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[previous](#) | [next](#)**Mathematics > History and Overview****Title: Walk versus Wait: The Lazy Mathematician Wins**Authors: [Justin G. Chen](#), [Scott D. Kominers](#), [Robert W. Sinnott](#)
(Submitted on 1 Jan 2008 ([v1](#)), last revised 27 Jan 2008 (this version, v3))

Abstract: In this recreational mathematics note, we address a simple, yet instructive question:

Justin has to travel a distance of d miles along a bus route. Along this route, there are n bus stops i , each spaced at a distance of d_i from the starting point. At each bus stop, Justin is faced with a choice: to walk or to wait. If he walks on, he can still catch a bus at the next bus stop--but if a bus passes him while he walks, he is almost assured a longer wait.

We model Justin's decision constraint and completely solve the model in a special case. The answer is intuitive: the optimal strategy is the laziest.

Comments: 3 pages

Subjects: History and Overview (math.HO)

MSC classes: 00A08, 97A20

Cite as: [arXiv:0801.0297v3](#) [math.HO]**Submission history**From: Scott Kominers [[view email](#)][\[v1\]](#) Tue, 1 Jan 2008 20:59:14 GMT (3kb)[\[v2\]](#) Thu, 10 Jan 2008 02:49:50 GMT (3kb)[\[v3\]](#) Sun, 27 Jan 2008 20:51:09 GMT (3kb)[Which authors of this paper are endorsers?](#)Link back to: [arXiv](#), [form interface](#), [contact](#).