

I JUST DO THEORY

*lyrics by Aaron Sterling 19 Jun 07, revised 23 Jun 07.
Inspired by Weird Al Yankovic's "White & Nerdy."
Original music and words by Chamillionaire, "Riding."
Special thanks to my anonymous fact-checking posse!*

They see me proving my theorem.
I know they're all thinking I just do theory.
Think I just do theory.
Think I just do theory.
Can't you see I just do theory?
Look at me, I just do theory!
I wanna code with the hackers
But so far they all think I just do theory.
Think I just do theory.
I just do theory.
I just do theory.
Really, truly, just do theory.

I wrote a program that solved TSP
Superquasipolynomially.
Ain't no such thing as lunch for free
When you're digesting P-NP.
Unnatural proofs are my favorite vice
When I dream of solver's paradise.
But my poor construction won't suffice,
Even when I add Karp-Lipton advice.
Yo! There's more to life than just systems!
Just too mathy? Quit your grumping.
I may not get the joint jumping
But my lemmas can do some pumping.
I declare to all my detractors
To exchange keys you need extractors.
You can't improve with blind refactors.
You need me, not ten contractors.
Don't know how to start an IDE

But I always win at compIP.
I'm a wizard bounding MA-E,
Playing games in PPAD.
My languages are always acceptable.
My LaTeX skills? They are impeccable.
My proofs are probabilistically checkable.
But what I compile just isn't respectable.
You see, I just do theory.

They're on RA, while I'm teaching.
That's how they know that I just do theory.
Know I just do theory
Know I just do theory
I admit it, I just do theory.
Look at me, I just do theory.
I'd like to code with the hackers
Although it's apparent I just do theory
Yes, I just do theory
Right, I just do theory
I just do theory.
Why is it I can just do theory?

I aced math classes in school.
One-Ten is my favorite rule.
Intractability's really cool.
I've been unplugging while you were debugging.
Your Windows crashed, your hard disk's whirring,
But my platforms all are Turing.
Not a lot of exceptions get thrown
Approximating Diophantines with twelve unknowns.
I'm the department's main instructor.
When they need a course taught, who do they ask?
I'm always up to the task.
It beats sitting on my ass.
I'm trying to cold-start my social network
Saying "Busy Beaver" with a smirk.
In galleries I troll, in weblogs I lurk.
But it's hard to reach Big O if you won't tell the world hello.

My grandest conceit is that my brain is PSPACE-complete.
My calculus is lambda and my math is discrete.
The only problem that ever made me halt
Was whether Samson or Delilah won by default.
My theorem statements are ungrounded.
All my measures are resource-bounded.

They see me struggling at runtime.
They feel sorry because I just do theory.
Yes, it's true, I just do theory.
Yes, it's true, I just do theory.
All because I just do theory.
BQP, I just do theory.
I wanna code with the hackers
But oh well, they can tell I just do theory.
I just do theory.
I just do theory.
Yes, I just do theory.
QED, I just do theory.

(everybody shout) Box!

