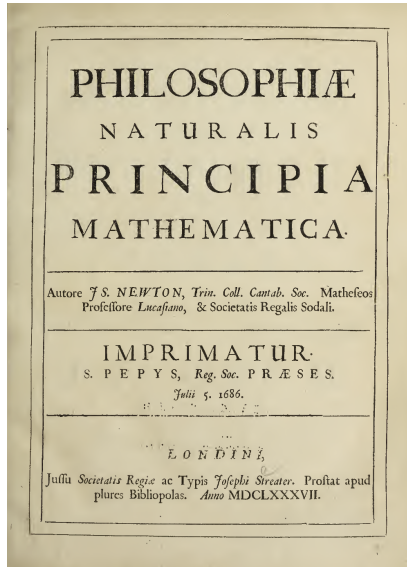


BO1 History of Mathematics
Lecture V
Newton's *Principia*
Part 3: The *Principia*

MT 2020 Week 3

Isaac Newton: *The mathematical principles of natural philosophy* (London, 1687)



Contents of the *Principia*

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The laws of motion

[12]

AXIOMATA SIVE LEGES MOTUS

Lex. I.

Corpus omne perseverare in statu suo quiescendi vel movendi uniformiter in directum, nisi quatenus a viribus impressis cogitur statum illum mutare.

Projectilia perseverant in motibus suis nisi quatenus a resistentia aeris retardantur & vi gravitatis impelluntur deorsum.

Trochus, cujus partes cohaerendo perpetuo retrahunt sese a motibus rectilineis, non cessat rotari nisi quatenus ab aere retardatur. Majora autem Planetarum & Cometarum corpora motus suos & progressivos & circulares in spatio minus resistentibus factos conservant diutius.

Lex. II.

Mutationem motus proportionalem esse vi motrici impressae, & fieri secundum lineam rectam qua vis illa imprimitur.

Si vis aliqua motum quemvis generet, dupla duplum, tripla tripulum generabit, sive simul & semel, sive gradatim & successive impressa fuerit. Et hic motus quoniam in eandem semper plagam cum vi generatrice determinatur, si corpus antea movebatur, motui ejus vel conspiranti additur, vel contrario subducitur, vel oblique oblique adjicitur, & cum eo secundum utriusque determinationem componitur.

Lex. III.

[13]

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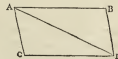
Actioni contrariam semper & aequalem esse reactionem: sive corporum duorum actiones in se mutuo semper esse aequales & in partes contrarias dirigi.

Quicquid premit vel trahit alterum, tantundem ab eo premitur vel trahitur. Siquis lapidem digito premit, premitur & hujus digitus a lapide. Si equus lapidem funi allegatum trahit, retrahetur etiam & equus aequaliter in lapidem: nam funis utrinque distentus eodem relaxandi se conatu urgebit Equum versus lapidem, ac lapidem versus equum, tantumque impedit progressum unius quantum promovet progressum alterius. Si corpus aliquod in corpus aliud impingens, motum ejus vi sua quomodocumque mutaverit, idem quoque vicissim in motu proprio eandem mutationem in partem contrariam vi alterius (ob aequalitatem pressionis mutuae) subibit. His actionibus aequales sunt mutationes non velocitatum sed motuum, (scilicet in corporibus non aliunde impeditis:) Mutationes enim velocitatum, in contrarias itidem partes factae, quia motus aequaliter mutantur, sunt corporibus reciproce proportionales.

Corol. I.

Corpus viribus conjunctis diagonalem parallelogrammi eodem tempore describere, quo latera separatim.

Si corpus dato tempore, vi sola *M*, ferretur ab *A* ad *B*, & vi sola *N*, ab *A* ad *C*, compleatur parallelogrammum *ABDC*, & vi utraque ferretur id eodem tempore ab *A* ad *D*. Nam quoniam vis *N* agit secundum lineam



AC ipsi *BD* parallelam, hac vi nihil mutabit velocitatem accedendi ad lineam illam *BD* a vi altera genitam. Accedet igitur corpus eodem tempore ad lineam *BD* sive vi *N* imprimatur, sive non, atque adeo in fine illius temporis reperietur alicubi in linea illa

Book I: Motion of bodies

Book I, Section I: On the method of first and last ratios

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Lemma I: Quantities, and ratios of quantities, which [...] approach nearer to each other than by any given difference, become ultimately equal.

