

Re: Is Stephen Wolfram(mathematica) delusional?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math.symbolic/2004-12/0160.html>

From: Lupo LeBoucher (ix_at_io.com)

Date: 12/06/04

Date: Mon, 06 Dec 2004 03:13:39 -0600

In article <pan.2004.09.09.19.28.44.77216@hotmail.com>,

Henry Samuelson <hsams@hotmail.com> wrote:

>On Mon, 06 Sep 2004 19:59:03 -0700, AES/newspost wrote:

>

>> *but there is no doubt, IMHO anyway, that Mathematica is*

>> *nonetheless a world-changing work of genius.*

>

> *I don't know about that. There were lots of prior efforts in the area –*

> *Macsyma and Reduce, to name two. Wolfram was just successful at*

> *commercializing computer algebra – something that the Maple guys at Canada*

> *were doing at the same time.*

>

> *In my view, Wolfram is the Bill Gates of the computer algebra world, and*

> *Mathematica, the Windows. No geniuses, but rather unscrupulous people.*

Thank you for saving me the trouble of saying that. It is no mean accomplishment to do this, mind you. Doubtless Ray Kroc was a kind of genius too, for selling 1/8lb hamburgers the way he did. But that doesn't make him Isaac Newton, and one can understand people who poo-poo Wolfram for implying that he's Ray Kroc and Isaac Newton all wrapped in one.

Personally, I'd still rather use the 1983 version of Macsyma most days.

–Lupo

"Do not hit at all if it can be avoided, but never hit softly." –Teddy

Roosevelt <ix@io.com>