

# STiCM

## Select / Special Topics in Classical Mechanics

P. C. Deshmukh

Department of Physics  
Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
Chennai 600036

[pcd@physics.iitm.ac.in](mailto:pcd@physics.iitm.ac.in)

STiCM Lecture 01: Course Overview

ready for  
take-off?

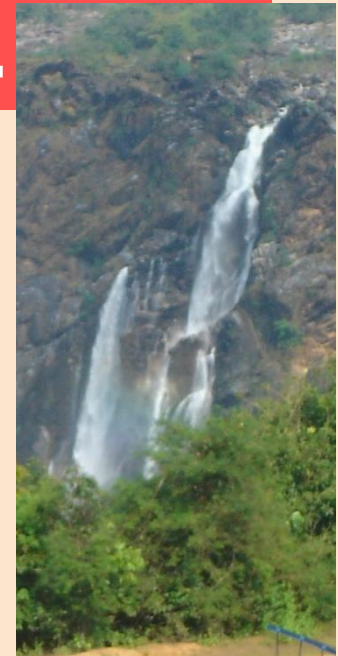


PCD\_STiCM

**Suppose you wish to understand how a rocket lifts off against gravity...**



**or, track the ball hit by Sachin ..**

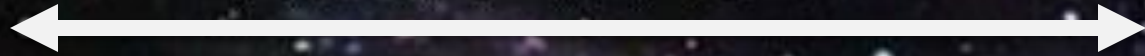


**... or, determine why water flows down the way it does..**

PCD\_STICM

.... one can feel quite lost !

100,000 LIGHT YEARS



APPROX POSITION  
OF SUN



NUCLEUS

CENTRAL BULGE

POD STOM



Time



**'SCIENCE' is relatively young!**  
**Just a few hundred years old,**  
**perhaps a few thousand years or so.....**

Planck Era

$10^{-43}$  seconds

Nucleo-synthesis (protons, neutrons, .....)

3 minutes

Nuclei (plasma formations; hydrogen, helium nuclei, ....)

300,000 years

Atoms (plasma, atoms, formation of stars.....)

1 Billion years

Galaxies

Present

PCD\_STiCM

Big Bang ~  
between  
12 and 14  
billion  
years ago

The Solar  
System ~  
4.5 billion  
years old

Humans ~  
few million  
years

supernova: **11** Billion Years Old!



A supernova occurs when a massive star runs out of fuel, collapses upon itself under the force of its own gravity to become a tiny, ultra-dense object called a neutron star. The star then explodes, sending out a shock wave that reverberates around the galaxy.

Where is CHANDRA?: <http://science.nasa.gov/realtime/>



supernova: **11** Billion Years

A student of physics has a long exciting journey ahead to deal with some of the most challenging questions..... we begin this delightful voyage **with the 'beginnings'** by undertaking studies of introductory **select/special topics in classical mechanics...**

# Select / Special Topics in Classical Mechanics



This class:

Brief overview of the course contents of the  
Eleven Units



# Central problem in MECHANICS:

How do you characterize

the 'state' of a mechanical system,

and

how does this state evolve with time?

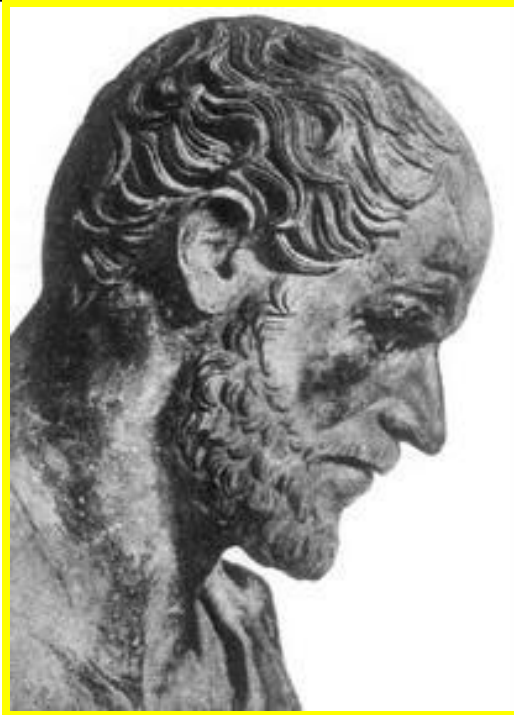
**CLASSICAL / QUANTUM**

**MECHANICS**

FCD\_STCM



*Why do objects 'fall' ?*



“The earth is the natural abode of things, objects ‘fall’ when thrown up just as horses return to their stables.”



*"Gravity is not responsible  
for people falling in love"*  
- Albert Einstein



NO SMOKING



A table, a chair, a bowl of fruit  
and a violin; what else does a  
man need to be happy?

- Albert Einstein

1879 - 1955

$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

## Unit 1: Equations of Motion.

### Principle of Causality and Newton's I & II Laws.

Determination of Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law from translational symmetry.

Application to SHO.

Linear Response Formalism  
Cause-Effect Relationship

Albert Einstein: “We owe a lot to Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.”

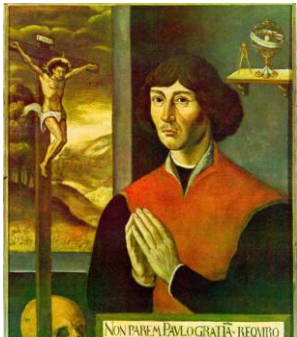
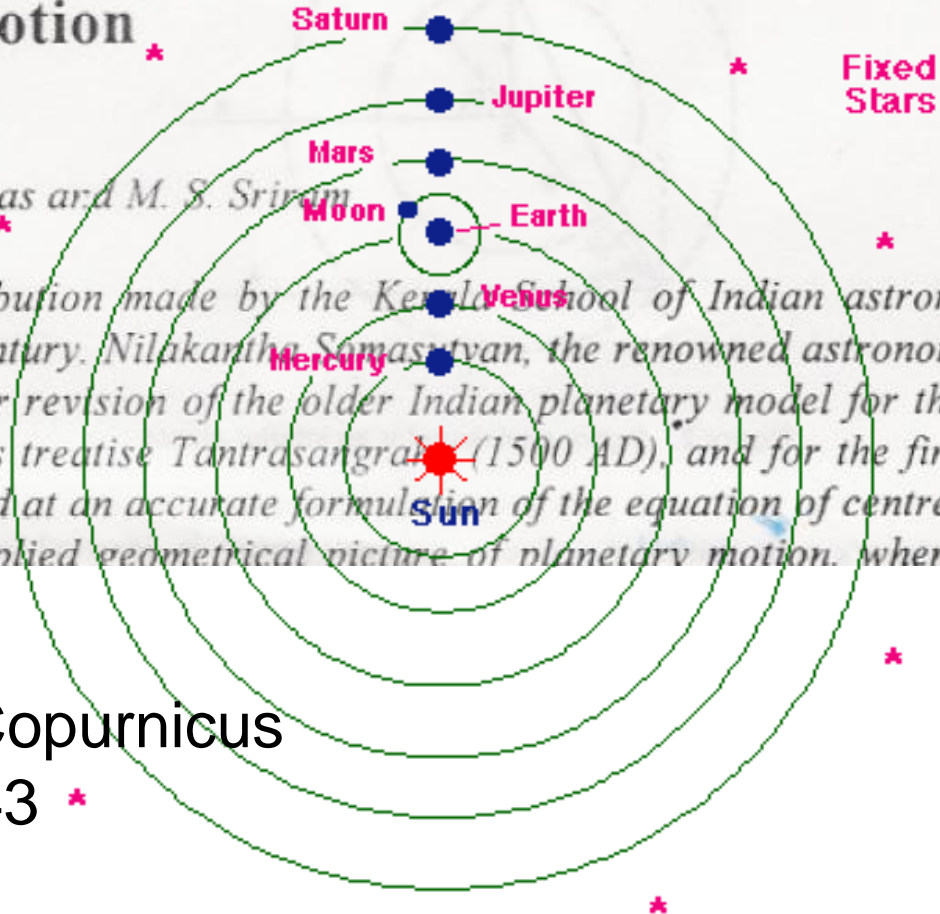
ARYABHATTA (in 5<sup>th</sup> century) introduced new concepts: sphericity of the earth, rotation about its axis, revolution around the sun, explanation of eclipses..... estimated length of the year.....