Book I: Motion of bodies

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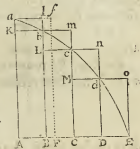
For suppose they are ultimately unequal, and their ultimate difference is D . Then they cannot approach nearer to equality than by that difference.

Book I, Lemma II

[27]

Lemma II.

Si in figura quavis $Aa cE$ rectis Aa , AE , & curva AaE comprehensa, inscribantur parallelogramma quotcumq; Ab , Bc , Cd , &c. sub basibus AB , BC , CD , &c. equalibus, & lateribus Bb , Cc , Dd , &c. figuræ lateri Aa parallelis contenta; & compleantur parallelogramma $aKbl$, $bLcm$, $cMdn$, &c. Dein horum parallelogrammorum latitudo minuitur, & numerus augeatur in infinitum: dico quod ultimæ rationes, quas habent ad se invicem figura inscripta $AKbLcMdD$, circumscripta $Aalbmcndoe$, & curvilinea $AabcdE$, sunt rationes equalitatis.



Nam figuræ inscriptæ & circumscriptæ differentia est summa parallelogrammorum $Kl + Lm + Mn + Do$, hoc est (ob æquales omnium bases) rectangulum sub unius basi Kb & altitudinum summa Aa , id est rectangulum $ABla$. Sed hoc rectangulum, eo quod latitudo ejus AB in infinitum minuitur, fit minus quovis dato. Ergo, per Lemma I, figura inscripta & circumscripta & multo magis figura curvilinea intermedia fiunt ultimo æquales. Q. E. D.

Lemma III.

Eadem rationes ultimæ sunt etiam equalitatis, ubi parallelogrammorum latitudines AB , BC , CD , &c. sunt inæquales, & omnes minuantur in infinitum.

Sit enim AF equalis latitudini maximæ, & compleatur parallelogrammum $FAaf$. Hoc erit majus quam differentia figuræ inscriptæ & si usque circumscriptæ, at latitudine sua AF

E 2

in

Lemma II: Ultimate equality of inscribed figure, circumscribed figure, and curved area

Motion under centripetal forces

[37]

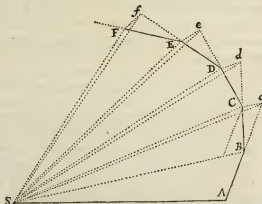
SECT. II.

De Inventionem Virium Centripetarum.

Prop. I. Theorema. I.

Areas quas corpora in gyros acta radiis ad immobile centrum virium ductis describunt, & in planis immobilibus consistere, & esse temporibus proportionales.

Dividatur tempus in partes æquales, & prima temporis parte describat corpus vi insita rectam AB . Idem secunda temporis parte, si nil impediret, recta pergeret ad c , (per Leg. I) describens lineam Bc æqualem ipsi AB , adeo ut radii AS , BS , cS ad centrum actis, confectæ forent æquales arcæ ASB , BSc . Verum ubi corpus venit ad B , agat viscentripetam impulsu unico sed magno, faciatq; corpus a recta Bc deflectere & pergere in recta BC . Ipsi BS parallela agatur cC occurrens BC in C , & completa secunda temporis parte, corpus (per Legum Corol. 1) reperietur in C , in eodem plano cum triangulo ASB . Junge SC , & triangulum SBC , ob parallelas SB , Cc , æquale erit triangulo SBC , atq; adeo etiam triangulo SAB . Simili argumento si



Book I, Section II: Motion under centripetal forces.

Motion under centripetal forces

[37]

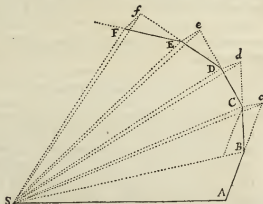
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Book I, Section II: Motion under centripetal forces.

Proposition I: Bodies constrained by a central force to orbit a fixed point move in a plane and sweep out equal areas in equal times.

