

CATEGORIES OF QUESTIONS FOR NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS

In 1987 I gave a presentation of the “present and future” to some members of the laboratory. There were three segments that are may be worth recalling.

One was an answer to the question, “Can we categorize nuclear questions?”

It was my contention that we could.

Category:

1. $?$ \equiv Matters in this category need work.
2. $?^{1/2}$ \equiv That’s your opinion.
3. $?^2$ \equiv Don’t believe it
4. $?^{10}$ \equiv Imagine that!
5. $\text{Lim } ? \rightarrow 0, [?^{1/?}] \equiv ?^! \equiv$ You’ll never be lucky enough to see it.
6. $\text{Lim } ? \rightarrow \infty, [?^{1/?}] \equiv$ Stand Back!

(Remember that anything to the zero power is 1.)

I had also come to some conclusions about our test program.

AS THE TEST PROGRAM HAS AGED, WE HAVE
SUBSTITUTED

1. Satisfaction for Excitement
2. Memories for Visions
3. Objectives for Necessities
4. Management for Leadership
5. Rules for Reason.

WE NOW PREFER

1. Politics to Science
2. Abstractions to Understanding
3. Institutional Survival to National Needs
4. Planning to Doing
5. Budget meetings to any other activity
6. “Moral” support to Actual Help

These musings were well received, but in 2008 they are mostly true in spades!