

ZMATH 2016c.00836

Griffiths, Martin

A serendipitous encounter with a Bessel function.

Math. Spectr. 48, No. 2, 50-53 (2016).

Summary: We describe an encounter with a mathematical object known as a Bessel function. Such functions often arise in advanced problems associated with, for example, heat conduction in cylindrical objects, modes of vibration of thin circular drums, and dynamics of floating bodies. The interesting point here though is that our meeting came about as a result of a student's question in a school mathematics classroom.

Classification: I25 I75 K65

Keywords: Bessel functions; continuous probability distribution