FOUNDATIONS®

Vol. 22 No. 6 November/December 2022

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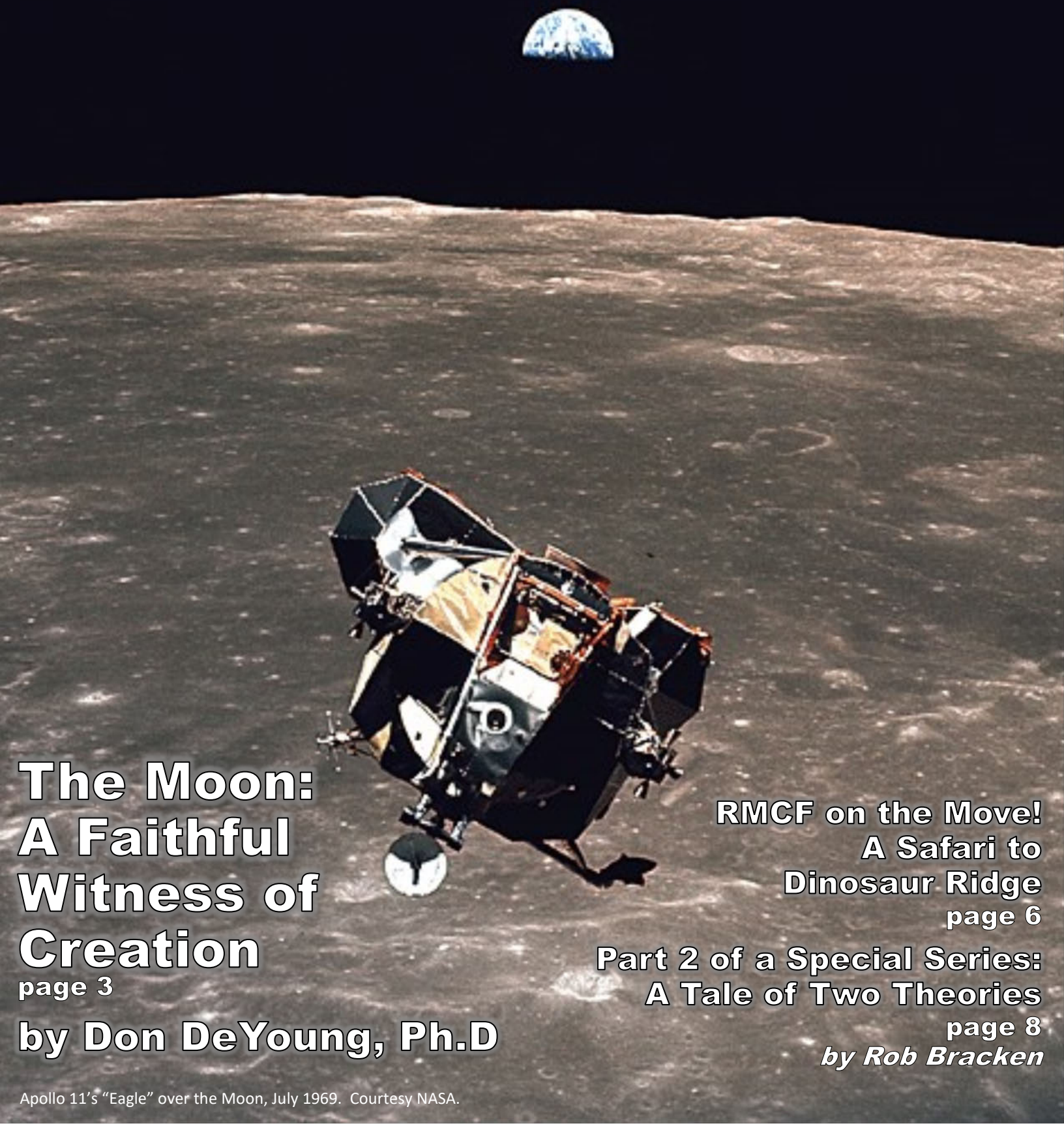

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Apollo 11's "Eagle" over the Moon, July 1969. Courtesy NASA.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CREATION FELLOWSHIP

Serving Colorado and the Midwest since 2000

Please consider helping the ministry of Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship with a year-end financial donation!

