned} f(0) + f(y) &= [f(y)]^3 + [f(-y)]^3 \\ f(0) + f(-y) &= [f(-y)]^3 + [f(y)]^3 \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $f(-y) = f(y)$  ( $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ). Therefore, the first equation of (20) implies

$$(21) \quad 2[f(y)]^3 - f(y) - f(0) = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

In case  $f(0) = 0$ , we get from (21) the equation

$$f(y)(2[f(y)]^2 - 1) = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which implies that  $\forall y \in \mathbb{R} : f(y) \in \{0, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\}$ . Assuming that  $\exists x_0 \in \mathbb{R} : f(x_0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$  or  $f(x_0) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ , similarly then before, we get contradictions. Thus, in case  $f(0) = 0$ , it follows  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ), which satisfies (19).

In case  $f(0) = 1$ , we obtain from (21) the equation

$$2[f(y)]^3 - f(y) - 1 = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

This is equivalent to the equation

$$(f(y) - 1) \cdot ([f(y)]^2 + [f(y) + 1]^2) = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which has only the solution  $f(y) = 1$  for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  and this function satisfies (19).  
In case  $f(0) = 1$ , (21) implies that

$$[f(y)]^3 - f(y) + 1 = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

This equation can be written in the form

$$(f(y) + 1) \cdot ([f(y)]^2 + [f(y) - 1]^2) = 0 \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which satisfies if, and only if,  $f(y) = -1$  for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  and this function satisfies the equation (19).

**Solution 2.** Substituting  $x = y = 0$  in (19), we get again that either  $f(0) = 0$  or  $f(0) = 1$  or  $f(0) = -1$ . Set  $y = 0$  in (19) to obtain

$$(22) \quad [f(x)]^3 = 2f(x) - f(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

(19) and (22) imply the equation

$$f(x) + f(x + y) = 2f(y) + 2f(x - y) - 2f(0) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

as at the Solution 2 of Problem 5. Thus, we have again that  $f(x) = f(0)$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ), which implies that either  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = -1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) are the only possible solutions of (19). These functions satisfy the functional equation (19).

Summarizing, we have proved

**Theorem 6.** *Function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the functional equation (19) if, and only if, either  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = -1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ).*

**Problem 7.** *Find all solutions  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the functional equation*

$$(23) \quad f(x) + f(x + y) = [f(y)]^n + [f(x - y)]^n \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

where  $n$  is a given natural number.

**Solution.** If  $n = 1, 2, 3$  in (23) then we get equations (3), (14) and (19), respectively.

Therefore, let us assume that  $n > 3$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Set  $x = y = 0$  in (23). Then we get that  $f(0) = [f(0)]^n$ , which can be written in the form

$$f(0) \cdot ([f(0)]^{n-1} - 1) = 0.$$

This implies that  $f(0) \in \{0, 1\}$  if  $n$  is even and  $f(0) \in \{0, 1, -1\}$  if  $n$  is odd.

Put  $y = 0$  in (23) to get

$$2f(x) = [f(0)]^n + [f(x)]^n \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which, together with  $[f(0)]^n = f(0)$  and (23), implies the functional equation

$$f(x) + f(x + y) = 2f(y) + 2f(x - y) - 2f(0) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

This shows that the function

$$(24) \quad F(x) = f(x) - f(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

satisfies (3), that is,

$$(25) \quad F(x) + F(x + y) = 2F(y) + 2F(x - y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R})$$

So, by Theorem 2,  $F$  satisfies (25) if, and only if  $F(x) = 0$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Then it follows from (24) that  $f(x) = f(0)$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ). This equality together with the first part of our solution, implies that

- either  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) if  $n$  is even
- either  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = -1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) if  $n$  is odd

are the only possible solutions of equation (23).

It is easy to see that these functions satisfy (23). Thus, we have proved the following

**Theorem 7.** *The function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the functional equation (23), where  $n > 3$  is a given natural number, if, and only if*

- *either  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) if  $n$  is even*
- *either  $f(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = 1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $f(x) = -1$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) if  $n$  is odd.*

### 3 A common generalization of Problem 2,3,4

A natural generalization of problems 2,3,4 is the following

**Problem 8.** *Find all solutions  $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the functional equation*

$$(26) \quad f(x) + f(x + y) = 2f(y) + 2f(x - y) + g(y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Solution.** Let us write (26) in the form

$$(27) \quad g(y) = f(x) + f(x + y) - 2f(y) - 2f(x - y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Write here  $-y$  instead of  $y$  to get

$$(28) \quad g(-y) = f(x) + f(x - y) - 2f(-y) - 2f(x + y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

With the substitution  $x = 0$  we get from (27) and (28) that

$$(29) \quad g(y) = f(0) - f(y) - 2f(-y) \quad (y \in \mathbb{R})$$

and

$$(30) \quad g(-y) = f(0) - f(-y) - 2f(y) \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

respectively.

By the help of equations (27), (28) and (29), (30) we get equations

$$(31) \quad g(y) + 2g(-y) = 3f(x) - 2f(y) - 4f(-y) - 3f(x+y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R})$$

and

$$(32) \quad g(y) + 2g(-y) = 3f(0) - 5f(y) - 4f(-y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

respectively.

