

MATHEMATIZATION OF NATURE – SOME INSPIRATIONS FROM THE BHAGAVAT SANKHYA DESCRIPTION OF MATTER

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Abstract: The attempts to describe nature using mathematical laws have been there since the early phase of human civilization. Human beings were able to recognize that many aspects of nature follow mathematical rules – the movement of stars and planets, movement of sun and moon and so on. Man has been successful in mathematically describing a wide range of physical phenomena. In the post renaissance era the rapid development in mathematics was a boost to this effort. However, for most of the physical phenomena, the existing mathematical theories provide an approximate description and in many cases they merely capture the qualitative trends. One of the reason for this is that the complexity and vastness of the nature are beyond the reach of the existing mathematical tools. Further, we have different mathematical theories for different classes of natural phenomena and these theories are not consistent with each other. Thus, we do not have a single mathematical framework that describes all natural phenomena. Finally, there are many entities which cannot be expressed in terms of numbers, although they might be influencing different physical phenomena. Therefore, a paradigm shift or a shift in the way we look at the physical nature is indispensable. *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam*, which is one of the best literatures of vedic tradition, describes physical world from a theistic consciousness based perspective. These descriptions might provide clues for developing a conclusive scientific worldview.