

Conspiracy of Reason — *Why Should It Be So?*

by Michael G. Windheuser, Ph.D.

Proof isn't hiding, it is just tightly defined. When one speaks of "proof" in the context of an argument, he is not strictly correct. Rather, proof is the proper domain of mathematics and geometry. Only in mathematics can there be both certainty and exclusion. Mathematics and geometry allow human beings to know why something is necessarily true and why it is true in all possible cases of the event.

For example, Pythagoras showed that in a right triangle derived from a square, the square of the hypotenuse equals the sum of the squares of the other two legs of the triangle. Three hundred years later, Euclid produced an elegant proof of Pythagoras' proposition from geometry, which surpassed all other proofs in the universality of its application beyond the right triangle in a square. Euclid proved that the Pythagorean relationship must also be true for any combination of leg lengths in a right triangle derived from any parallelogram.¹

Geometry and mathematics often closely parallel reality. Changes in animal population size and distribution can be accurately modeled using mathematical equations. Gene frequencies can be modeled and predicted using various equations. Even the laws of physics are expressed mathematically in forms which, like the Pythagorean Theorem, have a surprising level of consistency with the real world they are intended to represent.

Many philosophers have noted this apparent conspiracy of reason with surprise and wonder. In his essay, *The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences*, Eugene Wigner says the "enormous usefulness of mathematics in the

Based on this, rather than randomness, one could reasonably suspect a conspiracy of reason behind it all.

This is, in fact, the conclusion of a great many minds in science and mathematics in centuries past, who were also Christian believers. Galileo encouraged others to learn the language of mathematics to be able to fully appreciate how God had ordered the universe. Kepler, Isaac Newton, and others followed suit and recognized that the effectiveness of mathematics was the result of a conspiracy of One. God, like mathematical proofs, wasn't hiding as some have charged. He is

the mind behind the design, so that what the atheist finds unexplainable is actually God's wisdom and condescension toward man in forming the universe according to a language we can both comprehend and formulate.

A random universe is a pointless, purposeless universe, and what is the point in using mathematics to study a pointless universe?

natural sciences is something bordering on the mysterious."² Others have noted how effective very simple mathematics and geometry have been in describing many significant aspects of nature, and asked the question "Why should it be so?" Why should it be that the universe can be so well-described by humans in mathematical terms when the universe itself is said to have begun in chaos and proceeded in random fashion without having human beings in mind?

A random universe is a pointless, purposeless universe, and what is the point in using mathematics to study a pointless universe? Some have noted that we also continue to develop new types of math, and new applications for old math, which accurately represents the reality of the world.

References

1. Wiker, B. and J. Witt. 2006. *A Meaningful World — How the Arts and Sciences Reveal the Genius of Nature*. InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, IL.
2. Wigner, E.P. 1979. *Symmetries and Reflections: Scientific Essays of Eugene P. Wigner*. Oxford Press: Woodbridge, CT.

GM

Circumference ...continued from page 3

common understanding of the earth's curved surface. We can assume that this information was well known to New Testament writers including the Apostle Paul. The idea of a flat earth is neither taught nor implied in Scripture.

In addition, Job 26:7 describes the earth as suspended in space, an obvious comparison with the spherical sun and moon. When

the Bible touches on scientific subjects, including the spherical earth, it is entirely accurate (DeYoung, 2010).

References

- DeYoung, Don B. 2010. *Astronomy and the Bible: Questions and Answers*. BMH Books, Winona Lake, IN.
- Russell, Jeffrey B. 1991. *Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians*. Praeger Publishers, Santa Barbara, CA. See also <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/topics/history/1997Russell.html>.

GM