Motion under centripetal forces

[37]

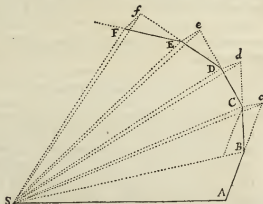
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(Kepler's second law)

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NB. independent of the 'law of force' involved.

Book I, Section II: Circular motion

[41]

Prop. IV. Theor. IV.

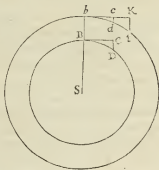
Corporum quae diversos circulos æquali motu describunt, vires centripetas ad centra eorundem circulorum tendere, & esse inter se ut arcuum simul descriptorum quadrata applicata ad circulorum radios.

Corpora B, b in circumferentiis circulorum BD, bd gyrantia, simul describant arcus BD, bd . Quoniam sola vi insita describerent tangentes BC, bc his arcibus æquales, manifestum est quod vires centripetæ sunt quæ perpetuo retrahunt corpora de tangentibus ad circumferentias circulorum, atq; adeo hæ sunt ad invicem in ratione prima spatio-
riorum nascentium CD, cd : tendunt vero ad centra circulo-
rum per Theor. II, propterea quod aræ radiis descriptæ ponuntur temporibus proportionales. Fiat figura tkb figura D CB similis, & per Lemma V, lineola CD erit ad lineolam kt ut arcus BD ad arcum bt : nec non, per Lemma XI, lineola nascent tk ad lineolam nascentem dc ut bt quad. ad bd quad. & ex æquo lineola nascent DC ad lineolam nascentem dc ut $BD \times bt$ ad bd quad. seu quod perinde est, ut $\frac{BD \times bt}{Sb}$ ad $\frac{bd}{Sb}$ quad., adeoq; (ob æquales rationes $\frac{bt}{Sb}$ & $\frac{BD}{SB}$) ut $\frac{BD}{SB}$ quad. ad $\frac{bd}{Sb}$ quad.

Q. E. D.

Corol. 1. Hinc vires centripetæ sunt ut velocitatum quadrata applicata ad radios circulorum.

Corol. 2. Et reciproce ut quadrata temporum periodicorum ap-
G pli-



Book I, Sect. II, Prop. IV: Motion under centripetal forces: motion in a circle.

Book I, Section II: Circular motion

[41]

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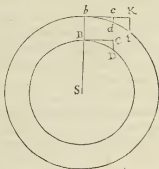
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Book I, Sect. II, Prop. IV: Motion under centripetal forces: motion in a circle.

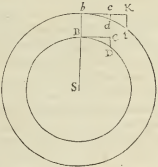
Corollary 1: For motion in a circle centripetal force is proportional to $\frac{v^2}{r}$.

Book I, Section II: Circular motion

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 G pli-

Book I, Sect. II, Prop. IV: Motion under centripetal forces: motion in a circle.

Corollary 1: For motion in a circle centripetal force is proportional to $\frac{v^2}{r}$.

Corollary 6: For motion in a circle Kepler's third law implies an inverse square law of force.

Book I, Section III: orbits that are conic sections

[50]

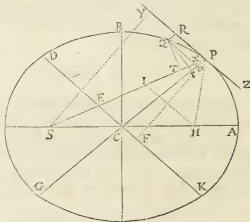
S E C T. III.

De motu Corporum in Conicis Sectionibus excentricis.

Prop. XI. Prob. VI.

Revolvatur corpus in Ellipsi: Requiritur lex vis centripetæ tendentis ad umbilicum Ellipseos.

Est Ellipseos superioris umbilicus S . Agatur SP secans Ellipseos tum diametrum DK in E , tum ordinationem applicatam $Q\varpi$ in x , & compleatur parallelogrammum $QxPR$. Patet EP æqualem esse semi-axi majori AC , eo quod acta ab altero Ellipseos umbilico H linea HI ipsi EC parallela, (ob æquales CS , CH) æquantur ES , EI , adeo ut EP sensifumma sit ipsarum PS , PI , id est (ob parallelas HI , PR & angulos æquales IPR , HPZ) ipsorum PS , PH , quæ conjunctæ axem totum $2AC$ adæquant. Ad SP demittatur perpendicularis QT , & Ellipseos latere recto principali (seu $\frac{2BC}{AC}$ quad.) disito L , erit $L \times Q\varpi R$ ad $L \times P\varpi$ ut QR ad $P\varpi$; id est ut PE (seu AC) ad PC : & $L \times P\varpi$ ad $G\varpi P$ ut L ad $G\varpi$; &c



Proposition XI: Motion under centripetal forces: Kepler's First Law (orbit is an ellipse with sun at focus) implies an inverse square law of force.

