

(Not so) Much Ado About Nothing

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I love to talk about nothing. It's the only thing I know anything about.

— Oscar Wilde

Abstract

Nothing is discussed in this paper.

1 Introduction

Motivation. To appreciate the importance of nothing it is enough to google it. Nothing generates a trillion hits, but even “nothing” generates a billion hits. In contrast, “mathematics” generates a puny 200 million hits. So nothing is more important than mathematics.

Background. People have studied nothing since the dawn of civilization. Many novels and songs are about nothing. To appreciate the volume of stuff written about nothing you can just look at the long Nothing (disambiguation) page on Wikipedia [3]. There are movies, music albums and books with nothing there.

Nothing is also actively studied by scientists. ArXiv boasts 94 paper where nothing is in the title, and the search for nothing in all papers produces “too many hits.” Mathematicians too study nothing. The search for nothing in the On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences [4] reveals 147 entries. Understandably, we cannot cite all these papers that talk about nothing, so we decided to mention nothing about individual papers.

Goal. Our goal is to get something out of nothing.

Statement of results. Nothing is proven in this paper.

Road map. We start with preliminaries and define nothing in Section 2. Section 3 describes our means of achieving nothing. The central nothingness of this paper is put forth in Section 4, where our main result is stated and proven. See Section 5 for a discussion of future research, where nothing will be important.

2 Preliminaries

The Merriam-Webster dictionary [1] defines *nothing* as not anything, not a thing. Wikipedia [2] does not quite agree with this definition. It defines it as a *pronoun* denoting the absence of anything. Nothing pleases us more than the preciseness of the Merriam-Webster dictionary, so we use nothing from them.

3 Methods

We were debating with ourselves which programming language is better to use to output nothing. We finally decided on MIT-SCHEME, the most elegant programming language. You can find our concise and elegant program on the next line:

If you want to see our masterpiece in another programming language, we can rewrite it in any language of your choice for nothing.

4 Results

There is nothing left to do, but proceed to the results. To prepare for our main result we need to start with a self-evident lemma.

Lemma 1. *Nothing needs to be proven.*

All math papers need results; without a result, a paper amounts to nothing. So what is the statement of our main result?

Theorem 2. *Nothing.*

Proof. Nothing is proven in this theorem. □

What can we conclude from Theorem 2?

Corollary 3. *Nothing.*

5 Future Work

Nothing will continue fascinating people forever. We can therefore conjecture on its suitability as a topic of further study:

Conjecture 4. *Even in the future nothing works.*

6 Acknowledgements

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References

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