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The Moon, A Faithful Witness of Creation

Don DeYoung, Ph.D

Introduction

Imagine a visit to the moon. The earth-moon distance is about 239,000 miles (385,000 km), a three- day trip for the Apollo astronauts during 1969-72. One-way communication with earth has a 1.3 second delay due to light speed. For a more distant trip to Mars, the radio signal delay is longer, ranging from 3 to 22 minutes depending on the relative orbital positions of each planet. Far from earth, space travelers are truly "on their own."

The moon's rotation and revolution times are the same as viewed from earth, 27.32 days. As a result we observe only one side of the moon. Most of the larger solar system moons are likewise "tidally locked"[1] to their central planet. Relative to the sun, the moon's orbit time is 29.53 days.[2] Surface areas of the moon experience two weeks of sunlight followed by two weeks of darkness. The resulting surface temperature varies between -208°F (-130°C) and +250°F (120°C) with greater extremes possible. Temperature is defined in terms of the average kinetic energy of molecules, and since the moon has no air, published temperatures are estimates. However, lunar rocks do experience the extreme temperature variation, and also spacesuits. The suits are highly reflective with internal cooling systems designed to dissipate body heat. For our visit, we should arrive on the moon at "lunar dawn when the buildup of surface heat is minimal, similar to the Apollo trips. All the Apollo landings occurred soon after the local sunrise while the surface was relatively cool, hence the long shadows on lunar landing photos.

Lunar surface gravity is one-sixth that of the earth so a 150 pound person on earth reduces to 25 pounds while on the moon. This produces a buoyancy similar to floating in water. The earth's surface gravitational acceleration g is 980 cm/sec^2 (32 ft/sec^2). Since the moon is located about 60 earth radii away, and gravity falls off with distance squared, earth's gravity at the moon's location is reduced 60^2 times to only 0.27 cm/sec^2. As a result the moon is in a continual, gradual freefall toward the earth. At the same time, the moon's orbital speed causes it to fall "around the earth" in a stable orbit. Astronauts in the orbiting International Space Station likewise are in freefall toward the earth.

If the moon's tangent motion suddenly ceased, it would fall directly to earth with a catastrophic impact in 5-6 days. The approaching moon would experience intense tidal forces and break apart as it passed within the earth's Roche Limit (~2.8 earth radii).

During our entire moon visit we will observe planet earth to be suspended motionless overhead, a blue oasis in the black lunar sky. In contrast with earth, the moon lacks an atmosphere, breezes, clouds, liquid water, sound, weather or life. A lunar visit is an adventure, but clearly there is no place like home.

Lunar Origin

The table lists the parade of lunar natural origin theories that have been suggested over the decades. Their shortcomings are discussed elsewhere so we will concentrate on the currently popular collision or giant impact theory.

Continued on next page 4

COVER STORY: Moon

Continued from page 3

It proposes that a Mars-size object collided with earth in early solar system history, 4.5 billion years ago. The imagined impactor is named Theia, a Greek goddess and "mother" of the moon. This alleged impact fractured the primordial earth and ejected large melted portions into planetary orbit. Gravity then drew the remainder of the earth back together and also formed the orbiting moon from space debris.

At least four problems arise from the collision model. First, the probability of a direct hit between two planet-size space objects is extremely small. Second, the timescale for the resulting earth and moon fragments to reassemble into solid spherical shapes is not well known and perhaps not possible. Why would not the proposed space collision produce a ring of fragments in a solar orbit similar to the asteroid belt? As a third collision problem, even assuming such an event might occur, how did the moon achieve its nearly circular earth orbit instead of a more random, elongated elliptical path? As a fourth problem, the impact model assumes that Theia originated elsewhere in the solar system before drifting into our vicinity of space. However, several isotope ratios of moon and earth rocks are nearly identical, including oxygen 16-17-18 and titanium 47-50. It is expected that a wandering collision object such as Theia would produce isotopic differences between earth and moon materials instead of the observed close match.

