

# From Newton to the Internet

Joseph Yukich

03/23/2014

The great mathematician Isaac Newton died almost 300 years ago. Who could have imagined the profound impact that his mathematics would have on our lives today? Who could have predicted that his mathematics would lie at the foundation of the modern world and that Newton ‘commanded the future from his study more than Napoleon from his throne’?

Today Newton himself would be astonished at his scientific legacy. Newton, like the great scientists Gauss and Einstein, would be astonished that the mathematics which they bequeathed to the world would come to occupy a dominant and sometimes secret place in our banks, laptops and I-phones, hospital emergency rooms, and even in our corner supermarket. The mathematics of Newton, Gauss and Einstein is nowhere yet everywhere, hidden from view yet omnipresent, shaping our culture in unexpected and surprising ways. It has become unreasonably effective in ways that surprise even the experts.