

Is Mathematics Spiritual?

By
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Introduction

Music can be regarded as something of spiritual nature and experiencing ecstasy is possible because music is the perfect drug. It is always accessible, has many dealers, and can be freely available.

<https://www.thescavenger.net/health-personal-development/self-growth/226-spiritual-significance-of-music-92345.html>

<https://spiritualityhealth.com/articles/2015/02/03/why-we-love-music>

According to 'Why is Music a Language of Spirituality' by Iris Yob, *"The basic thesis explored in this paper is that rather than seeing spirituality as a byproduct of music, the other arts, and religion, music, the other arts, and religion might be seen as a byproduct of spirituality—hence, the proposition that music is a language of spirituality. If that is the case, there are twin dangers: talk of "wholism" can obscure the distinctly human capacity of spirituality and constructions of spirit as one element of the old dualisms or tripartisms can separate spirituality from the context of body and mind. If music is a language of spirituality understood as a distinct but contextualized expression of the spirit, the primary implications for music education are that some parts of music education might be conducted at a non-discursive, non-rational level and constructivist pedagogical approaches may be called for"*.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.2979/pme.2010.18.2.145.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A25b0793886ef0445c4773f5dda2e02cc>

Bhagavad Gita

The Bhagavad Gita is a conversation between Arjuna, a supernaturally gifted warrior about to go into battle, and Krishna – the Supreme Personality of Godhead, his charioteer. In the course of giving Arjuna all manner of spiritual and material advice, Krishna explains karma, the self, the Supreme Self, the purpose of yoga, the difference between our self and our material body, how our environment affects our consciousness, and how to attain the perfection of life. The Gita appears as a central chapter in the Mahabharata, the history of greater India. It is the essence of Vedic knowledge and one of the most important books of Vedic literature. Lord Krishna spoke the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna about 5000 years ago and through disciplic succession the Bhagavad Gita As It Is gives commentary on the verses by Lord Krishna by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Pradhupada. Essentially the Bhagavad Gita As It Is is the highest authoritative text to explain the universe and the commentary is "almost" 100% accurate.

<https://vedabase.io/en/library/bg/>

Mathematics

Vedic knowledge (or yogic philosophy) is true knowledge because it comes directly from God (or Lord Krishna -the Supreme Personality of Godhead) and is not subject to error. Material knowledge is not really knowledge because it is subject to error. However, mathematics is an exact science and arguably not subject to error - does this imply that mathematics is in fact spiritual?

In mathematics, a transcendental number is a real number or complex number that is not an algebraic number—that is, not a root (i.e., solution) of a nonzero polynomial equation with integer coefficients. The best-known transcendental numbers are π , e and $i = \sqrt{-1}$.

When something is transcendental, it's beyond ordinary, everyday experience. It might be religious, spiritual, or otherworldly, but if it's transcendental, it transcends — or goes beyond — the regular physical realm. The adjective transcendental is used to describe a particular kind of meditation, a specific school of philosophy, and even a type of number in mathematics. Euler's identity $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$ is the best example of transcendentalism in mathematics.

<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/transcendental>

Other transcendentalism in mathematics includes:

$$\text{Area of a circle} = \pi r^2$$

$$d/dx (\sin x) = \cos (x)$$

$$d/dx (e^x) = e^x$$

$$d/dx (\ln x) = 1/x$$

$$\text{unbounded int}(e^{-x^2}) = \sqrt{\pi} \text{ (Gaussian integral)}$$

A list of transcendental numbers can be found here

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcendental_number

Applications

The author's life growing up would typically consist of playing regular tennis, watching tennis grand slam events, listening to music (mainly 104.1 2Day FM) and doing mathematics. In fact, the author would listen to predominately 2Day FM whilst doing mathematics. It's because music is transcendental it has a spiritual component, so you can potentially perform better in mathematics (or another task) by actually listening to music, and so allowing students to listen to music during school education should be encouraged as it can potentially improve learning ability.

Gustav "Gus" Hansen is a professional Danish poker player who has lived in Monaco since 2003. In his poker career, Hansen has won three World Poker Tour open titles, one WSOP bracelet, the 2007 Aussie Millions main event, and was the season one winner of the Poker Superstars Invitational Tournament. Before turning to playing poker professionally in 1997, Hansen was already a world class backgammon player and a youth tennis champion. The author noticed Gus Hansen would listen to music whilst playing poker, which could have potentially improved his poker ability.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gus_Hansen