BRAHMAGUPTA (in 7<sup>th</sup> century) estimated the circumference of the earth to be around 5000 yoganas which in today's units is close to the correct value as we know it now....

# Modification of the earlier Indian planetary theory by the Kerala astronomers (c. 1500 AD) and the implied heliocentric picture of planetary motion

K. Ramasubramanian, M. D. Srinivas and M. S. Srinivasan

We report on a significant contribution made by the Kerala School of Indian astronomers to planetary theory in the fifteenth century. Nilakantha Somashtyan, the renowned astronomer of the Kerala School, carried out a major revision of the older Indian planetary model for the interior planets, Mercury and Venus, in his treatise *Tantrasangraha* (1500 AD), and for the first time in the history of astronomy, he arrived at an accurate formulation of the equation of centre for these planets. He also described the implied geometrical picture of planetary motion, where the five



Nicolus Copurnicus  
1473-1543 \*

<http://www.physics.iitm.ac.in/~labs/amp/kerala-astronomy.pdf>

Central problem in ‘Mechanics’: How is the ‘mechanical state’ of a system described, and how does this ‘state’ evolve with time?

‘position’ and ‘velocity’: both needed  
to specify the mechanical state of a system?

The mechanical state of a system is characterized by its position and velocity,  $(q, \dot{q})$

or, position and momentum,  $(q, p)$

Or, equivalently by their well-defined functions:

$L(q, \dot{q})$ : Lagrangian

$H(q, p)$ : Hamiltonian

PCD\_STiCM

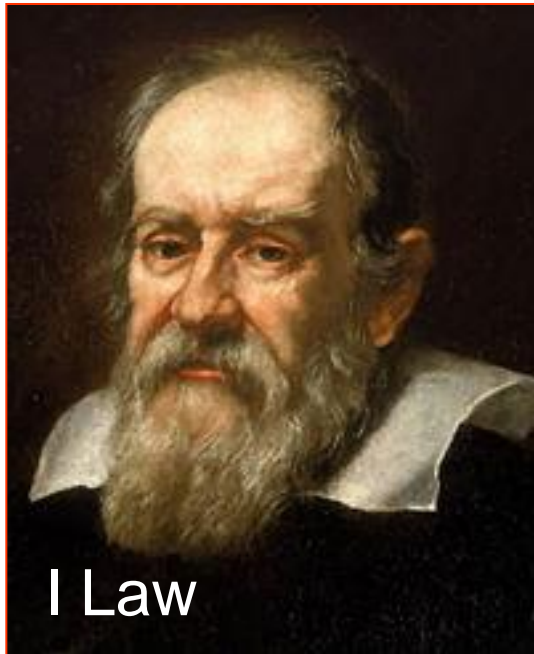




# What is 'equilibrium'?

## What causes departure from 'equilibrium'?

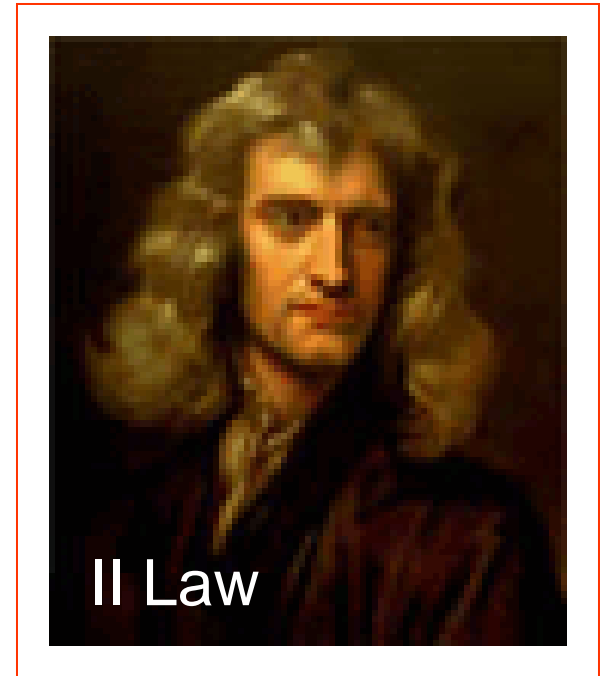
**Galileo Galilei**  
1564 - 1642



I Law

Causality  
&  
Determinism

**Isaac Newton**  
(1642-1727)



II Law

$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$  *Effect* is proportional to the *Cause*.  
Linear Response. Principle of causality.

Equation of motion:

Rigorous mathematical relation between position, velocity/momentum and acceleration.

Can we derive NEWTON's I law as a special case of the II law by putting

$$\vec{F} = \vec{0} \text{ in } \vec{F} = m\vec{a}?$$

Linear Response Formalism

$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

Cause-Effect Relationship

Alternative  
formulation of  
MECHANICS,  
based on a  
completely different  
principle:  
Principle of Variation

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} L(q, \dot{q}, t) dt = \textit{extremum}$$

**Alternative** way to arrive at Newton's **III law**, following a very different approach -

- principle of translational invariance in homogeneous space.

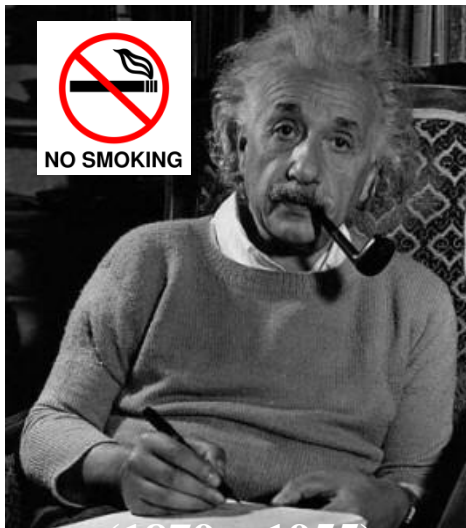
This alternative approach illustrates an exciting path of discovering laws of nature, using invariance/symmetry principles.

**An intriguing question:** Are the conservation principles consequences of the laws of nature? Or, are the laws of nature consequences of the symmetry principles that govern them?

In contemporary physics,  
SYMMETRY

is placed *ahead of* LAWS OF NATURE.

This approach has its origins in the works of  
Albert Einstein, Emmily Noether & Eugene Wigner.



$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

Linear Response Formalism  
Cause-Effect Relationship

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} L(q, \dot{q}, t) dt = \textit{extremum} \quad \text{Principle of Variation}$$

Lagrange's equation: One 2<sup>nd</sup> Order equation

Hamilton's equations: Two first order equations

“When we ask advice, we are usually looking for an accomplice. ”

