

SCI 199Y: Random Walks and Mathematical Discovery

Discussion questions, week 24.

As a class, we shall view the 50-minute BBC Documentary entitled “A Mathematical Mystery Tour”.

During the viewing, consider (and perhaps make notes about) the following questions. When the documentary is over, we shall then discuss them as a whole class.

1. What has this documentary taught you about mathematics itself?
2. What has this documentary taught you about the nature of mathematicians and mathematical research?
3. What has this documentary taught you about the history of mathematics?
4. What has this documentary taught you about the philosophy of mathematics?
5. What is your overall opinion of this documentary? (That is, “Is your thumb up or down?”)
6. Do you think that documentaries like this should be shown more often? Why? In what contexts (e.g. school, work, T.V., cinemas, etc.)?

Assignment:

Work on your Major Paper, which should be approximately 20 pages long (typed double space), and is due this Monday (March 31), at 4:00 p.m., in my office (Sid Smith 6011).

(No reading assignment.)