Lunar origin theories continue to "roll on by" with a limited lifetime and none of them are convincing. The moon is our nearest neighbor in space, yet it lacks a compelling natural explanation. This suggests a measure of humility for those attempting origin theories for the earth, solar system and galaxies beyond.

FOUR THEORIES OF LUNAR ORIGINS

Theory	Description	Typical Problem
Fission	The moon separates from a rapidly spinning earth	Earth spins far too slowly
Capture	The passing moon is captured by earth's gravity	Lunar orbit is too circular
Accretion	The earth & moon condense side-by-side from dust clouds	Dust clouds tend to dissipate instead of collapsing
Collision	A solar system collision	See text

DESIGN

In contrast to spontaneous origins, the creation worldview assures that there is planning and purpose in all of nature including the moon. It is a privilege to search out these secrets according to Proverbs 25:2, and several moon purposes follow.

Agriculture

There is much folklore connecting moon phases with the ideal time for the planting and harvesting of crops. Related traditions also connect moon phases with animal husbandry. These ideas are a mixture of truth and myth deserving further study. In any case, the moon surely does play a part in vegetation growth and animal behavior. As just one example, consider the tropical moonflower which prefers to bloom during the full moon phase.

Beauty

In addition to the moon's role in music, literature and art, consider eclipses. The moon is 400 times smaller

than the sun and also 400 times closer, allowing for lunar and solar eclipses. Among the solar system planets and hundreds of moons, only here does a near-perfect match in apparent size occur. During the 2017 solar eclipse event, the last bright bead of sunlight dimmed out and our group watched in silence. Several stars appeared, a cool breeze stirred, and a confused owl flew past. Three minutes later the intense sun reappeared with a cheer. For many people, seeing a total solar eclipse is an epic lifetime experience.

Biorhythms
Many plants and animals respond to tides and moon phases. Examples include coral polyps, grunion, herring, petrels, plankton, salmon and sea anemone.

Calendar, **clock**, **compass**
Lunar motions and phases provide reliable information on the seasons, time and compass direction.

Nightlight
The moon's reflection of sunlight varies from the bright full moon to partial light, with no light during the new moon phase. Through history and still in many places worldwide, moonlight provides valuable evening illumination.

Protection
The abundance of craters shows the moon has taken many "hits" from space objects that otherwise might impact the earth.

Seasons
A 1993 study found that the moon stabilizes the 23 ½° tilt of the earth's axis (Laskar, 1993). Without a nearby moon, the earth's axis could wobble randomly over time, resulting in unpredictable and severe seasons.

Tides
Lunar tides serve a major role in keeping the oceans healthy. If there was a lack of tidal currents and water mixing, ocean shorelines could well become stagnate. It is estimated that half of earth's atmospheric oxygen is made by sea vegetation. With no moon, these plants could well perish and we would lose the very air we breathe.

Even in a world which is far from perfect, we find that nature, including the moon, is designed and planned for our survival and wellbeing. There are many additional purposes for our created moon, both known and unknown. Surely the highest reason is found in Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God."

LUNAR AGE

Two age indicators will be considered, the first being transient lunar phenomena, or TLPs. These refer to lunar surface bright spots, streaks of light, glowing clouds and mists which often last for only minutes. TLPs have a rich history and here is an event reported by astronomer William Herschel in the 1700s: "I perceived in the dark part of the moon a luminous spot. It had the appearance of a red star…I [also] perceived three volcanoes…The third showed an actual eruption of fire or luminous matter" (Corliss, 1975; Ley, 1965). In addition, Apollo data showed surprisingly high local flows and local radon-222[3] concentrations. Such data is evidence of ongoing igneous activity on the lunar surface. However, there is a basic assumption that the moon must have an inert, cold crust after billions of years. The moon may have a small molten core; however, any surface volcanic activity is thought to be impossible. Because of this long age assumption, TLP reports are typically dismissed as inaccurate. However, such reports number in the hundreds, starting in the 1600s when telescopes were developed. TLPs seriously challenge the idea of an ancient unchanging moon. Instead, transient lunar events resulting from near-surface heat is consistent with a recently created moon.