**Joseph-Louis Lagrange**  
(1736-1813)



**William  
Rowan  
Hamilton**  
(1805  
- 1865)

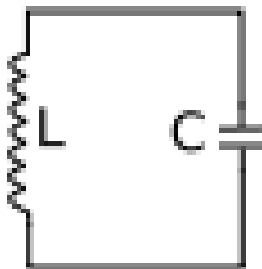
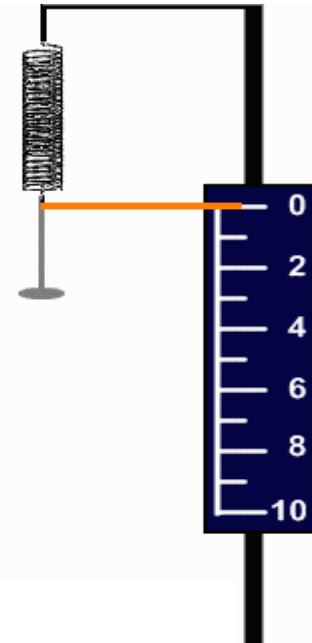
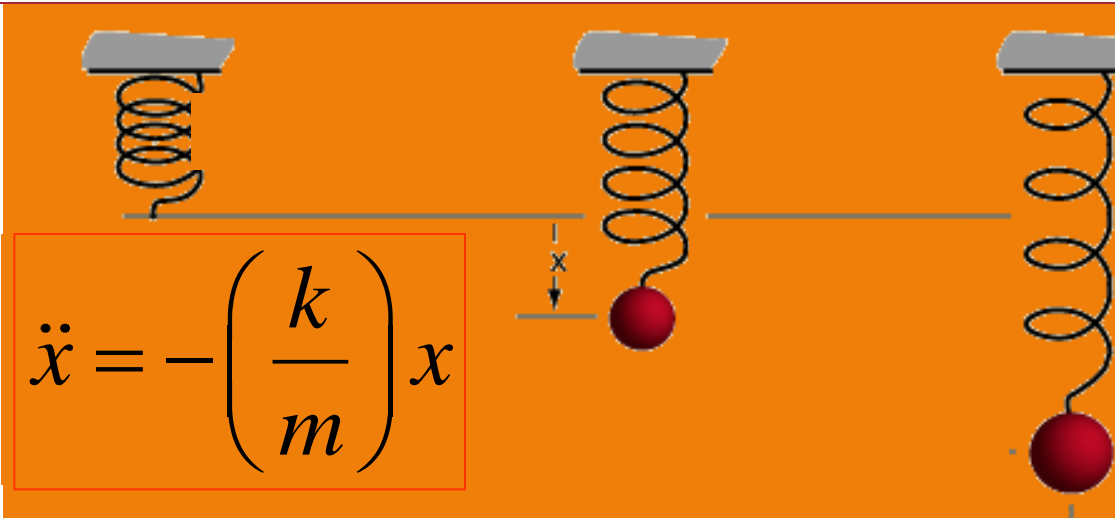
“.....we used to bring in a ‘snack’ and leave it in his study, but a brief nod of recognition of the intrusion of the chop or cutlet was often the only result, .....

- *William Edwin Hamilton (his elder son).*

“On earth there is nothing great but man; in man there is nothing great but mind.” - Hamilton

**Unit 2 : Oscillations. Small oscillations. SHM.  
 Electromechanical analogues exhibiting SHM.  
 Damped harmonic oscillator, types of damping.**

**Driven and damped & driven harmonic oscillator.  
 Resonances, Quality Factor.  
 Waves.**



$$\ddot{Q} = -\left(\frac{1}{LC}\right)Q$$



# Resonances

Enrico Caruso - could shatter a crystal goblet by singing a note of just the right frequency.

In 2005, Discovery TV Channel recruited rock singer and vocal coach **Jamie Vendera** to hit some crystal ware.

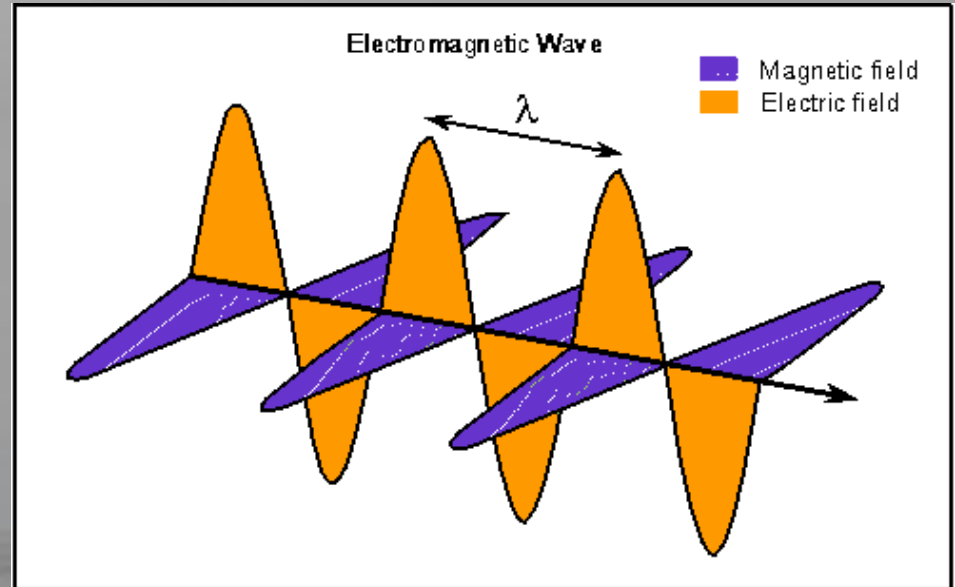
**BAIJU / TANSEN** in King **AKBAR's** court

He tried 12 wine glasses ... and struck the lucky one that splintered at the blast of his mighty pipes.

Enrico Caruso  
1873 - 1921



Wave motion in one dimension.  
Wave equation and travelling wave solutions.



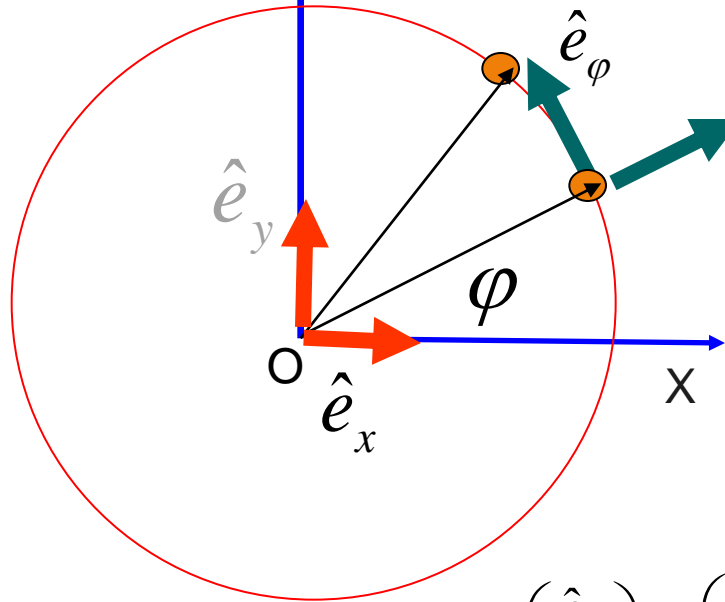
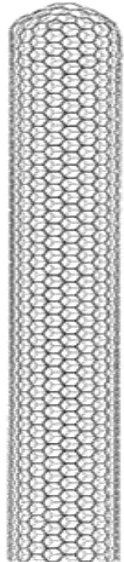
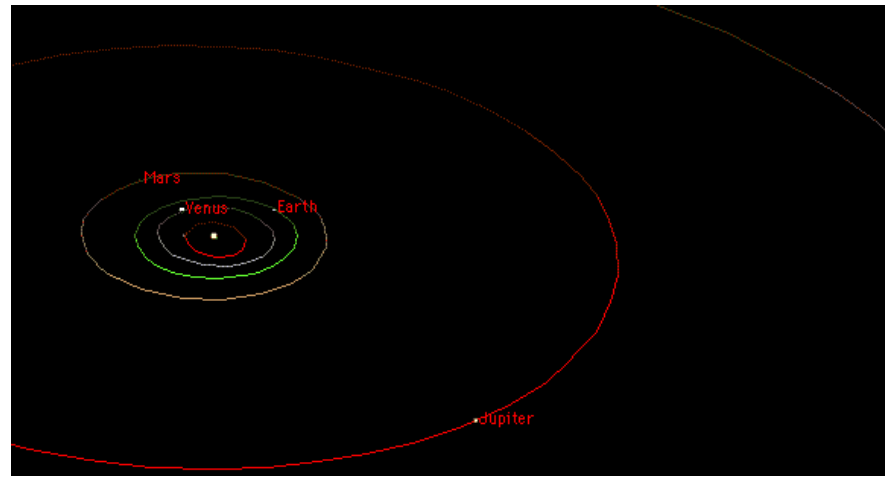
Wave velocity, group velocity and dispersion.

