

Re: A physicist, and engineer and a economist are all trapped on an island...

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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2007-03/msg05903.html>

- *From:* "Nick" <tulse04-news1@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 29 Mar 2007 23:06:15 +0100
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<mensanator@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1175177542.299461.61900@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
On Mar 29, 7:41?am, "Randy Poe" <poespam-t...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Mar 29, 8:27 am, "kProductivity.com" <Francis.Ma...@xxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote:

On Mar 28, 8:59 am, "kProductivity.com" <Francis.Ma...@xxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote:

A physicist, and engineer and a economist are all trapped on an island with a box of canned food that they cannot get open. The physicist says, "If I build a fire and then we heat up the cans eventually the cans will blow up from expanding gasses and then we will be able to eat the food." The engineer then suggests, " If I can make a three to one pulley system perhaps we can rig up a machine to open up the cans." The economist then chimes in saying, " You guys are making this far too hard let's just assume we have a can opener."

Besides the downgrade economists receive in this joke (always living

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in an imaginary world?: not really!), we can perceive the differences between all three on the methodologies involved in their state of mind. Mathematicians, as well as physicists, make further use of the theory; engineers are more practical, they make use of the theory to accomplish the practice; economists mix this and that due to complications of Social Sciences. So, who's the best?. None and all: everyone of us OR colleagues should be a little bit of everyone depending on the job...

The debate is open!

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Francisco Marco-Serrano

PS This debate has been opened in 3 different groups (maths, economics and operational research).

Most of you don't get it. It's not about the joke, I know it's awful!. The joke is a mere excuse for the following discussion. However, this is a maths group.

A physicist, an engineer and a mathematician all wake up in hotel rooms where the curtains are on fire and there is a nearby trash can full of water.

The engineer grabs the trash can, pours it on the fire and puts it out, then goes back to sleep.

The physicist grabs a nearby napkin, does some quick calculations, and pours just enough water at just the right rate to put the fire out, then goes back to sleep.

The mathematician looks around the room, does some pondering, announces "a solution exists", and goes back to sleep.

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Are there any of these where the mathematician wins?

No, because mathematicians look down on applied mathematics.

Theoretical Mathematics: Roger Penrose proves a plane can be tiled aperiodically using tiles of his own design.

Applied Mathematics: Roger Penrose sues a paper manufacturer over royalties on his tiles used to make toilet paper.

Nick's reply:

See http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/pda/A6582675?s_id=5

Nick

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