Our second age indicator is the moon's gradual outward recession from earth. As monitored by laser reflectors placed on the lunar surface by the Apollo missions, the current rate of recession is 3.8 cm/year (1.5 in/yr), roughly equal to the rate of fingernail growth. Extended over 6,000 years, this rate gives an earth-moon distance increase of only 222 meters (748 feet) which is insignificant, but also incorrect.

The preceding result is wrong because the moon's recession rate is not constant. If the moon is positioned closer to the earth, tidal effects and recession increase dramatically. In fact recession varies inversely with earth-moon distance r as $r^{6.5}$, a highly nonlinear distance dependence (DeYoung, 2008). For illustration, suppose the moon was once located at one-tenth its current earth distance, or r/10 = 23,900 miles. The recession rate at this location then becomes 3.8 cm/yr ($10^{6.5}$) = 120.2 km/yr (75 mi/yr). Further analysis shows that the moon would be in direct contact with the earth in 1.55 billion years. However, this is impossible since a moon located anywhere within the earth's Roche limit would be fragmented by immense tidal

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Dinosaur Ridge

Images: (above) The group gathers to listen; (below, l-r) Brian speaks; kids perch to hear dino facts; participants journey to the first stop; a brief foray into the subject of biology!

On September 16, 2022, one hundred and sixty people set out to explore Dinosaur Ridge in Morrison, Colorado. Brian Mariani led the expedition, providing Biblical commentary at all of the major stops and igniting ardor for Genesis with each presentation of truth. Homeschool families and long term RMCF members alike appreciated the pleasant temperatures and generally cloudy skies, while the kids delighted in observing the well-preserved dino tracks. Each person left with valuable information regarding the Biblical account of Creation and the Flood.

A beautifully preserved dinosaur track

Safari 2022

Go to youngearth.org to see a full video of Brian Mariani and this Safari.

Images: (l-r) Participants discover how dino tracks were made; participants listen at the Dino Ridge parking lot; a girl with a servant's heart holds Brian's speaker; participants gather at the first stop; Brian communicates something important to the camera.

Science: A Tale of Two Theories

Einstein's Relativity and Excellent Science

Part 2 of 6

Rob Bracken, RMCF President

In the previous issue, the theory of relativity (Relativity) was introduced as an example of true and excellent science, and as a roadmap of the scientific method. This and subsequent issues continue on this tack; but along the way a few astounding things about the creation are being revealed, which are reflections of The Creator and are consistent with the Biblical testimony: Intellectually honest science allows true ideas about the creation to flourish, while destroying false ideas that occlude the truth in men's hearts; science is therefore always consistent with the Bible, because the testimony in the Bible is always true … even where it touches on the creation.

We are currently discussing the second of four stages required in any scientific investigation, called the hypothesis. The hypothesis of Relativity is composed of three fundamental assertions, which I am calling statements. The first two statements were discussed in the previous issue; and taken together, they make-up what is called the "Postulate of Special Relativity", which forms the basis of the special theory[15] of relativity or simply special relativity (SR). Special relativity deals with practically all relativistic issues, except gravity.

So, the third statement of the hypothesis of Relativity, which is called the "Principle of Equivalence", together with the Postulate of Special Relativity, forms the basis of the general theory of relativity or general relativity (GR). General relativity then addresses gravity, saying that acceleration due to gravity is of the same nature as acceleration due to a conventional force.

The Third Statement of Relativity

Recall that SR is presented with respect to inertial frames[16], which are coordinate systems moving at constant velocities[17]. However as it turns out, SR can also be applied to accelerated frames. This of course requires some mathematical gymnastics, but SR still provides the needed physics. That is, just as SR can be used to characterize the space-time and its effects in inertial frames, it can do the same in accelerated frames. Note that every object has its own frame implicitly moving with it.