Fourier Analysis

# Unit 3 :

## Plane polar coordinate systems.

## Vector Methods



$$\hat{e}_\rho = \cos \varphi \hat{e}_x + \sin \varphi \hat{e}_y$$

$$\hat{e}_\varphi = -\sin \varphi \hat{e}_x + \cos \varphi \hat{e}_y$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{e}_\rho \\ \hat{e}_\varphi \\ \hat{e}_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \varphi & \sin \varphi & 0 \\ -\sin \varphi & \cos \varphi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{e}_x \\ \hat{e}_y \\ \hat{e}_z \end{pmatrix}$$

PCD\_STiCM

# Représentation of Physical Quantities and their Transformation

## Physical Quantities that are Scalars and Vector

Mathematical Transformations of Components of a Vector

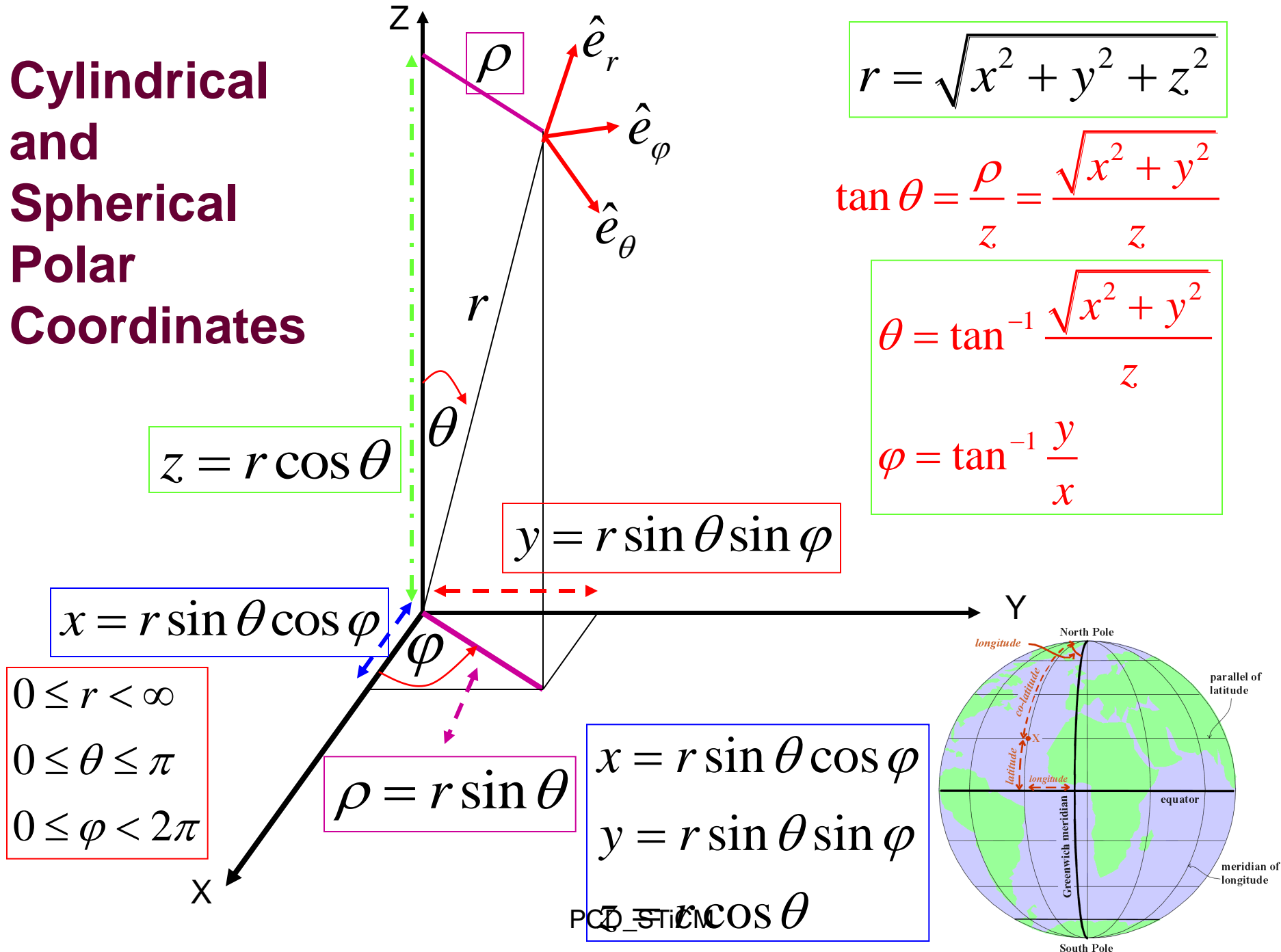
Polar and Axial (Pseudo) Vectors, Rotations and Reflections.

Mirror: Left goes to right, and right goes to left.



Why doesn't top go to bottom, and bottom to the top?

# Cylindrical and Spherical Polar Coordinates



## Transformations of the unit vectors

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{e}_r \\ \hat{e}_\theta \\ \hat{e}_\varphi \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin \theta \cos \varphi & \sin \theta \sin \varphi & \cos \theta \\ \cos \theta \cos \varphi & \cos \theta \sin \varphi & -\sin \theta \\ -\sin \varphi & \cos \varphi & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{e}_x \\ \hat{e}_y \\ \hat{e}_z \end{bmatrix}$$

Get the inverse matrix, and write the inverse transformations.

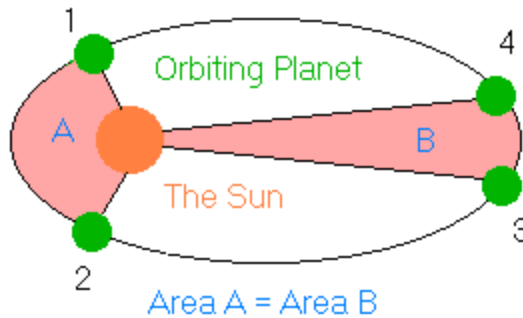
$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{e}_x \\ \hat{e}_y \\ \hat{e}_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin \theta \cos \varphi & \cos \theta \cos \varphi & -\sin \varphi \\ \sin \theta \sin \varphi & \cos \theta \sin \varphi & \cos \varphi \\ \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{e}_r \\ \hat{e}_\theta \\ \hat{e}_\varphi \end{bmatrix}$$

## Unit 4: Kepler Problem.

Laplace-Runge-Lenz vector, 'Dynamical' symmetry.  
Conservation principle  $\leftrightarrow$  Symmetry relation.

Kepler Problem.

Laplace-Runge-Lenz vector, 'Dynamical' symmetry.  
Conservation principle  $\leftrightarrow$  Symmetry relation.



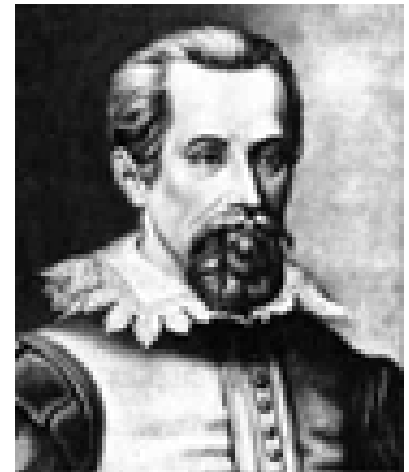
**Kepler: “equal area in equal time”**

**Conservation of Angular Momentum :  
Central Force Field**

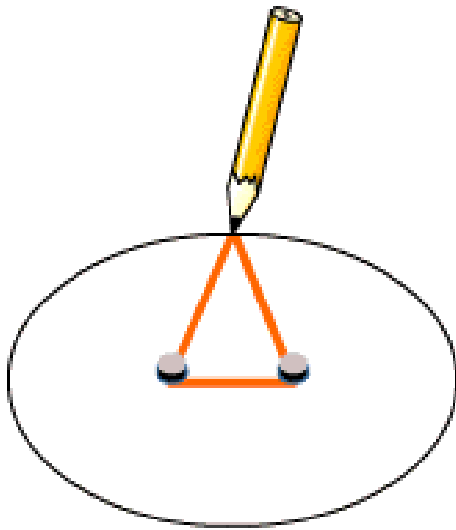
**Symmetry  $\longleftrightarrow$  Conservation Law**

