

Re: Calculus XOR Probability

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2006-04/msg04636.html>

- *From:* Tony Orlow <aeo6@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 25 Apr 2006 09:19:26 -0400
-

David R Tribble said:

Pray tell, what kind of a thing IS the size of an infinite set, if not some kind of infinite number? If it's not a number, what is it doing in mathematics? This just seems like a silly question.

Brian Chandler wrote:

See above.

Tony Orlow wrote:

So, it's just a placeholder for where you might have a number, but you don't have a number, so it's NaN. Real great. What kind of math can you do on a Java NaN?

Pretty much the same arithmetic operations you can do on Math.INFINITY in Java. An arithmetic operation involving a NaN results in a NaN, and similarly any operation involving an infinity operand results in either an infinity or a NaN.

But you're not using Java floating-point arithmetic as a basis to explain abstract mathematics, are you?

Why don't you ask Brian why he compared infinite set sizes to NaNs in Java? That wasn't MY suggestion, that's for sure, as you could easily see from the

Re: Calculus XOR Probability

post you responded to but overtrimmed.

BTW, I think floating point sucks. :)

--

Smiles,

Tony

.