Comparing equations (31) and (32) we find that

$$f(x+y) + f(0) = f(x) + f(y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which shows that the function  $A(x) = f(x) - f(0)$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) is additive, i.e. satisfies the Cauchy functional equation

$$A(x+y) = A(x) + A(y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Thus we have

$$(33) \quad f(x) = A(x) + f(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

On the other hand, it follows from (29) and (32) that

$$(34) \quad g(x) = A(x) - 2f(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

It is easy to see that functions (32) and (33) satisfy the functional equation (26) for any choice of  $f(0)$ .

Our solution implies

**Theorem 8.** *Functions  $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfy the functional equation (26) if, and only if,*

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= A(x) + c & (x \in \mathbb{R}) \\ g(x) &= A(x) - 2c & (x \in \mathbb{R}) \end{aligned}$$

where  $A : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is an additive function and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  is an arbitrary constant.

*Remark 2.* If  $A(y) = 0$  ( $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ) and  $b = 0$  then Theorem 8 gives the solution of Problem 2. By (33) the continuity of  $g$  implies the continuity of  $A$  and so  $A(y) = ay$  ( $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ), where  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  is an arbitrary constant and then  $g(y) = ay - 2c$  ( $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ). In this case, with  $c = -\frac{b}{2}$ , we get the solution of Problem 3.



## 4 Further generalizations

The pexiderization of equation (2) leads to some other possible generalizations of our previous problems. We will investigate here the following two problems.

**Problem 9.** Find all solutions  $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the functional equation

$$(35) \quad f(x) + f(x+y) = g(y) + g(x-y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Problem 10.** Find all solutions  $f, g, h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the functional equation

$$(36) \quad f(x) + f(x+y) = g(y) + h(x-y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Solution of Problem 9.** Put  $x = y = 0$  in (35) to get

$$(37) \quad f(0) = g(0)$$

Now substituting  $y = 0$  in (35), we get

$$(38) \quad 2f(x) = g(0) + g(x) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}),$$

which, together with (35), implies the equation

$$f(x) + f(x+y) = 2f(y) + 2f(x-y) - 2f(0) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

This equation shows that the function  $F(x) = f(x) - f(0)$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) satisfies the functional equation (3) of Problem 2 and so  $F(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ). Hence,

$$(39) \quad f(x) = f(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

follows. Using (37), (38) and (39), we get for  $g$  that

$$(40) \quad g(x) = f(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

A simple calculation shows that functions (39) and (40) satisfy (35) for any choice of  $f(0)$ . Thus, we have proved the following result.

**Theorem 9.** Functions  $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfy the functional equation (35) if, and only if,

$$(41) \quad f(x) = g(x) = c \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}),$$

where  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  is an arbitrary constant.

*Remark 3.* Using Theorem 9, one can easily get the solution of Problems 5,6 and 7. Namely, with notations

$$(42) \quad [f(x)]^2 = g(x) \text{ or } [f(x)]^3 = g(x) \text{ or } [f(x)]^n = g(x) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}),$$

Problems 5,6 and 7 go over into the Problem 9, respectively. Theorem 9 implies that  $f(x) = c$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ).

On the other hand, it follows from (42) that

$$c^2 = c \text{ or } c^3 = c \text{ or } c^n = c,$$

respectively, which together with  $f(x) = c$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ), immediately imply the solution of Problems 5,6 and 7.

Now, let us investigate our last Problem.

**Solution of Problem 10.** Putting  $y = 0$  in (36) we get

$$(43) \quad 2f(x) = g(0) + h(x) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Now (36) and (43) imply the equation

$$(44) \quad g(y) = f(x) + f(x+y) - 2f(x-y) + g(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}),$$

hence, replacing  $y$  by  $-y$ ,

$$(45) \quad g(-y) = f(x) + f(x-y) - 2f(x+y) + g(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

follows. With the substitution  $x = 0$  we infer from (44) and (45) the equations

$$(46) \quad g(y) = f(0) + f(y) - 2f(-y) + g(0) \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

and

$$(47) \quad g(-y) = f(0) + f(-y) - 2f(y) + g(0) \quad (y \in \mathbb{R}),$$

respectively. Calculating  $g(y) + 2g(-y)$  from equations (44), (45) and (46), (47) and comparing the resulting equations, we get that  $f$  satisfies the functional equation

$$f(x+y) + f(0) = f(x) + f(y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R}).$$

This shows that the function  $A(x) = f(x) - f(0)$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) is additive on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Thus we have

$$(48) \quad f(x) = A(x) + f(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Further, from (46) and (48) follows

$$(49) \quad h(x) = 2A(x) + 2f(0) - g(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

Finally, (46) and (48) imply that

$$(50) \quad g(x) = 3A(x) + g(0) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}).$$

One can easily verify that functions (48), (49) and (50) satisfy the functional equation (36) for arbitrary choice of  $f(0)$  and  $g(0)$ . Thus we have proved

**Theorem 10.** *Functions  $f, g, h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfy the functional equation (35) if, and only if,*

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= A(x) + c_1 & (x \in \mathbb{R}) \\ g(x) &= 3A(x) + c_2 & (x \in \mathbb{R}) \\ h(x) &= 2A(x) + 2c_1 - c_2 & (x \in \mathbb{R}) \end{aligned}$$

where  $A : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is an additive function on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  are arbitrary constants.

*Remark 4.* One can easily verify that Problem 10 is a common generalization of Problems 1-9 and the solving of it does not apply Theorems 1-9. Thus, determining the special form of functions  $g$  and  $h$  in each cases and using Theorem 10, we get a new method to the solution of our Problems 1-9.

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