



# The equation for sporting championship

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## WHAT MAKES A CHAMPION

People have debated for millennia what it is that makes a sporting hero into a real champion. How can people be compared when they competed in different sports, in different periods? Some of the equations hold some merit, other don't. Here is my take.

$$C = \frac{1}{N} \int_B^E NaNuSH^{ACh} \log(Ca)$$

Where C is Champion status

N is the maximum number of years that anyone could ever perform competitively in the appropriate sport

B is the time the champion started his public career

E is the time his public career ended

Na is nature, a figure between 0 and 1, which expresses his genetic quality

Nu is Nurture, a figure between 0 and 1 which expresses the quality of his training and upbringing

S is the 'system' factor, a figure between 0 and 1, which expresses the quality of the system in terms of how well it spots and encourages talent and provides facilities, opportunities to compete with high quality competitors, exposure etc

H is the Hero factor, a figure between 0 and 1

A is the degree of adulation of the crowds at the various events, a figure between 0 and 1

Ch is the Charisma of the athlete, a figure between 0 and 1

Ca is the wealth available to the athlete, on a scale of 1 to 10

So, with everything at an optimum, i.e. 1 for everything except capital, which gets a 10, our champ would score 1.0, a perfect lifetime champion rating

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ian Pearson graduated in 1981 in Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics from [Queens University, Belfast](#). After four years in Shorts Missile Systems, he joined BT Laboratories as a performance analyst, and later worked in network design, computer evolution, cybernetics, and mobile systems. From 1991 until 2007, he was BT's Futurologist, tracking and predicting new developments throughout information technology, considering both technological and social implications. He now does exactly the same things for Futurizon, a small futures institute. As a futurologist and consultant, he lectures widely on his futures views. In between conferences, he writes on topics such as machine consciousness, human evolution, women's issues, ageing, social trends and advanced computing technology.

He has received many awards for his papers, written several books and has made well over 400 TV and radio appearances. He is a Chartered Fellow of the British Computer Society, the World Academy of Art and Science, the Royal Society of Arts, the Institute of Nanotechnology and the World Innovation Foundation. He was recently awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Westminster.