Accelerated frames do not have constant velocity, and therefore, either their speed or their direction of travel[18] is changing. To produce an acceleration then, a force must be applied, like the thrust of a jet engine accelerating an airliner down the runway, or the tension in a tether-ball cord introducing a curve into the ball's path.

When such a force is applied, it comes from a localized source: With the jet engine, this force is transmitted through the airframe, into the seat cushion, and into the person being cushioned and accelerated. Or, in the case of the tether ball, the force comes from the anchor point, a rigid vertical pole; and it is applied through the tensile strength of the cord and into the ball. Thus, application of a force changes the speed or the direction of an object—an acceleration occurs!

However, there exists another cause of acceleration, which is gravity. In contrast to the acceleration just described, caused by a force being propagated through a structure, it seems that the gravity field is able to reach inside of any object, grasp each particle individually, and thus accelerate all particles within the object at identical rates[19]. As a result, unopposed gravity is never actually "felt", but nonetheless causes the velocity to change continually; and we call this unopposed condition "freefall". By the way, people should avoid this condition at all costs, unless it can be appropriately mitigated. Some of the more reliable ways of mitigating freefall include the use of deep water bodies, extremely thick mats, parachutes, and re-entry vehicles[20].

Nevertheless, freefall is both perplexing and mysterious. All of physics and observation agree that the freefall state is equivalent to the inertial state! An object in freefall experiences no forces, just as if it were inertial. Yet, its speed and/or direction of travel are changing, which means it is experiencing acceleration. This observational paradox is ultimately answered through the scientific predictions of how gravity modifies space-time, derived from the third statement of Relativity. The following extended example is then an introduction to the thinking of the third statement:

What we often think of as the "force" of gravity is actually the force of the solid ground surface opposing the acceleration of gravity. Without this opposing force, any object would be in freefall. The ground surface then provides the same type of constraining force as the tether-ball cord, which is an ordinary force just like that of the jet engine.

Consider a Saturn V rocket weighing 6.5 million pounds: Prior to launch, the downward acceleration of earth's gravitational field acting on the mass[21] of the rocket requires the launch pad to oppose it with an upward force of 6.5 million pounds in order to keep the rocket from accelerating into the ground.

Now if the engines were firing but only provided 6.5 million pounds of thrust[22] (or force), the rocket would hover on the launch pad, requiring no force from the pad itself; and the astronauts would not be able to tell whether they were sitting on the pad or hovering on the thrust. However, let us again suppose that the engines provide only the 6.5 million pounds of thrust. When they are fired, the rocket again hovers on the pad. But this time a little while into the burn, the entire earth and everything in it (except the rocket) unexpectedly go "POOF!", disappearing along with all gravity.

With the acceleration from the engines' thrust no longer being perfectly offset by gravitational acceleration, the rocket would begin gathering speed, accelerating away from where it had been, in a direction[23] opposite that of the former gravitational acceleration, but accelerating at the same freefall rate[24], while heading out into deep space … but what would the astronauts feel? Surprisingly, they would feel absolutely nothing different, not even a bump! They would think they were still hovering on the launch pad.

This example then expresses what Einstein described in his third statement of relativity,

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which is called the *Principle of Equivalence*.

> **Third Statement of Relativity:** *The laws of physics* [including SR] *in a uniform gravitational field* **g** [rocket either sitting or hovering on the launch pad] *are the same as they would be in the absence of a gravitational field in a uniformly accelerated coordinate system with acceleration* **-g** [after the earth's gravity went 'POOF']25.

The equivalence between the acceleration due to gravity and the acceleration due to a force is a bridge to understanding gravitational fields. If SR says that space-time will have a particular configuration or curvature during a conventional acceleration (due to a force), then the space-time due to a gravitational field will also have the same configuration or curvature wherever the acceleration is the same.

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[15]A valid scientific theory includes not only the motive and hypothesis, which are the first and second stages of a scientific investigation, but also derivations of principal scientific predictions, which are part of the third stage.

