

**La constitution de l'espace  
physico-mathématique.  
Vers la biologie.**

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There is no space in Euclid's Geometry

*A Geometry of figures, handled by ruler  
and compass,*

*No mathematics of plane (“apeiron”)*





## Lo spazio in Giotto, Scrovegni, Padova, 1300





# Lo spazio in Giotto, Assisi, 1297-1300



# Le débat metaphysique

**Saint Thomas** et l'infini actuel de Dieu, au delà d'Aristote

Le problème de **la grâce de Marie**

L'évêque Templier (Paris 1275)

P. Zellini, **A brief history of infinity**. Penguin, 2005 (italien : Adelphi, 1980)

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L'infini et les **annonciations** dans la peinture italienne

**Sara Longo**, "*L'annonciation en Italie. Enjeux méthodologiques ...*", à paraître

G. Longo. "*L'infini mathématique "in prospettiva" et les espaces des possibles*". A paraître (téléchargeable)



# Infinity in Mathematics, via Paintings

Early perspective in Italian Renaissance (from Sara Longo, PhD Thesis):

A. Lorenzetti “**Annunciation**”, God vs. Mary, 1344



Masaccio, Beato Angelico .... San Bernardino da Siena (1380-1444) :  
the **Annunciation** = *l'incommensurabile nel misurabile* <sup>8</sup>



# Infinity in Mathematics, via Paintings

Infinity “in the painting”: Beato Angelico, San Marco (1400-’55)



(Daniel Arasse, *“Histoires de peintures”*, 2004; Sara Longo, *Thèse Doct.*, '13)

# Infinity in Mathematics, via Paintings

**Projective Geometry** Italian Painting, XV century: Brunelleschi,  
L. B. Alberti, *Della Pittura*, 1435: **Infinity “in the painting”**  
Piero della Francesca: “***Annunciations***”, God vs. Mary, 1470



## L'infinito nel quadro: la geometria proiettiva



Piero della Francesca, 1466

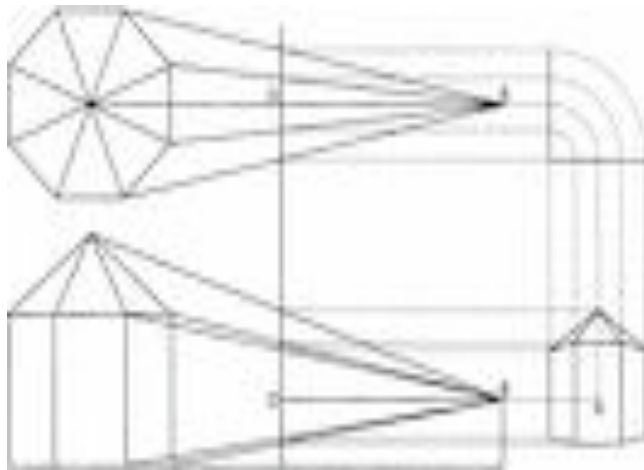


# Infinity in Mathematics, via Paintings

From infinity “in the painting” to the mathematics of infinity:

*Piero della Francesca* **De perspectiva pingendi** (~1450)

Costruction of a “point of view”:





CRIVELLI Carlo, *Annonciation avec saint Emidius*,  
1486, détrempe sur bois, 207 x 146,7 cm.  
Londres, National Gallery.

Sara, 13

## Wermer (1632-75)



.... Van Frassen; Copernico ...



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# **From Physics towards Biology: Phase Spaces and Enablement**

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# SPACES IN PHYSICS

The construction of **space** in Physics:

**First analyze trajectories (Aristotle, Galileo ...), then**  
*invent the right “**spaces**”*

No space in Euclid's geometry,  
the mathematical reference for Galileo.



# SYMMETRIES AND SPACES IN PHYSICS

The origin of Modern Physics (*step 1*):

## 1 – **Descartes spaces:**

The space of all possible trajectories, defined by symmetries

## 2 - **Galileo's inertia:**

*A momentum conservation law*

**1 + 2 : Galileo's relativity group** (the ***symmetry transformations*** that preserve the physical invariants)

# PHASE SPACES IN PHYSICS

The construction of **phase space** in Physics (*steep 2*):

add the invariants that matter:

- **Boltzmann, Poincaré** (1880-90): analyze the trajectory in “position, momentum” spaces (since then the canonical “*phase space*” of physics)
- **Einstein**: after the *invariance* of the speed of light (in its trajectory), use Riemann's geometry in the classical phase space (+time).
- **Thermodynamics**:  
the  $p$ ,  $V$ ,  $T$  space of the thermodynamic trajectory.

# PHASE SPACES AND SYMMETRIES IN PHYSICS

Thus the *phase space* is proposed on the grounds of

- **Symmetries** (beginning with Descartes axes)
- **Invariants of the trajectories** (momentum), thus, again, *symmetries* (Noether's theorems)

Similarly for  $E, t$  (as for  $p, q$ ; all “conjugated variables” in QM)

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“*Put in the “background”* the intended space of trajectories - the pertinent one for the trajectories:

- **parameters** (space, time) *and*
- **invariants** observables (momentum, energy ...)



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Also in **QM**: the “*wave or state function*” goes along a trajectory in **Hilbert Spaces** (Schroedinger's choice of the phase space)

*In summary:*

- Analysis of trajectories (inertia)
- Equations,
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*Causes become interactions and these interactions themselves constitute the fabric of the universe of their manifestations, its geometry: modifying this fabric changes the interactions; changing the interactions modifies the fabric. (Bailly, Longo, ch.3)*

So far for the “***structure of determination***”  
**in physics ...**

# **A few words on Time**



# Time in the “geometric” vs “algebraic-formal” approaches to Mathematics

In the “**geometric**” approach: time is the *time of genesis of structures*, the recording medium of their *process of constitution*.

