



HOME

APPROACH

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$$\begin{aligned}
 P_2 - P_1 &= -\rho g(h_2 - h_1) & x^n + y^n &\neq z^n & \int_a^b F(u, u', x) dx &= \min \\
 a^2 + b^2 &= c^2 & F_g &= G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2} & \int_a^b f(x) dx &= \text{Lim}\{\sum_{j=1}^n f(\xi_j) (x_j - x_{j-1})\} \\
 3^{10/71} &< \pi < 3^{1/7} & e^{i\pi} &= -1 & f(x) &= \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \\
 \text{If } p|ab &\text{ then } p|a \text{ or } p|b & & & d(fg)/dx &= g df/dx + f dg/dx
 \end{aligned}$$



## Mathematics and Its Significance

21, 22, and 23 June 2007  
Castel Gandolfo, Italy

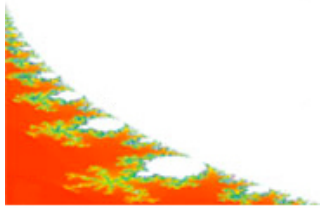


A symposium sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation

### APPROACH

**“An equation for me  
has no meaning,  
unless it represents a  
thought of God.”**

Srinivasa Ramanujan



Voyage to the Mandelbrot Set,  
www.mizuno.org  
Credit: Ryoichi Mizuno (The  
University of Tokyo and  
Prometech Software, Inc.)

The symposium is part of the Templeton Foundation’s *Humble Approach Initiative*. The goal of the initiative is to bring about the discovery of new spiritual information by furthering high-quality scientific research. The “humble approach” is inherently interdisciplinary, sensitive to nuance, and biased in favor of building linkages and connections. It assumes an openness to new ideas and a willingness to experiment. Placing high value upon patience and perseverance, it retains a sense of wondering expectation because it recognizes, in Loren Eiseley’s haunting phrase, “a constant emergent novelty in nature that does not lie totally behind us, or we would not be where we are.” A fundamental principle of the Foundation, in the words of its founder, is that “humility is a gateway to greater understanding and open[s] the doors to progress” in all endeavors. Sir John Templeton believes that in their quest to comprehend foundational realities, scientists, philosophers, and theologians have much to learn about and from one another. The humble approach is intended as a corrective to parochialism. It encourages discovery and seeks to accelerate its pace.

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