**Other than ‘energy’ and ‘angular momentum’, what else is conserved, and what is the associated symmetry?**

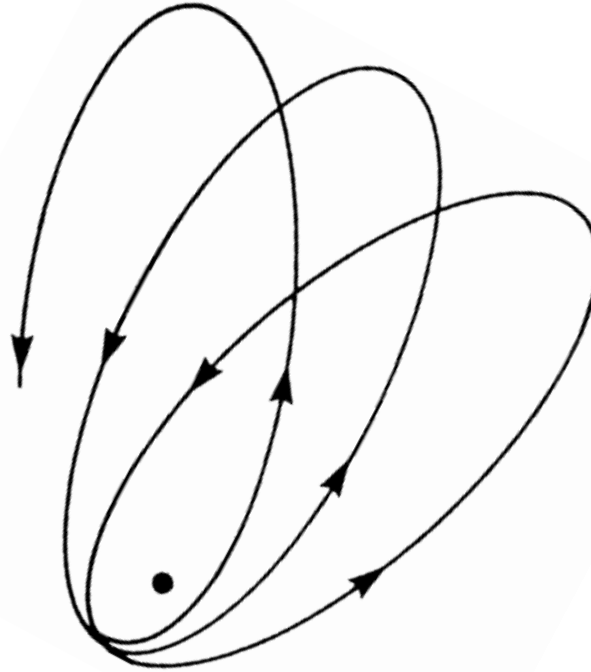
PGD\_STiCM



**Kepler**



Angular momentum is conserved, but major-axis not fixed.



Two-body central field  
Kepler-Bohr problem,

Attractive force:  
inverse-square-law.



Laplace Runge Lenz Vector is constant for a strict  $1/r$  potential.

$$\vec{A} = \vec{p} \times \vec{L} - mk\hat{e}_\rho$$

$$\vec{A} = mk \left[ \frac{\vec{v} \times \vec{L}}{k} - \hat{e}_\rho \right] = mk\vec{a}$$

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{v} \times \vec{L}}{k} - \hat{e}_\rho$$

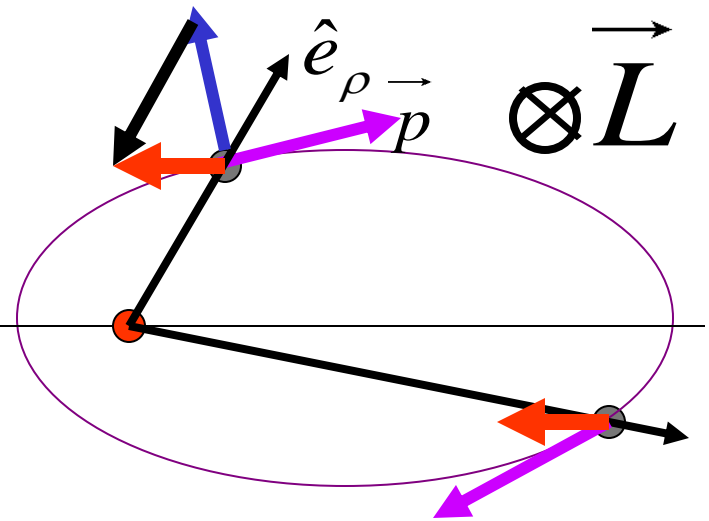
*LRL* vector is often defined as  $\vec{a}$  which is also, obviously, a constant.

One can show that  $|\vec{a}| = e$ , **Eccentricity vector**

orbit's eccentricity.

**Details in Unit 4**

PCD\_STiCM



For  $\frac{d\vec{A}}{dt} = 0$ ,

$$\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = -\frac{k}{\rho^2} \hat{e}_\rho$$

**DYNAMICAL SYMMETRY**

## Noether's Theorem:



**Emmily  
Noether  
1882 to 1935**

‘every symmetry in nature yields a conservation law and conversely, every conservation law reveals an underlying symmetry’.

### SYMMETRY

Homogeneity of time

Homogeneity of space

Isotropy of Space

### CONSERVATION PRINCIPLE

Energy

Linear Momentum

Angular momentum

**‘Dynamical Symmetry’ of the inverse-square force is associated with the conservation / constancy of the eccentricity (LRL) vector.**

## Unit 5: Inertial and non-inertial reference frames.

Moving coordinate systems. Pseudo forces.  
Inertial and non-inertial reference frames.

Deterministic cause-effect relations in inertial frame,  
and their modifications in a non-inertial frame.

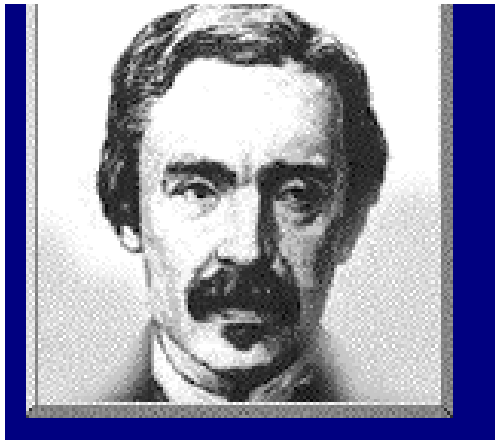
### *Real Effects of Pseudo Forces!*



Six Flags over Georgia PCD\_STICM

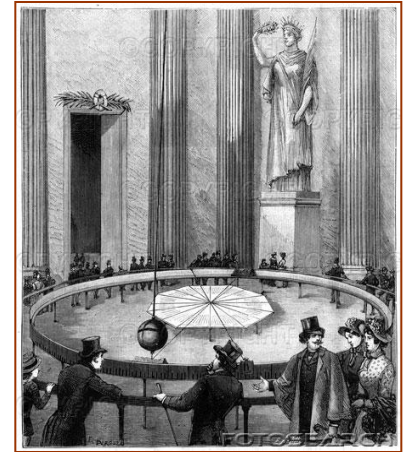


Gaspard Gustave de Coriolis  
1792 - 1843



**“ Foo-Koh ”**

The plane of oscillation of the Foucault pendulum is seen to rotate due to the Coriolis effect. The plane rotates through one full rotation in 24 hours at poles, and in ~33.94 hours at a latitude of 45° (Latitude of Paris is ~49°).



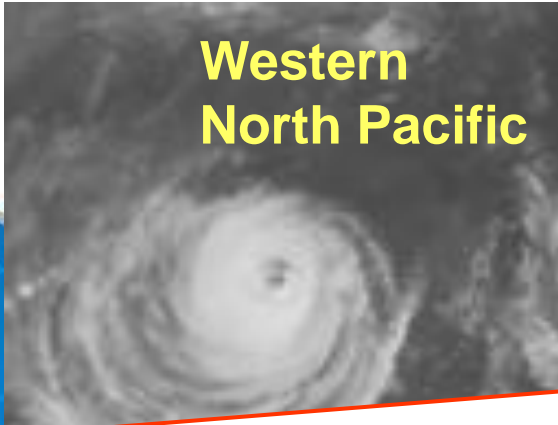
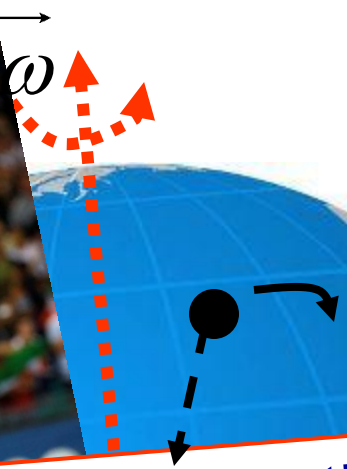
$$\vec{F}_R = \vec{F}_I - \vec{F}_{\dot{\omega}} - 2m\vec{\omega} \times \left( \frac{d}{dt} \right)_R \vec{r} - m\vec{\omega} \times (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{r})$$

↑
↑
↑

‘Leap second’ term                      ‘Coriolis force’                      ‘Centrifugal force’



