

Thought

Weekly Report 1/8/17 to 1/14/17

I think one of the biggest skills I've learned throughout my ISM journey is the art of thinking. I have always believed that the idea of taking a step back and thinking over something was important and underrated, but ISM has showed me this fact in a professional and productive environment.

While working on my original work over the past few weeks, I encountered challenges that I had to overcome. Although the internet may have the answers to a lot of questions, my original work was not included in this selection as it required a lot of tinkering with the mathematics and careful implementations of the code. So, I was quite stuck as I did not have a resource to reference like I usually do. Being stumped, I decided to take a break and let my subconscious take over. Although counterintuitive, having a different aspect of my mind work on it was extremely beneficial as I could explore more unorthodox perspectives in order to solve the problem. After a few hours of thought, I had a "Eureka!" moment just like Archimedes when he discovered water displacement.

I think this aspect of thinking and developing this mindset is both crucial in life as well as becoming an astrophysicist. In life, sometimes the unorthodox way is the solution, and every piece of knowledge a person possess can be used in a variety of unconventional ways. As for an astrophysicist, many physicists get stumped as they, too, are exploring new math and are playing with equations in their head to resolve their problems. Einstein himself even played the violin to give himself the time to think over complex theories. In a way suppose, ISM is helping me become a mini-Archimedes or even a mini-Einstein.