Wrong *a priori* ideas in the study of boundary value problems and periodic solutions : some personal experiences

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A priori ideas may be useful and even essential in mathematical research. Wrong *a priori* ideas may delay or even prevent the obtention of results.

The lecture describes a few examples of results that have killed some reasonable looking (at least for him) wrong *a priori* ideas of the speaker.

They are related to nonresonance conditions for the solvability of Dirichlet boundary value problems for second order nonlinear ordinary differential equations and to the topological detection of non constant periodic solutions.

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