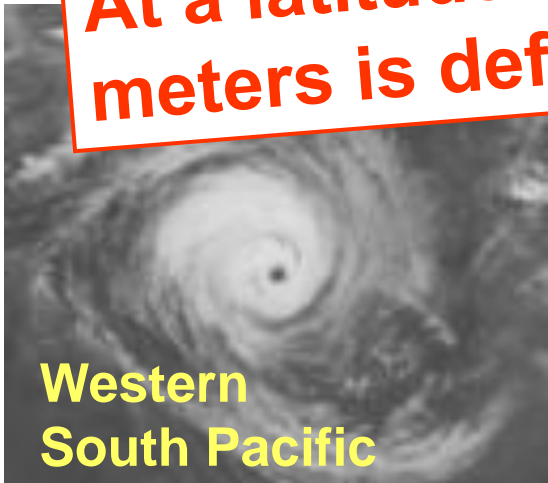
Coriolis  
1792 - 1843



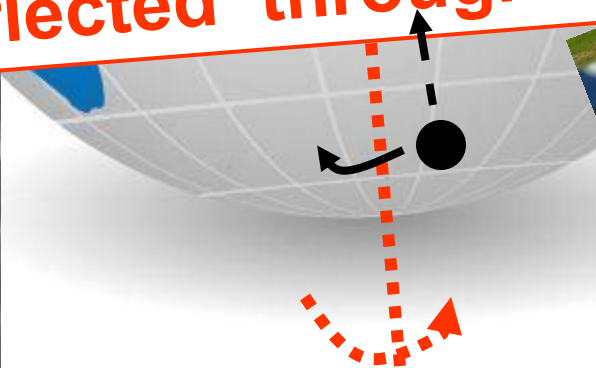
Western  
North Pacific

An object in a state of free fall on the Northern hemisphere gets deflected toward the East, in the Southern hemisphere would get deflected toward West!

At a latitude of  $60^\circ$  an object falling through 100 meters is deflected through  $\sim 1$  cm.



Western  
South Pacific



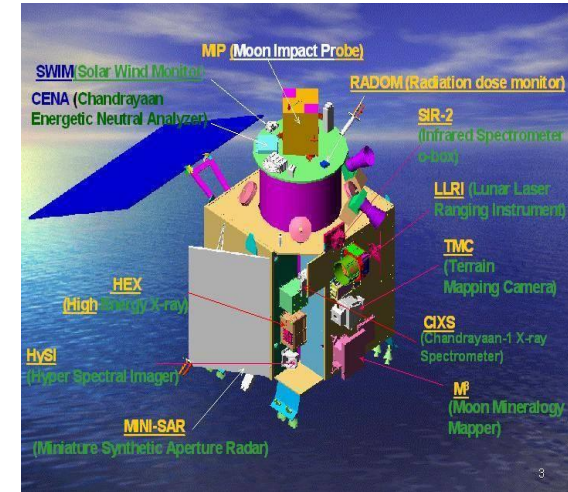
PCD\_STiCM



# Mechanics of Flights into space.



PCD\_STiCM

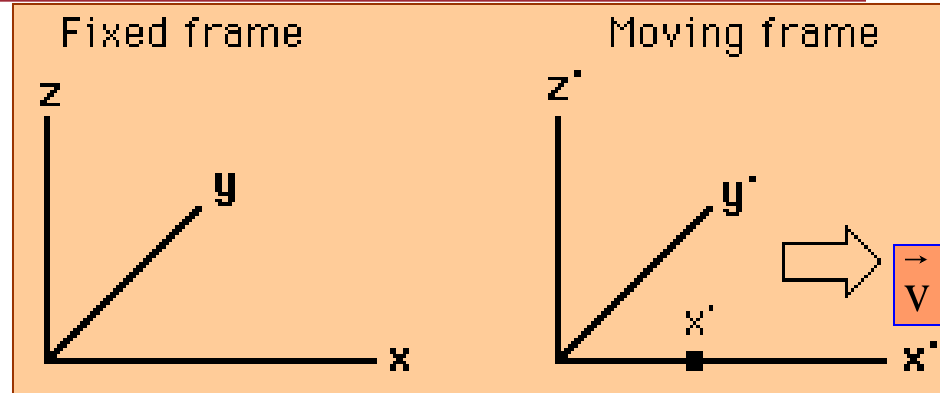


## Unit 6:

# Galilean & Lorentz transformations. Special Theory of Relativity.

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

$\gamma \rightarrow 1$  as  $v \rightarrow 0$ .



$$x' = \gamma(x - vt)$$

$$x = \gamma(x' + vt')$$

$$y' = y$$

$$y = y'$$

$$z' = z$$

$$z = z'$$

$$t' = \gamma \left( t - \frac{vx}{c^2} \right)$$

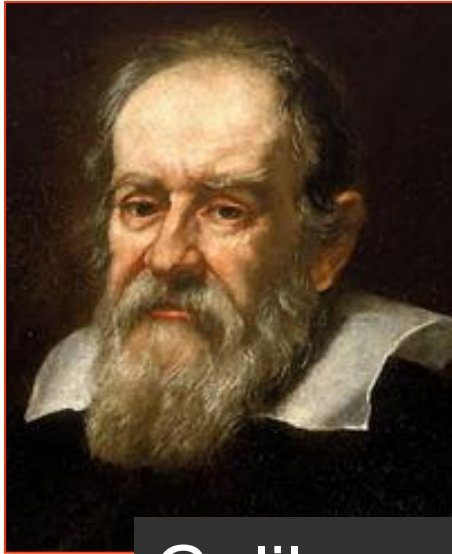
$$t = \gamma \left( t' + \frac{vx'}{c^2} \right)$$





TWIN PARADOX !

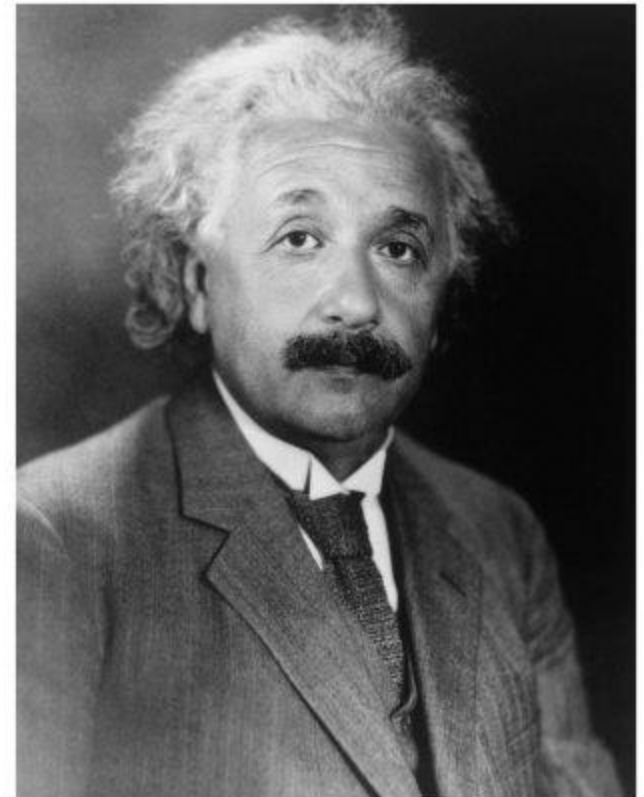
But, just what  
is the paradox?



