

Physics Student Seminar

Wednesday 3/17/2010, 4:30 pm
Science & Engineering Building Auditorium

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The Mathematics and Science of Ancient Greece

The period of time between the 6th and 2nd centuries BC was an age of great progress in Greek thought. Building upon Egyptian and Babylonian ideas gathered from the edges of the Hellenic world, the Greek intellect transformed the practical tool of mathematics into a discipline more profound, abstract, and rational than it had ever been in history. Led by a spirit of inquiry, the Greeks used mathematics to explore what they believed to be an orderly universe and in so doing laid the foundations of science. We will probe the origins of Greek mathematics and science and follow their development through this span of four centuries, considering the lives of the ancient men that guided them as well as taking a closer look at the crowning glories of Greek thought ranging from integral calculus and atomic theory to the measurement of the distances to the Sun and Moon.

Please join us for light refreshments at 4:15pm outside SEB 203.