

Doug Shaw

Talk abstract:

All of us introduce complex numbers to students this way: Take the real numbers, throw in the ridiculous square root of negative one, then duck. Actually, most of us THINK of them this way - Complex numbers are the field extension of the reals when you add in the square root of negative one. When students question the existence of the square root of negative one, our responses come in one of two flavors, both annoying. In this talk we show how engineers think of complex numbers, and the square root of negative one is not needed to define them. This is a fun talk that will involve people being punched repeatedly in the face, a picture of the Enterprise, and a surprisingly relevant quote from Taylor Swift.