Book I, Section III: orbits that are conic sections

[50]

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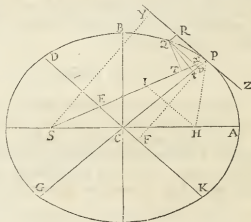
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deo ut EP sensum
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 $2BC$ quad.) disito L , erit $L \times QR$ ad $L \times P \psi$ ut QR ad $P \psi$;

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Proposition XI: Motion under centripetal forces: Kepler's First Law (orbit is an ellipse with sun at focus) implies an inverse square law of force.

Proposition XII: Motion under centripetal forces: hyperbolic orbit implies an inverse square law of force.

Book I, Section III: orbits that are conic sections

[50]

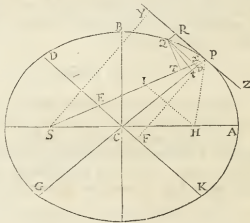
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Esto Ellipseos superiori umbilicus S. Agatur SP secans Ellipseos tum diametrum DK in E, tum ordinatim applicatam QV in x, & complectur parallelogrammum $QxPR$. Patet EP æqualem esse femi-axi majori AC, eo quod acta ab altero Ellipseos umbilico H linea HI ipsi EC parallela, (ob æquales CS, CH) æqueuntur ES, EI, adeo ut EP semitumma sit ipsarum PS, PI, id est (ob parallelas HI, PK & angulos æquales IP R, HPZ) ipsorum PS, PH, quæ conjunctioni axem totum 2 AC adæquant. Ad SP demittatur perpendicularis QT, & Ellipseos latere recto principali (seu 2 BC quad.) disito L, erit $LxQR$ ad LxP ut QR ad Pv ; id est ut PE (seu AC) ad PC: & LxP vad GvP ut L ad G ; &

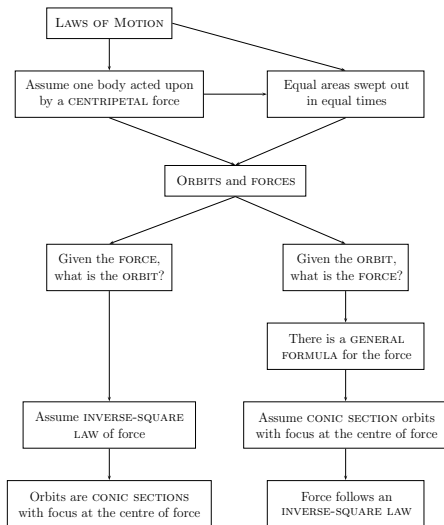


Proposition XI: Motion under centripetal forces: Kepler's First Law (orbit is an ellipse with sun at focus) implies an inverse square law of force.

Proposition XII: Motion under centripetal forces: hyperbolic orbit implies an inverse square law of force.

Proposition XIII: Motion under centripetal forces: parabolic orbit implies an inverse square law of force.

Book I, Sections II and III summarised



Book I, later sections

More mechanics of motion:

Book I, later sections

More mechanics of motion:

- ▶ converses: an inverse square law of force implies that orbits are conic sections;

Book I, later sections

More mechanics of motion:

- ▶ converses: an inverse square law of force implies that orbits are conic sections;
- ▶ trajectories;

Book I, later sections

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Book I, later sections

More mechanics of motion:

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All treated geometrically

Books II and III

Book II: Motion of bodies in resisting media:

Books II and III

Book II: Motion of bodies in resisting media:

Conclusion: "... it is manifest that the planets are not carried round in corporeal vortices ..." (Scholium to Proposition LIII)

