

Inverse Insight

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1. Positive object that is presented by sense or represented by imagination.
 - a) Irrational Numbers: “Magnitude” or “Number”
 - b) Non-countable multitudes: “Multitude”
 - c) Newton’s First Law of Motion: “a body continues to move at a uniform rate in a straight line”
 - d) Basic postulate of Special Relativity: Data as referred to initial axes of coordinates (K), and as referred to other axes (K’) moving with a constant velocity relative to K.
2. This positive object is expected to be “intelligible” and to require an explanation.
 - a) One expects to be able to reach all numbers via mathematical operations: through addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, powers, roots.
 - b) One expects a countable multitude between zero and one.
 - c) One expects that a changing motion requires explanation.
 - d) One expects, for example, that something moving simply up and down and something moving in the form of a parabolic motion would have different explanations in all cases.
3. This expected intelligibility is discovered to be wrong. Hence it is not a wrong intelligibility (or a wrong explanation defined in the postulates of explanatory definitions or in implicit definitions) so much as something wrong in the question.
 - a) A variety of numbers cannot be reach rationally and one should not expect to do so.
 - b) The majority of the “numbers” between zero and one cannot be explained.
 - c) uniform motion” needs no explanation.
 - d) Different references frames alone do not change the intelligibility of a motion.
4. How are inverse insights “defined”?
 - a) “it affirms empirical elements only to deny an expected intelligibility”
 - b) “Intelligibility” is the “content of a direct insight”.
 - c) Not just “negative” concepts: eg. “not red”, “position without magnitude”, “non-occurence”—these refer to denials of empirical components in our knowledge, not to denials of intelligibilities (which involve possibilities and necessities, unifications and relations)
5. Lonergan will add some more later
 - a) Expectation of an intelligibility that the random divergence of actual frequencies from ideal can be explained.
 - b) Expectation that all can be explained by a single, systematic viewpoint.
 - c) Evil
6. Inverse insights occur within “the context of far larger developments of human thought”
 - a) The “discovery” of inertia allows the redirection of inquiry to accelerations.

- b) The discovery of irrational numbers and non-countable multitudes allows for intelligence to redirect itself to that which is rational and countable, to that which is intelligible.
- c) The discovery of inertial transformation equations leads to a greater ability to eliminate the unintelligible from motions and to focus in on what is truly intelligible.
- d) Sometimes, because of the “success” of these further discoveries, the inverse insights that were so difficult to obtain at first, yet have become relatively easy for later generations, one can almost overlook the difficulty and importance of such insights. Hence, one might need to appeal to history to reveal the significance of these types of insights in some fields. However, all of us usually need to go through some of these insights, unless the experiences are setup very early in life to shift the anticipations of intelligibility. Pedagogically, one could do this (eg. Montessori and how she setup the “sensorial” materials for 3-6 year olds).