

# Comparing The Pleasure of A Great Physicist Making A Discovery To The Pleasure of A Lion Eating A Lamb

Post by "Cassius" of September 4, 2025 at 8:54 AM

We've discussed issues like this in the past such as whether we can construct a Calculus of Pleasure spreadsheet to help us plan our choices in life.

I recall my conclusion to have been that such an exercise is of definite value to ME, or would be for any other individual, but that it would be absolutely invalid to transfer or apply the results of my calculation to another person, because each person answers these problems differently.

So while the lion and the physicist both have their own scales and reports of pleasure experiences, by which they definitely do rank their choices and pleasures, I would say it is simply invalid to compare the pleasure of the lion to that of a physicist, or between ANY two individuals no matter how you dramatize their "value to the world," because there is no agreed objective standard by which to compare.

Past spreadsheet posts are below. I don't use anything like this on a regular basis, and I don't think it's practical to try to do so. However if I were faced with a big decision or evaluation at a particular point in time I do think something like this would be useful. And I am sure that others could design a better implementation as a spreadsheet or using other paradigms. The activities listed on the draft are far too general but were put there just as fillers. Despite the difficulties, I've always thought that it was too extreme to assert that calculations such as this are impossible or totally useless for an individual. Seems to me that the raw format is pretty much exactly how our minds work in evaluating choices, to the extent that we do use our minds to make decisions in a particular case.

Post

## [RE: A Draft Epicurean Pleasure Maximization Worksheet](#)

I have attached to the original post in this thread an xls / Libreoffice Calc version of the spreadsheet which should be usable in any spreadsheet software. I prepared it in the free Libreoffice format so that it would be accessible to the most people. I will see about uploading this back to Google docs as well.

This should be the same document, in Google Sheets -  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d...dit?usp=sharing>



Cassius

July 13, 2019 at 2:13 PM

Post

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4703-comparing-the-pleasure-of-a-great-physicist-making-a-discovery-to-the-pleasure-o/?postID=37141#post37141>

## [RE: The Normal Curve of Pleasure](#)

Anybody coming across this thread and getting motivated to plot some bell curves might want to also consult the earlier thread in which a "spreadsheet" was discussed:

[epicureanfriends.com/thread/?postID=3781#post3781](https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/?postID=3781#post3781) Even though pictorial and mathematical representations are limited, and cannot possibly capture the "feelings" that are involved in pleasure and pain, I continue to think that the process of working through them is useful, especially in that trying to formulate them emphasizes \*how\*...



Cassius

July 23, 2024 at 11:15 AM