History *(from Wikipedia)*

November 13, 2019

There's a reason math things are named after physicists:

1. ***Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel*** was a German astronomer, mathematician, physicist and geodesist. He was the first astronomer who determined reliable values for the distance from the sun to another star by the method of parallax. A special type of mathematical functions were named Bessel functions after Bessel's death, though they had originally been discovered by ***Daniel Bernoulli*** and then generalised by Bessel.

2. ***Pierre-Simon, marquis de Laplace***: was a French scholar whose work was important to the development of engineering, mathematics, statistics, physics, astronomy, and philosophy. He summarized and extended the work of his predecessors in his five-volume Mécanique Céleste (Celestial Mechanics) (1799–1825). This work translated the geometric study of classical mechanics to one based on calculus, opening up a broader range of problems. In statistics, the Bayesian interpretation of probability was developed mainly by Laplace.

3. ***Adrien-Marie Legendre***: Whoops, he's a mathemetician. But much of his work was completed by ***Gauss***. Legendre is known for the Legendre transformation, which is used to go from the ***Lagrangian*** to the ***Hamiltonian*** formulation of classical mechanics. In thermodynamics it is also used to obtain the enthalpy and the ***Helmholz*** and ***Gibbs*** (free) energies from the internal energy. He is also the namesake of the Legendre polynomials, solutions to Legendre's differential equation, which occur frequently in physics and engineering applications, e.g. electrostatics.

4. ***Carl Gottfried Neumann***, while in Königsberg, studied physics with his father, and later as a working mathematician, dealt almost exclusively with problems arising from physics. Stimulated by ***Bernhard Riemann***'s work on electrodynamics, Neumann developed a theory founded on the finite propagation of electrodynamic actions, which interested ***Wilhelm Eduard Weber*** and ***Rudolf Clausius.***