Dieter Suisky

Euler as Physicist



Contents

1	The Predecessors: Descartes, Newton and Leibniz			
	1.1	The Reception of the Legacy of Descartes, Newton and Leibniz 1.1.1 Newton Versus Leibniz: Voltaire	9 12	
		1.1.2 Newton and Leibniz: Châtelet	14	
		1.1.3 Descartes, Newton and Leibniz: Euler and Châtelet	16	
	1.2	The Common Basis: Descartes on Motion of Bodies	17	
	1.3	The Common Basis: The Ancient Prototype in Geometry and		
		Mechanics	21	
		1.3.1 Euclid, Archimedes, Heron	25	
		1.3.2 Galileo: A New Science Dealing with an Ancient Subject	28	
	1.4	The New Prototype: Arithmetization of Mathematics and Mechanics	31	
2	New	ton and Leibniz on Time, Space and Forces	33	
	2.1	Newton's Program for Mechanics	40	
	2.2	Newton and Leibniz on Time, Space, Place and Motion	45	
		2.2.1 Newton and Leibniz on Time and Space	46	
		2.2.2 Order and Quantification	50	
		2.2.3 The Very Beginning of Motion	51	
		2.2.4 Polygon and Circle: Periodic Motion	53	
	2.3	Leibniz's Program for Mechanics	55	
		2.3.1 Early Version	56	
		2.3.2 Later Version: Living Forces	59	
3	Newton and Leibniz on the Foundation of the Calculus			
	3.1	Newton's Concept of Fluents and Fluxions	70	
		3.1.1 The Arithmetic and Geometric Representation of Quantities	72	
		3.1.2 One Universal Infinitesimal Quantity	75	
	3.2	Newton's Algorithm: Method of Fluxions	77	
	3.3	Leibniz's Foundation of the Calculus	81	
		3.3.1 Nova Methodus	85	
		3.3.2 Leibniz's Comments on the Calculus	89	
	3.4	The Calculus: Development, Criticism and Controversies	92	
	3.5	Berkeley	98	

4	Euler's Program for Mechanics 101				
	4.1	Euler's Program for Mechanics			
		4.1.1 Geometry and Motion			
		4.1.2 Euler's Program for Mechanics: Me	echanica		
		and the Arithmetization of Mechanic	s		
		4.1.3 Rest and Motion: Internal Principles			
		4.1.4 From Geometrical to Analytical Re	presentation		
		of Mechanics			
		4.1.5 The Relations Between Straight and	d Curved		
		Lines and Paths			
		4.1.6 The Analytical Representation of Me	otion 141		
		4.1.7 External Principles: Forces			
		4.1.8 External Principles: The Increment	of Velocity		
		is Independent of Velocity			
		4.1.9 The Proposals of Daniel Bernoulli .			
		4.1.10 The Operational Definition of Mass			
	4.2	Extension, Mobility, Steadfastness and Impe	enetrability 161		
		4.2.1 Extension and Mobility			
		4.2.2 Uniform Motion: The Division of Ti	me Intervals 166		
		4.2.3 Inertia or Steadfastness			
		4.2.4 Impenetrability, Inertia and Forces.			
		4.2.5 Summary: Euler's Axiomatics			
	4.3	Euler and His Contemporaries			
	4.4	Euler's World Models			
5	The	Foundation of the Calculus	104		
5	51	The Arithmetization of the Calculus	109		
	5.2	Fuler's Foundation of the Calculus	202		
	0.2	5.2.1 Calculus Differentialis: Finite and In	finitesimal Increments 207		
		5.2.2 Infinitesimal Finite and Infinite Qua	ntities 216		
		5.2.3 Topological Interpretation	220		
	5.3	Algorithms	222		
	5.4	Reconsideration of the Calculus: Robinson	230		
			200		
6	Eule	r's Early Relativistic Theory			
	6.1	Euler on Absolute and Relative Motion			
	6.2	Basic Models			
		6.2.1 The Model of Ship and Shore: The	Observer		
		in a Cabin on the Ship			
		6.2.2 More than One Observer: The Stadiu	ım		
		6.2.3 Euler's Analytical Model of Relative	Motion		
		6.2.4 Motion as an Illusion. "Spitzfindigke	eiten"		
	6.3	Euler's Relational Theory of Motion			
		6.3.1 The Analysis of Basic Concepts			
		6.3.2 The Introduction of Observers, Zusc	hauer		

	6.4	6.3.3The Priority of Relative Motion2566.3.4The Invariance of the Equation of Motion257Mach, Einstein and Minkowski2606.4.1Postulated Simultaneity: Newton2616.4.2Experimentally Confirmed Simultaneity: Einstein2636.4.3Minkowski's World of Events266			
7	Eule	r's Wirksamkeit, Helmholtz's Treatment of Energy Law and			
	Beyo	and			
	7.1	Helmholtz' Treatment of Newton's Laws			
	7.2	The Interpretation of the Calculus: Kinematics and Dynamics 272			
	7.3	Helmholtz' Treatment of Leibniz's "Living Forces"			
	7.4	The Extension of a System 277			
	7.5	Euler's Wirksamkeit			
8	Eule	r's Mechanics and Schrödinger's Quantum Mechanics			
	8.1	The Historical Background of the Development			
		of Quantum Mechanics			
	8.2	Planck on Newton and Leibniz			
	8.3	Discrete and Continuous Quantities			
		8.3.1 Discrete and Continuous Variables in the Calculus			
		of Differences			
		8.3.2 Discrete Series of Energies			
	8.4	Schrödinger's Approach: Configurations and States			
		8.4.1 Euler's Mechanics Reconsidered			
		8.4.2 Energy and Configurations			
		8.4.3 Quantization as Selection Problem			
Sun	nmar	y			
References					
Index					