

Re: Peano's space-filling curve

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>> *One big problem with this is that colloquial language is not specific enough to get any handle on the Dirac equation. You may be able to discuss some of its consequences, but you certainly won't understand the equation itself. In order to understand it, you will have to learn new, technical terminology (aka jargon). For example, you cannot expect someone to understand nuclear physics without knowing the general concepts of charge, protons, neutrons, and isospin. These may all be considered to be 'jargon' to outsiders, but they are crucial for the area. If a person doesn't know them, they have to learn about them, thus gaining familiarity with the jargon.*

>*These are very good points, all absolutely true, and all very regrettable. Why? Because we are entering a new dark age, where young people distrust and show disdain for boffins, mathies and their ilk, whom they call "nerds". And they do this because of exactly what you have observed. The technical language has subtle meanings that are hidden from them. They would see this in the same light as we see our forefathers being kept in the dark about what was going on by using e.g. Latin, for the liturgy. I keep banging on to you all about using plain language because I see our failure to do so as being a problem.*

To some extent I agree with you. The proliferation of jargon is one of the reasons that people start to distrust of the educated part of society. The number of 'educated fools' is another large reason. I truthfully don't see any alternative because I believe that true advancement of knowledge **requires** specialized terminology.

In my mind, the real problem is not that there is jargon, it's that too many people are too **lazy** to learn about how to use the terms correctly. Unlike in the Middle Ages, the knowledge is printed and freely available to any who want to learn it. But it requires a time

investment and some hard work to really understand. It's much easier to just watch watered down treatments on the boob tube.

>> *BTW, did last few posts make any sense to you?*

>*Good news, Dan, though I think I transmitted it already. I believe I am sorting out the tangle in my mind and have begun back-tracking with the help of Google to see if I can now follow the early stuff.*

Feel free to ask for clarifications if needed.

>*Writing that has just shown me that I learned a whole lot more than maths! I said in another post I hoped you were a teacher. But it's not just you, but all of us. How else can we hope to avoid ending our lives choking on a dense cloud of wood smoke? That's assuming we don't die on the rack first.*

Yes, I teach. I enjoy it and I think it's crucial to create/maintain the type of society I want to live in.

--Dan Grubb