Galileo



Lorentz

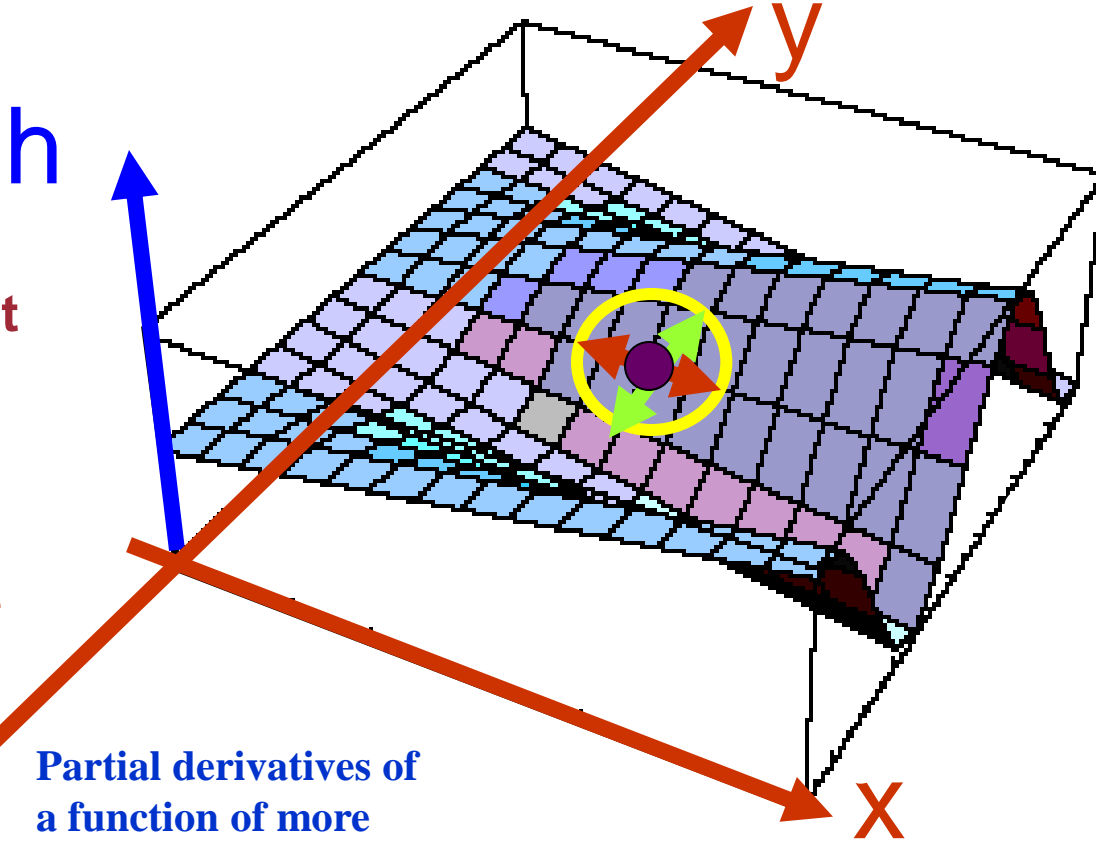


Einstein



# Unit 7: Physical examples of fields.

## Potential energy function. Potentials, Gradients, Fields



$$\frac{d\psi}{ds} = \hat{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \psi$$

$$\hat{u} = \lim_{\delta s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{\delta r}}{\delta s} = \frac{\vec{dr}}{ds}$$

$$\delta s = |\vec{\delta r}|, \text{ tiny}$$

increment

$$ds = |\vec{dr}|, \text{ differential}$$

increment

**h: dependent variable**

**x & y: independent variables**

**Partial derivatives of a function of more than one variable.**

$$\left[ \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right]_{(x_0, y_0)} = \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(x_0 + \frac{\delta x}{2}, y_0) - h(x_0 - \frac{\delta x}{2}, y_0)}{\delta x} = \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \left[ \frac{\delta h}{\delta x} \right]_{y_0}$$

# Unit 8: Gauss' Law; Equation of Continuity Hydrodynamic and Electrodynamic illustrations



**Johann  
Carl Friedrich  
Gauss  
1777 - 1855**

$$\iiint_{\text{volume region}} d\tau [\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}(\vec{r})] = \oiint_{\text{surface enclosing that region}} \vec{A}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{a}$$

PCD\_STiCM

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) + \frac{\partial \rho(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} = 0$$

## Unit 9: Physical examples of fields.

### Potential energy function. Potentials, Gradients, Fields

$$\Psi = \frac{p(\vec{r})}{\rho} + \phi + \frac{|\vec{v}|^2}{2} = \text{constant for a given streamline}$$

**If** the fluid flow is **both** 'steady state'  
**and** 'irrotational',  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = \vec{\chi} = \vec{0}$

then 
$$\Psi = \frac{p(\vec{r})}{\rho} + \phi + \frac{|\vec{v}|^2}{2}$$

is constant for the entire velocity field in the liquid.



Daniel Bernoulli  
1700 - 1782

## Daniel Bernoulli's Theorem

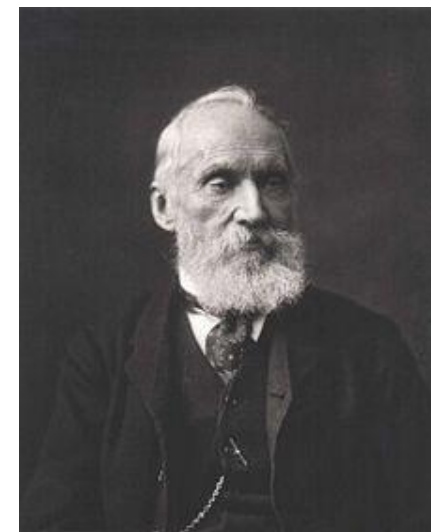
$$\oint \vec{A}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{l} = \iint (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot d\vec{S}$$

*Curl of the vector*



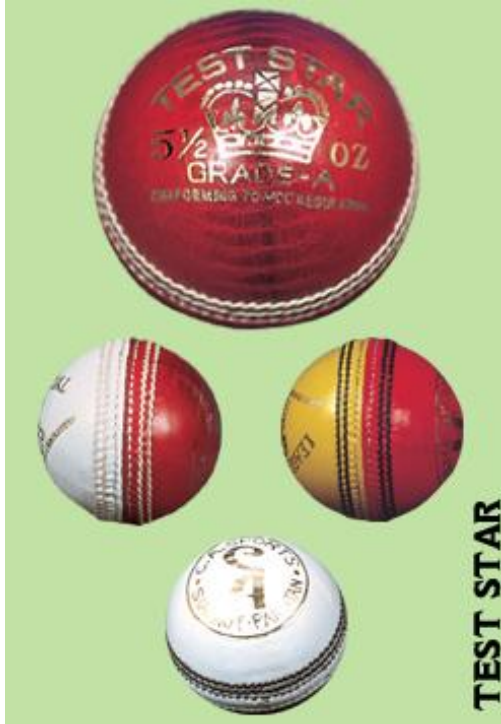
*George G. Stokes*  
1857

**George Gabriel Stokes**  
(1819–1903)



**William Thomson,  
1st Baron Kelvin**  
(1824-1907)

This theorem is named after George Gabriel Stokes (1819–1903), although the first known statement of the theorem is by William Thomson (Lord Kelvin) and appears in a letter of his to Stokes in July 1850.



Ishant Sharma  
Swing Bowling

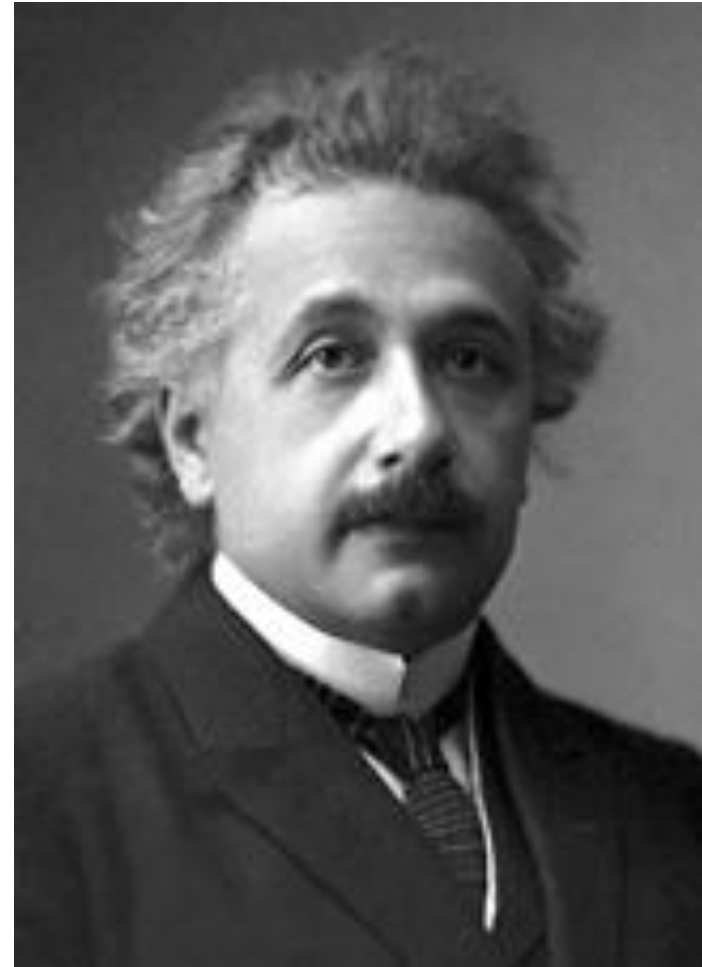
Difference between the rough and shiny surface of a white ball is much more, and hence swings more!