[16]An inertial frame is a coordinate system with constant velocity. Neither its speed nor its direction of travel are changing.

[17]Velocity is a *vector*, having both magnitude and direction relative to the observer's frame. The magnitude of the velocity vector is the speed that a moving object and its frame are traveling. The direction the velocity vector points is the direction of travel. In a three dimensional space, a velocity vector can be broken down into three *vector components* by appropriately projecting the velocity vector onto each of three coordinate axes. (This is called *specifying* the vector in the given coordinate system). If these three vector components are then added tip-to-tail, according to the parallelogram law of vector addition, the original velocity vector would result. (This is called *resolving* the vector). Therefore, if none of the vector components of the velocity vector changes, then neither does the resolved velocity vector change; and its frame is called *inertial*.

[18]A change in direction is just as much an acceleration as is a change in speed: If any one component or any combination of components of the velocity vector is changing, then the frame is called *accelerated*. However, if all three vector components are changing in constant ratios (i.e., the direction is not changing), then the acceleration will be a change in speed only.

[19]Every particle within an object will experience an identical acceleration *only if* the gravity field causing the acceleration is everywhere the same (is *uniform*) within the entire volume of the object. If the field is not uniform, then the object will experience *tidal forces* resulting from the various particles in the object experiencing differing rates of acceleration. In the vicinity of extremely dense bodies such as neutron stars or black holes, the gravitational field changes so rapidly that an object can be ripped apart or even pulverized by the tidal forces.

[20]Surprisingly, an object in orbit (an orbiter) is in freefall. At injection, the speed of the orbiter (in the direction tangent to its orbital path) will have been adjusted so that the curve of the surface of the planetary body below drops away at the same rate the gravitational field is causing the orbiter to freefall toward the surface. Thus, the orbiter is in a continual state of freefall that never encounters the planetary body.

[21]*Mass* (*m*) is the proportionality between force (*F*) and acceleration (*a*) according to Newton's 2nd law: $F=ma$. If a given force is applied to an object, the resulting acceleration will be inversely proportional to the mass of the object. Thus for a given force, if the mass is increased the acceleration will be decreased, and vice-versa.

[22]Actually, the five F-1 rocket engines of the Saturn V's first stage collectively provide over 7.5 million pounds of thrust in the upward direction—*more* than the weight of the rocket. This amount of force acting on the mass of the rocket will produce an upward acceleration greater than the earth's downward acceleration, thus, on balance, accelerating (propelling) the rocket upward into space.

[23]The concept of "up" or "upward" is no longer meaningful in the absence of a gravitational field.

[24]The rocket's rate of acceleration is known to be precisely equal to the freefall rate of gravity because, prior to the gravitational field disappearing, the force of the thrust had been precisely adjusted such that the rocket was hovering. In other words, when the gravity was there, it was accelerating the rocket downward at the freefall rate, and the force of the thrust was accelerating the rocket upward at the same freefall rate; so the two opposite and equal accelerations canceled each other out, and therefore the rocket had no motion up or down. However, when the gravity disappeared, the downward acceleration was gone, but the acceleration (in the opposite direction … "upward") imbued to the mass of the rocket by the force of the engines continued accelerating the rocket at the freefall rate; and the rocket began moving.

[25]In the Principle of Equivalence, the lower case bold **g** symbolizes the vector of gravitational acceleration. For example, on the surface of the earth this vector is directed straight down and has a magnitude of approximately 32.2 f/s^2 or 9.81 m/s^2 (which means in freefall, the speed would be increasing by 21.9 mph every second). The **–g** then represents precisely the same acceleration only directed oppositely, straight up.

Mr. Bracken has worked for over 40 years in potential fields geophysics with primary interests in magnetic methods and equipment development. Having authored or coauthored circa 50 scientific reports and research papers, he has developed a number of systems, techniques and modeling processes. His escape from the evolutionary delusion began in 1979 when he received the Lord Jesus after a Holy Spirit led bush pilot shared the Gospel message and provided a free ride to Arctic Village, Alaska.

