Home page

Siméon-Denis was born June 21, 1781 in France. As he grew up his family wanted to and pushed him to be a doctor, they even sent him to stay with his uncle and start school as a doctor, however he had no interest and made little progress in this field. He instead became a mathematician. Poisson was sent to École Centrale of Fontainebleau for schooling. At École Centrale of Fontainebleau Poison had a great teacher who eventually was learning from Poisson, and pushing himself so that he could be at the higher level of mathematics that Poisson was at. To many of his fellow peers he was like a professor because they came to him for help explaining difficult material and lectures.

Siméon-Denis, for most of his schooling was free to do what he wanted, and two years after moving forward and attending school at École Polytechnique at Paris, in 1802, Siméon-Denis had already published two essays, one about methods of elimination and the other on integrals of an equation of finite differences and was already a professor at the university. These were published in the Recueil des savants érangers, one of the well know publications, that gave him honor and credit in the field of math and science. These publications also pushed the way for Siméon-Denis to enter into the science field in 1808. The next year he was also made a professor in the science institution.

As the years continued he was remained professeur de la mécanique rationelle and then later became an examiner at the military school. However by July 1830, the revolution threatened his honor in the science and math fields of work. As the years continued he became a peer of France instead, but they say the reason was to represent French science. He was still teaching mathematics and continued to be successful in this field. In this field he was able to publish over three hundred works. Then sadly he passed away in April of 1840.

Math page

When it came to math Siméon-Denis Poisson focused on the work of pure mathematics which includes definite integrals and electromagnetic theory, as well as the idea of probability. One could define pure mathematics as developing and study of mathematic principles for one’s own sake; this is instead of using them immediately. A few examples of other branches one could study in this area would be arithmetic, geometry, and analysis situs, topology. He also has named a distribution process after himself; it is named the Poisson distribution. This is where one can describe the number of times one might win in gambling, one of the rarest games to win.

The Poisson disruption can later be seen used in WWII when trying to analysis how many times a flying bomb would hit the intended target. This was used to determine if the Germans were targeting or hitting by change. The above image shows the formula that was used in to calculate the Poisson distribution, as well as a graph showing the results of using the formula. Because of the work, and the paper written and published by Poisson, a few German mathematicians like Peter Dirichlet and Bernhard Riemann where able to purse there like of work. Poisson paved the way for them.

Science

It was in 1809 that he became a professor of Science, but it wasn’t till 1812 that they moved him to teaching specifically physics, but for science he was able to bring in his math elements, but not completely. In his work for science, he focused on planetary orbit as well as calculating gravity like the gravitational attraction that is exerted in specifically spheres and ellipses. His ideas about this were later used in the 20th century. His ideas about how gravity is distributed thought a planet due to the mass the planet holds.

Poisson also used his mathematic ideas to work with electricity and to come up with a theory on how electricity works. His idea of how electricity works is thought like partials of two different fluids repel but the unlike particles are attracted, almost like a magnet with the positives and negatives. He also applied the Poisson distribution mentioned in math to show random events that could occur in space and time.

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