

Re: JSH: Questioning certainty

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2006-11/msg05728.html>

- *From:* jstevh@xxxxxxx
 - *Date:* 21 Nov 2006 20:22:21 -0800
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Tim Peters wrote:

[Jason Pawloski]

Does anyone have a link to the post where James claims 2 is an irrational number? I was looking for it to add to my "greatest hits" collection but I had no luck (maybe the victim of deletion?) I also remember there was a witty commentary on JSH's work, saying something like "In [date] James made the startling discovery (assertion?) that 2 is an irrational number" and I thought it was on the CrackPot index, but I can no longer find it. Any help would be appreciated.

[Proginoskes]

"2 is a real number, in the same way that is an irrational."

from the post:

<http://groups.google.com/group/sci.math/msg/112faecf3a3c1124?dmode=source&hl=en&utoke=pdK5VSg/>

(Fri, Aug 11 2000 12:00 am, from "Recent quotes from James Harris" (sci.math).)

You /really/ need to browse that whole thread, and realize that JSH posted from different accounts way back then. It's hilariously "typical".

Why? I was probably in a lot of stupid arguments and posting very fast as I usually do, and said something wrong.

Re: JSH: Questioning certainty

I do BRAINSTORMING which means that you just spit stuff out, and get lots of things wrong, even stupidly wrong, as you're not being very critical as you type.

I explain this repeatedly and people like you drag up old stuff as if you can't understand the concept.

Now on to what you dug up...

Having goofed about a different issue and been corrected, he persevered:

You're wrong.

A number that is not irrational and is not transcendental does not have "factors".

Transcendentals can still be said to have factors, as I've demonstrated.

And to help you out, I mentioned a practical application.

That is, the $\sqrt{\pi}$ is scattered all through physics.

Still, I suspect that you'd rather chatter endlessly than just admit you made a mistake.

I'd rather not.

"WTF?!" It was pointed out then that, for example, 6 is neither irrational nor transcendental, so does that mean 6 doesn't have factors?!

Aha!

Well, I take this as evidence that your intellect has been compromised by your emotions.

I figured only the novices would find a problem with that statement.

Integers are members of the class of rationals.

Rationals are members of the class of irrationals.

Well that's just wrong.

Who knows what exactly was running through my mind at the time, I don't remember.

Re: JSH: Questioning certainty

But it looks like I was trying to step up the classes of numbers from integer to complex numbers, and for some wacky reason included rationals with irrationals.

Brainstorming is a lot about releasing the critical mechanism of the mind so that you can come up with new ideas.

But that loss of upfront criticality means you can mess up on weird things.

People who don't brainstorm can't comprehend how it's possible to miss something so obvious.

But the mechanisms of modern problem solving can escape people who refuse to do it.

James Harris

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