**How long is a piece of string? - A Question of Relative Error**

Meet these three brothers:







 **Sam Steve Simon**

Each was given a piece of string and asked to estimate its length.

Sam is reported as saying “My piece of string is 13 cm long.”

Steve is reported as saying “My piece of string is 29 cm long.”

Simon is reported as saying “My piece of string is 49 cm long.”

The strings were measured. Sam’s string measured 11 cm. Steve’s string measured 25 cm and Simon’s string measured 59 cm long.

A prize was awarded to the best estimator. Who won the prize?

It is later discovered that a rather young and naïve non-Mathematician had recorded the lengths of the strings and the competitive brothers responses.

All lengths and responses had been recorded to the nearest whole number.

Should the winner be reconsidered?

Some answers [Relat](Relative%20Error%202%20Working.xls)[ive Error 2 W](Relative%20Error%202%20Working.xls)[o](Relative%20Error%202%20Working.xls)[rking.xls](Relative%20Error%202%20Working.xls)