In the “**algebraic-formal**” approach: time is a matter of sequential functioning, of the *execution of algorithms*. (Bailly, Longo, ch. 3)

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In *the Foundations of Mathematics*, difference between:

- **principles of construction** (in particular those with a geometrical nature, symétries and order principles)

vs.

- **principles of proof** (formal principles of logical deduction).

Mathematics is built up on the basis of both types of principles.  
(Bailly, Longo, introduction and ch. 1)

## **ENABLEMENT in BIOLOGY**

Longo G., Montévil M., Kauffman S. *No entailing laws, but enablement in the evolution of the biosphere.*

**GECCO'12**, July, 2012, Philadelphia (PA, USA); proceedings, 2012.

Longo G., Montévil M. *Extended Criticality, Phase Spaces and Enablement in Biology.*

Special Issue of **Chaos, Solitons and Fractals**, 2013.

# RECALL FROM PHYSICS

Galileo, Newton: “**Causal**” relations: e. g.

$$f = ma$$

Since E. Noether, H. Weyl, ... van Fraassen

**Geodetics** and **symmetries**

*in the right phase spaces*

A unifying (better) frame for intelligibility of “causes”.

# FROM PHYSICS TO BIOLOGY

**Biological analysis**, since Darwin, use proper observables:  
*organisms* (and *phenotypes*).

E. g.: Thermodynamics: entropy (and its proper principle)...

Hydrodynamics, QM ... later unify ...



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*Note*: empirical evidence for *causes*:

**differences *causing* differences**

E. g. identical acceleration *implies* identical force (Galileo's gravitation); yet, the “general law” is not evident (Newton).

# FROM PHYSICS TO BIOLOGY: ENABLEMENT

Gravitation *causes* a body to fall

Gravitation **is not** a *cause* in biology: it is a constraint,

It contributes to the evo/devo in a niche/ecosystem.

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*Key reason:*

The **default state** in physics is **inertia**

The **default state** in biology is “**proliferation with variation**” (Darwin's first principle) *and* **motility**.

Changing constraints (the formation of a new niche)

*Enables a variation to succeed*

A omnipresent phenomenon in evolution: **allopatric speciation** (a<sub>33</sub> species formed from a population in a different niche/ecosystem)

# ENABLEMENT and CAUSES

*Claim: (evident) causes are differential in biology*

A (a-causal/random) mutation (a difference) may **cause** a phenotypic difference.

Bacteria (a difference from normality) *may cause* a pneumonia.

Yet, this causal consequence **may be enabled by the niche** (a wounded lung, a weak immune system ..)

A different role of *constraints*, in physics vs. biology due to the difference in the default states:

inertia vs. proliferation (with variation)

**An organism does not need a “cause” to be active** (to move and proliferate): selection inhibits action.

# ENABLEMENT and CAUSES

Different role of *constraints*, in physics vs. biology

Examples:

1 - **A river at a bifurcation**: fully deterministic analysis (possible highly non linear, thus unpredictable) of inert (gravitational) matter, in a given space of observables (energy, momentum...).

2 - **A population proliferation facing a “niche multifurcation”**: phenotypic variations are co-constituted with the possible enablement(s) by one or more possible evolutionary paths (a different default state)

In 1, the structure of determination *describes causes*;

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in 2, it must *include enablement*.

**Physical objects never go wrong.**

# ENABLEMENT and PHASE SPACES

Enablement “**enables**” new organisms and phenotypes:

these are the proper observables

Darwinian frame: Jacob’s bricolage, Gould’s exaptation (cavefish, lung-fish’s bladder, double-jaw ...)

On top of the physical phase space: **add** biological observables, the phenotypes.

Compatible **extensions** of physical theories.

The issue of **randomness**: different notions in physics ....

# RANDOMNESS and PROBABILITIES

Biological randomness is “moved up”:

It is not within a pre-given phase space like in physics  
(from the 6 values of classical dice, to quantum measurement),

The very **phase space is randomly generated** by the dynamics of evolution (ontogenesis).

The **impossibility to “measure” biological randomness by probabilities**: probability is a measure between considered case(s) and a given space of possibilities.

Which were the probability for Allucinoginea to survive?

And the {tetrapod} to develop in a elephant or a squirrel?

# AUTONOMY and CONSTRAINTS

Life is an entangled blend of **autonomy** *and* **constraints**.

**Autonomy** (the Kantian whole/ autopoiesis) is possible only *under ecosystemic (and autopoietic internal) constraints*.

**Constraints** have *a biological meaning* only because of the autonomy of organisms (because they interact with organisms).

An organism can “*stand*” (*adapt to*) a slightly, yet ever changing ecosystem by its autonomy: it has a (relative) biological inertia.

An **ever changing inertial dynamics** as based on *internal proliferation with variation*, essential to the autopoietic reconstruction.

# NON-ERGODICITY and CONVERGENCE

## Non-ergodicity:

Evolution does not explore all possible molecular combinations:

Impossible to produce all proteins length 200 amino acids in  $10^{39}$  times the lifetime of the universe, even were all  $10^{80}$  particles making such proteins on the Planck time scale.

## Randomness *and* constraints:

History, at the level of phenotypes, **canalizes** (sets constraints to) the exploration of new phenotypes.

Similar functional constraints, possible interpretation for:

- The convergence of the vertebrate and invertebrate eye;
- The analogies in the tasmanian (marsupial) and the mammalian wolf.



## Some references

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