

The Backlash of Society

Those that work on deductive problems will utilize a methodology that is foreign to the multitude of inductionists in society. Methods of Gedanken experiments rather than mathematics are a primary tool. Error, rather than success, is a typical outcome. The optimal methodology of deduction is illusive and is not easily mastered. One is generally working in a minority on a deductive problem, in nearly all stages of development except after the theory is either accepted or rejected. Those that work on deductive problems will generally have less than an acceptable manner of coping in society. History shows that one should be prepared and fully expect a substantial backlash from society when proposing a new theory when the methodology that was utilized is deductive. The status quo is dominated by inductive thinkers that you should expect will put forward stinging criticisms of any work that challenges the scientific foundations—as they understand them. Most who have worked on deductive problems have encountered this fact, including Bohr, Boltzmann, Einstein, Galileo, and Planck. Of course, these are some of the great names in science who had the necessary ability and deep understanding of physics required to carry out deduction correctly. These cases should not be confused with other forgotten names whose faulty attempts at deduction resulted in simply incorrect (or even ‘crackpot’) theories and who encountered stinging criticisms for very different reasons. Both the practitioner and the method must be held to very high standards to succeed in deduction.

Consider statements from some of the great deductionists.

Galileo stated [643, p. 134]:

It is surely harmful to souls to make it a heresy to believe what is proved.

Einstein stated [644, p. 149]:

Great spirits have always encountered opposition from mediocre minds. The mediocre mind is incapable of understanding the man who refuses to bow blindly to conventional prejudices and chooses instead to express his opinions courageously and honestly.

Planck stated [1, p. 151]:

A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it.

Kuhn [1, p. 6]:

For the far smaller professional group affected by them, Maxwell's

equations were as revolutionary as Einstein's, and they were resisted accordingly. The invention of other new theories regularly, and appropriately, evokes the same response from some of the specialists on whose area of special competence they impinge.

It has also been noted [645, p. 10] that Boltzmann was surrounded by critics that were opposed to his atomic hypothesis.

Note that Bohr, Boltzmann, Einstein, Galileo, Planck, and other deductionists have generally met with substantial resistance when proposing ideas that conflict with existing ideologies or dogmas. If you do not have the stomach for such societal backlashes, think twice before working on a problem that by all logical standards is best approached via deduction.