Books II and III

Book II: Motion of bodies in resisting media:

Conclusion: "... it is manifest that the planets are not carried round in corporeal vortices ..." (Scholium to Proposition LIII)

Book III: The system of the world:

Books II and III

Book II: Motion of bodies in resisting media:

Conclusion: "... it is manifest that the planets are not carried round in corporeal vortices ..." (Scholium to Proposition LIII)

Book III: The system of the world:

- ▶ Reconciliation of observation and theory
- ▶ Shape of the earth (correct?)
- ▶ Motion of the moon (wrong)
- ▶ Prediction of tides
- ▶ Comets

Influence of the *Principia*

Principia showed how mathematical methods could be used to study physical, especially but not exclusively, cosmological phenomena.

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New ways of thinking: for example the method of ultimate ratios, though expressed geometrically, came close to a modern concept of limits.

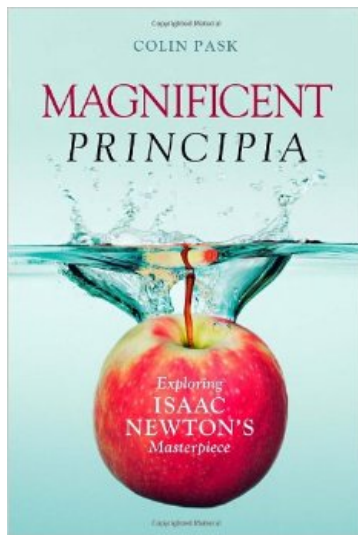
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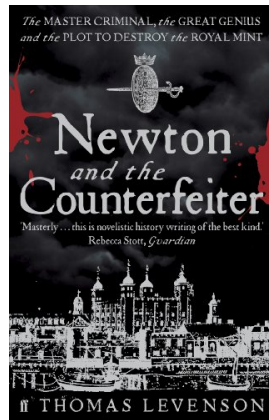
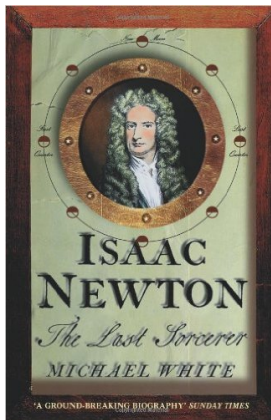
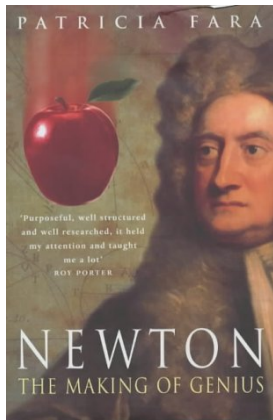
Predictions could be verified by observation and experiment — verified (after some controversy) in the case of the shape of the earth, contradicted in the case of the motion of the moon.

For more on the *Principia*...

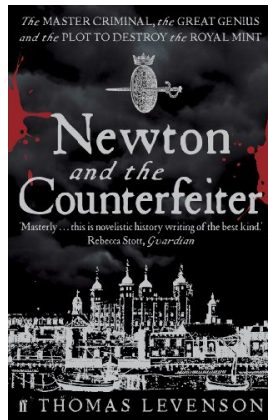
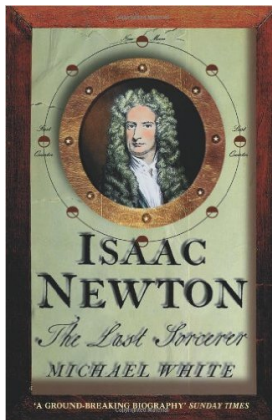
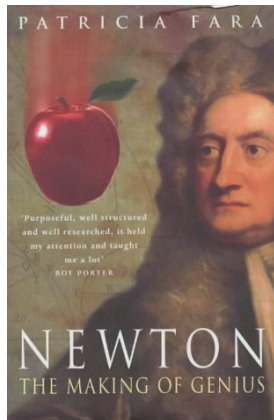


(Colin Pask, *Magnificent Principia*, Prometheus Books, 2013)

Three (very different) books among many...



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And a lecture given at Gresham College:

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/isaac-newtons-world>