

Re: Question

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2006-04/msg05598.html>

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 - *Date:* 30 Apr 2006 20:19:57 GMT
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Virgil <vmhjr2@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

In article <1146420387.565174.229030@xx>, "zuhair" <zaljohar@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Divide that number by itself will only result in itself, since it is infinite?!

Zuhair

Any number that it is possible to divide by, divided by itself had better be equal to 1, or all of mathematics will collapse.

Virgil, I didn't think you were prone to hyperbole.

It depends, among other things, on what you mean by "number". In interval arithmetic, an interval is sometimes considered to be an "interval number". Let's consider an example in which an interval number is divided by itself:

$$[1,2] / [1,2] = [1/2,2]$$

Hmm. I don't think anything collapsed. (Perhaps you'd have liked the answer to have "collapsed" to the degenerate interval number [1,1]. But at least the correct answer does `_contain_ 1`.)

Zuhair claims to have "numbers" x such that $x/x = x$.

In the reals, the only such number is $x = 1$, of course. But there are systems (such as wheels) in which an element, other than 1, divided by itself can yield that same element. Of course, whether you want to call such an element a "number" is a different matter.

Regards,
David

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