# Unit 10: Classical Electrodynamics and the Special Theory of Relativity.



Maxwell

PCD\_STiCM



Einstein

# Maxwell's equations.

## Applications in Electrodynamics

$$\iiint d\tau \left[ \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}(\vec{r}) \right] = \oiint \vec{A}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{a} \quad \text{Gauss' theorem}$$

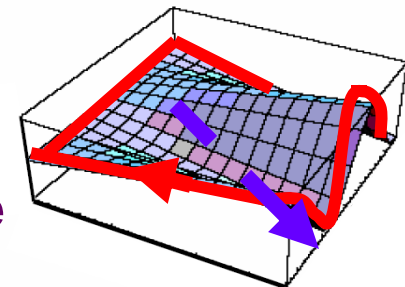
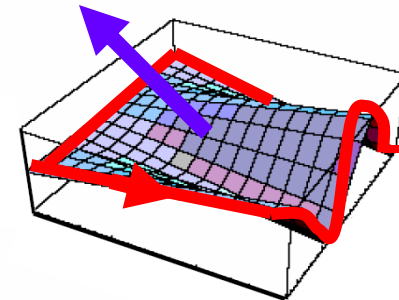
$$\oint \vec{A}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{l} = \iint (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot d\vec{S} \quad \text{Stokes' theorem}$$

$$\oiint \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{Gauss' law}$$

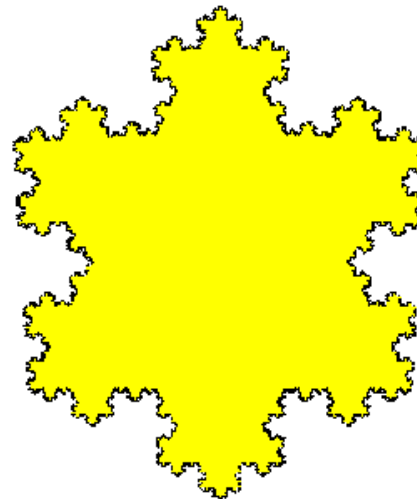
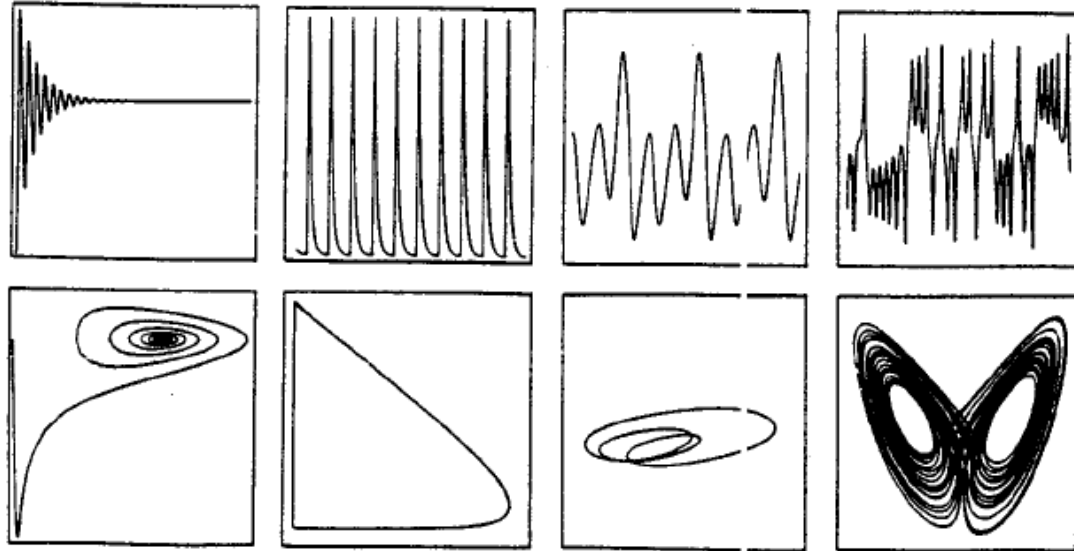
$$\oiint \vec{B}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{S} = 0 \quad \text{There is no Magnetic Monopole}$$

$$\oint_c \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{l} = -\frac{\partial \phi_B}{\partial t} \quad \text{Faraday-Lenz-Maxwell}$$

$$\oint_c \vec{B}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{l} = \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \phi_E}{\partial t} + \mu_0 I_{enclosed} \quad \text{Ampere-Maxwell}$$



# Unit 11: Logistic Map, Bifurcations, 'Chaos', 'Attractor', 'Strange Attractor', Fractals, 'Self-Similarity', Mandelbrot Sets...



PCD\_STiCM



# ATOMIC & MOLECULAR PHYSICS

Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology - Madras  
Chennai, India - 600 036

Email : [pcd@physics.iitm.ac.in](mailto:pcd@physics.iitm.ac.in)

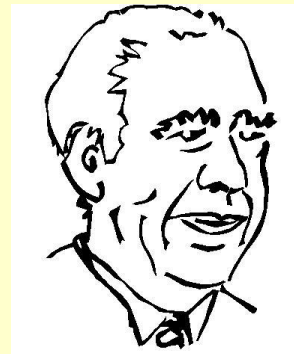
<http://www.physics.iitm.ac.in/~labs/amp/>

Dr. P. C. Deshmukh

Professor

Department of Physics, IIT Madras

• [Affiliation](#)  
[Publications](#)



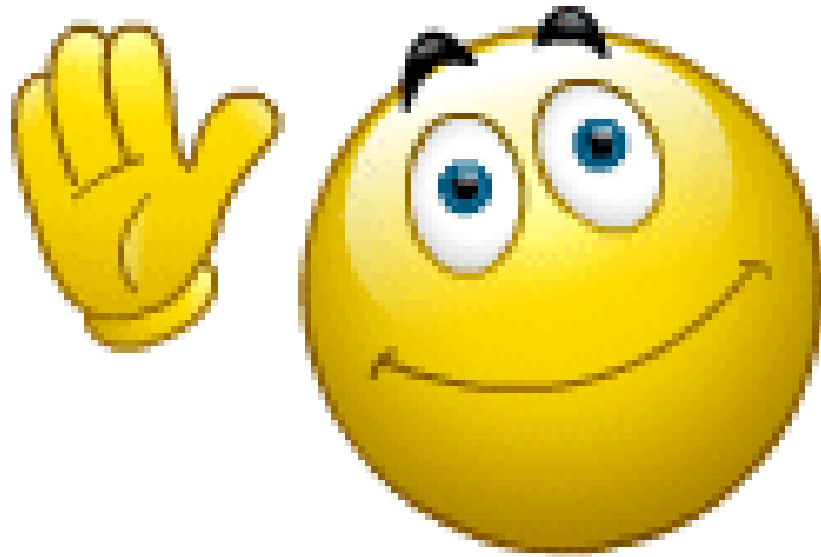
*"One must  
always do  
what one  
really  
cannot."*

- Niels Bohr  
(1885-1962)

**Teaching** → Courses: Select Topics in Classical Mechanics

- Sponsored Projects
- Collaboration
- Fragmentary Tale of The Atom
- 100 years of Einstein's Photoelectric Effect
- Life and Works of C. V. Raman

**Contact:**  
[pcd@physics.iitm.ac.in](mailto:pcd@physics.iitm.ac.in)



*Next class: Unit 1:  
Equations of Motion (i)*