COVER STORY: Moon

Continued from page 5

forces. The analysis shows that the moon cannot be anywhere near its assumed evolutionary age of 4.5 billion years.

Connected with lunar recession, the earth-moon tidal interaction also leads to a gradual slowing of the earth's rotation. After 6000 years of earth history, the length of a 24 hour day has increased by just 0.12 seconds.

CONCLUSION

The moon silently travels on, completing about 13 earth orbits annually, or 78,000 round trips in 6000 years. In Psalm 89:37, the moon is described as "the faithful witness in the sky." Our nearest neighbor in space is indeed a faithful witness of creation and God's wise planning for our benefit.

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[1] "Tidally locked" means the time it takes for a body in space (like the Moon) to rotate once about its axis equals the time it takes to orbit once around another body (like the Earth).

[2] The reason for the difference is the Earth and Moon both orbit the Sun so it takes a bit longer for the position of each body to move back into an identical alignment to each other.

[3] Radon-222 is a step in the decay chain of Uranium^{238} to Lead^{206}.

Don DeYoung is part-time faculty at Grace College Winona Lake, Indiana following a career in science and math. He is a graduate of Michigan Tech, Grace Seminary (MDiv), and Iowa State University (PhD, physics). Don has written 21 books on Bible-science topics including object lessons for kids. He and his wife Sally have three married daughters and ten grandchildren. Family activities include kayak-fishing and Grand Canyon backpacking.

LUNAR SIDEBAR

Look for the moon errors in these literature quotes. Answers are at the bottom.

1) Till clomb above the eastern bar
The horned moon, with one bright star
Within the nether tip.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
1797, Samuel Coleridge

Answer: *The horned or crescent moon is earth's nearest space neighbor, and no star comes between. In fact a typical star is far larger than the earth-moon separation distance.*

2) We had a full moon located in the same spot in the heavens at the same hour every night. We were traveling east so fast that we kept up with the moon.

Innocents Abroad
1869, Mark Twain

Answer: *Anywhere on earth, the full moon occurs just one night before moving on to its waning gibbous phase.*

3) Everyone is like the moon and has a dark side which no one sees.

Pudd'nhead Wilson
1894, Mark Twain

Answer: *The moon has a hidden or backside but it is not always dark. During the new moon phase, the hidden side is in full sunlight.*

FOUNDATIONS
Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship

VOLUMN 22 NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

Published by
Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship
P.O. Box 3451
Littleton, CO 80161
www.youngearth.org

President
Rob Bracken

Editors
Phil Budd
Ed Johlman

FOUNDATIONS is a free publication. An annual membership in RMCF is available for $25. Please complete coupon at right to request a free FOUNDATIONS subscription or to purchase an annual membership. Membership fees are used to support the outreach ministries of RMCF.

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All meetings are held free of charge and are open to the public. Contributions are tax deductible.

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FOUNDATIONS
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

For in six days the LORD made
the heavens and the earth,
the sea and all that is in them.
Exodus 20:11

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UPCOMING RMCF FRIDAY NIGHT MEETINGS!!

7pm at the Littleton Baptist Church, 1400 W Caley, Littleton, CO

Dec 9, 2022

Dr. Robert Brown

Evidence in our Solar System that Supports the Hydroplate Theory

This theory postulates that the "fountains of the great deep", described in Genesis 7, not only caused the global world-wide flood, but also launched rocks and water into space, some of which impacted the moon or became Trans-Neptunian Objects and comets.

Jan 13, 2022

Richard Stepanek

Alpha-Omega Institute

The Manger

After the shepherds heard the message proclaimed by the angel, they left in haste to see the newborn babe. Apparently, they were very familiar with this special manger. A post-Christmas message about the time of His birth.

Feb 10, 2022

Bill Jack

Faculty Advisor for Worldview Academy

Counterfeit Reality

The biggest and most enduring Counterfeit Reality of all time is most cleverly foisted upon people through film. See how movie-makers convey a secular worldview to the public...in the blink of an eye.

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