

Paul Dirac

Quotes

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I consider that I understand an equation when I can predict the properties of its solutions, without actually solving it.

~Paul Dirac

A theory with mathematical beauty is more likely to be correct than an ugly one that fits some experimental data.

~Paul Dirac

God used beautiful mathematics in creating the world.

~Paul Dirac

Pick a flower on Earth and you move the farthest star.

~Paul Dirac

It seems that if one is working from the point of view of getting beauty in one's equations, and if one has really a sound insight, one is on a sure line of progress.

~Paul Dirac

Living is worthwhile if one can contribute in some small way to this endless chain of progress.

~Paul Dirac

If there is a God, he's a great mathematician.

~Paul Dirac

If we are honest - and scientists have to be - we must admit that religion is a jumble of false assertions, with no basis in reality.

~Paul Dirac

The measure of greatness in a scientific idea is the extent to which it stimulates thought and opens up new lines of research.

~Paul Dirac

It is more important to have beauty in one's equations than to have them fit experiment.

~Paul Dirac

One could perhaps describe the situation by saying that God is a mathematician of a very high order, and He used very advanced mathematics in constructing the universe.

~Paul Dirac

Scientific progress is measured in units of courage, not intelligence.

~Paul Dirac

A physical law must possess mathematical beauty.

~Paul Dirac

The aim of science is to make difficult things understandable in a simpler way; the aim of poetry is to state simple things in an incomprehensible way. The two are incompatible.

~Paul Dirac

Mathematics is the tool specially suited for dealing with abstract concepts of any kind and there is no limit to its power in this field.

~Paul Dirac

Hopes are always accompanied by fears, and, in scientific research, the fears are liable to become dominant.

~Paul Dirac

There are always more people who prefer to speak than to listen.

~Paul Dirac

A great deal of my work is just playing with equations and seeing what they give.

~Paul Dirac

In science one tries to tell people, in such a way as to be understood by everyone, something that no one ever knew before. But in poetry, it is the exact opposite.

~Paul Dirac

There is in my opinion a great similarity between the problems provided by the mysterious behavior of the atom and those provided by the present economic paradoxes confronting the world.

~Paul Dirac

I do not see how a man can work on the frontiers of physics and write poetry at the same time. They are in opposition.

~Paul Dirac

As time goes on, it becomes increasingly evident that the rules which the mathematician finds interesting are the same as those which Nature has chosen.

~Paul Dirac

The methods of theoretical physics should be applicable to all those branches of thought in which the essential features are expressible with numbers.

~Paul Dirac

Theoretical physicists accept the need for mathematical beauty as an act of faith... For example, the main reason why the theory of relativity is so universally accepted is its mathematical beauty.

~Paul Dirac

A book on the new physics, if not purely descriptive of experimental work, must essentially be mathematical.

~Paul Dirac

Quantum mechanics has explained all of chemistry and most of

physics.

~Paul Dirac

I admired Bohr very much. We had long talks together, long talks in which Bohr did practically all the talking.

~Paul Dirac

I think it is the general rule that the originator of a new idea is not the most suitable person to develop it, because his fears of something going wrong are really too strong... At age 69.

~Paul Dirac

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