

Re: What is a proof, exactly?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2004-12/4372.html>

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Jasper Stein <J.J.Stein.Stein@cs.cs.ru.ru.nl> wrote in message
news:<cone3k\$pk0\$1@odysseus.uci.kun.nl>...

> *This is somewhat strange – does this mean that one (formal) proof can prove
> several things?*

Correct. Consider a Hilbert-style proof system, in which a proof
is a sequence of statements, each of which is either an (instance of)
an axiom, a premise, or follows from one or more previous statements
in the sequence by a truth-preserving rule of inference. Thus, the
proof can be considered to prove every sentence in the sequence.

> *(It seems that I'm missing some of the posts to the newsgroup – I haven't
> seen George Greene's original post)*

Try Google Groups.