

# Re: Epistemology 201: The Science of Science

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.cognitive/2005-03/0034.html>

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Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2005 19:54:47 GMT

On Mon, 28 Feb 2005 11:25:20 -0500, "robert j. kolker"  
<[nowhere@nowhere.net](mailto:nowhere@nowhere.net)> in comp.ai.philosophy wrote:

>Albert wrote:

>> Did you just make this up? Or is there an official 'Style Guide' that  
>> specifies this?

>

>Nope. It is standard usage to drop "radian" from the text when angles  
>are the subject. The radian is the only natural (i.e. intrinsic) measure  
>of a planar angle. On the sphere the steradian is used as the natural  
>solid angle measure. The total roundabout solid angle is  $4\pi$  steradians.

>

>Degrees and grads are arbitrary units and are not derived from the  
>nature of the geometric figure at all. We use degrees because Babylonian  
>astrologers had a thing about the the numbers 60 and 360. Aside from the  
>familiarity we have with the degree system there is really very little  
>to recommend it.

So does pi fall on pi?

Regards – Lester