

Re: Raatikainen's critique of Chaitin

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2004-09/1586.html>

From: Jesse F. Hughes (jesse_at_phiwumbda.org)

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Jussi Piitulainen <jpiitula@ling.helsinki.fi> writes:

> *Jesse F. Hughes writes:*
>> *Robin Chapman writes:*
>>> *No, you denied it; you did not refute it.*
>>
>> *Unfortunately for those of us with backgrounds in math and logic, a*
>> *common meaning of "refute" is a synonym for "deny".*
> [...]
>> *It's not a usage I like, but it's common enough to be in some*
>> *dictionaries. I don't know if it's just an Americanism.*
>
> *A modern British dictionary, Collins Cobuild, lists it. It marks both*
> *uses (disprove and deny) as "formal" but not limited to any region.*

Thanks.

Two online dictionaries do not list this looser meaning. Both Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913) and WordNet give definitions involving argument, evidence or proof, not mere assertion.

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Jesse F. Hughes

"Leaving things always seems to fix me,
Running seems to ease my worried mind."

-- Bad Livers, "Honey, I've Found a Brand New Way"