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Newton's magnificent *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, first published over three centuries ago, was the intellectual equivalent of the atom bomb. Newton had "discovered" gravity and created new mathematical tools to formulate his propositions that define the universal laws of gravitation. *Principia* is the model of all mathematical physics, yet almost no scientist alive today has ever read it!

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Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar

Born in India, educated at the University of Cambridge in England, he had been Emeritus Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service professor of Theorical Astrophysics at the University of Chicago, his base from 1937 until his recent death. His early research into the evolution of stars is now a cornerstone of astrophysics and earned him the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1983. He also earned awards throughout the world, including:

- The Gold Medal from the Royal Astronomical Society in London (1953)
- The National Medal of Science in the United States (1966)
- The Copley Medal from the Royal Society (1984)

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