

Exercise 31

Estimate the height of a telephone pole. Give your answer in both feet and meters. Briefly describe how you arrived at this estimate.

Solution

A telephone pole is much taller than a tall person (with order of magnitude 10^1 feet) but way smaller than a skyscraper (with order of magnitude 10^3 feet). The telephone pole has a height, then, of about 10^2 feet. Since there are about 3 feet in 1 meter, this height is about 30 meters.