

Re: how can I return nothing?

Source: http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C_CPP/comp.lang.c/2007-09/msg03758.html

- *From:* Richard Heathfield <rjh@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 23 Sep 2007 19:32:19 +0000
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Tor Rustad said:

Richard Heathfield wrote:

<snip>

A real number is a point on the real number line. A complex number is a point on the complex plane. If you can call one a vector, you can call the other a vector too. A real number is a special case of a complex number, so if a complex number is a vector, so is a real number.

I think you picture a single real axis.

Indeed. A straightforward real axis <---- thisaway ----> and an imaginary axis at right angles to it. That's the complex arithmetic I'm discussing.

In theoretical physics (e.g. special relativity), we rather use 3 such axis (x, y and z), as well as an imaginary axis for time.

If you want to talk about that, that's fine, but that's not what I'm talking about.

<snip>

Now, please name a mathematician who think that your "sign of z":

Not mine. AFAICR I haven't even mentioned a "sign of z".

$$\text{sign}(z) = \text{Re}(z) / |\text{Re}(z)|$$

Re: how can I return nothing?

What happened to the sign of the imaginary component?

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"Usenet is a strange place" – dmr 29 July 1999

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