

Re: Sign conventions

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mhochster@gmail.com wrote:

> *jstevh@msn.com* wrote:

>> *Let*

>>

>> $x = -\sqrt{y}$

>>

>> *and now consider $y=1$.*

>>

>> *Then a solution is $x=-1$, but $x=1$ is also a solution.*

>>

>> *Right?*

>

> *What is your definition of "sqrt"?*

The square root operator returns that number which when multiplied times itself gives the square root argument e.g. $\sqrt{4}$ returns 2 and -2 , as *both* multiply times themselves to give 4.

Mathematicians have naively and arbitrarily thought they could remove the inherent ambiguity by fiat—a childish effort—and I can not only point out in small ways why that's a huge mistake, but also in big ways.

If you were real mathematicians then that's all that would be necessary, but many of you seem to believe that mathematics is just some little toy you build or break at will.

Emotion RULES math society.

Now I can objectively step through mathematical arguments, but if you people can't accept math and logic, then what good does it do?

Notice that you are math students and professors, people who post on math newsgroups, but many of you abhor mathematics itself, clearly having pet beliefs.

Your pet beliefs when shown to be wrong, you keep.

Your pet "proofs" when shown to be false, you keep claiming they are true.

And it seems to me you do that out of a contempt for mathematics itself, having taken on the title of mathematicians without any respect for logic or mathematical rules.

You are a style over substance society—a fashion show—made up of people who try to play a role for your own benefit in terms of titles and prestige.

Someone like me is most foreign to you as you can't understand how I can continue going under the barrage of social humiliation you try to toss on me.

That proves my point as much as anything else as post after post after post, you people cite social issues, as if a real mathematician would pause to consider whether people would like them anymore or not, before they put forward a mathematical argument.

So some of you track my posts obsessively replying year after year after year because you are NOT real mathematicians and you have no concept of how a real mathematician is motivated, and you can't understand that ridicule is just some oddity to an actual mathematician, while it's everything to people playing at being one.

James Harris