

PERSONAL DIARY

You and classical physics

Inspired by Prof Debashis Chatterjee



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Dear Sir,

This personal diary is a consequence of mail exchange among three friends and your leadership course. Here in this diary I have done a little experiment of answering few open ended questions using the framework of Newtonian Classical Mechanics. Hope it makes sense to you. This document has following characters from my real life:

Deepak: working in Infosys, and recently went through his appraisal process, wherein he didn't get 'A' grade as promised by his team lead.

Sachin: He is doing his MBA and first and foremost priority of his life is to get his love Maneet in his life.

Siddharth: He has recently left his job and is preparing for MBA entrance examinations.

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Thanks for the effort

Questions

What is that is driving you, why do you whatever you do?

Do you clearly know the END you always talk about?? Or it is vague??

By the way what are means??

Are you really driving or you are being driven by??

You and Classical Physics

Do you remember classical physics? Physics that governs all the macroscopic things around you, I am pretty sure that you remember the first principle of Inertia that unless or until acted upon by external forces, a body prefers to remain in its state of rest or of motion, Force drives! Now these forces can be conservative or dissipative (as friction). Net force acting on a body is sum total of these all the forces while conservative forces tend to act in the direction of motion and work done by them is completely recoverable, dissipative forces act in the direction opposite to motion dissipate the content of energy contained by the body in form of heat or other, to sum up in simple terms former is positive while latter is negative force. That is a part of the story, coming to the point: **Who we are?** Are not we a part of this physical world? Should not we be governed by these very principles put forth by Newton, Galileo? Should not (to some extent) our trajectory be governed by these very basic principles? Trajectory is nothing but the **path (Means?)** we take to reach our **destination (am I talking about ENDS?)**. Again going back to physics conservative forces are independent of path (read Means) they only depend upon the end points (Read Ends), in a way that work done is a function of final and initial positions. This is not the case with dissipative forces they are depend on path taken. And unless or until body is in vacuum or away from all other bodies it is being acted upon by conservative as well as dissipative forces, (there always are frictions unless you take measures to remove them; you can never get rid of them!). What does all this sum up to? No motion is path independent, and the presence of conservative forces (Hey you can't think of reaching end points without them!!) means that what ever you have achieved can be expressed as some function of these Ends, result? No result is independent of End. What this leads to is that both are dependent upon each other and are equally important and as you define positive or negative forces depending upon the direction of motion (there is no absolute negative or positive force moment you change direction of motion positive is negative and vice versa) as you can only reach in opposite direction of pre defined END only if negative forces sum up more than positive same you cant think of wrong ends without wrong or immoral means (For the sake of simplicity of discussion i am safely

ignoring all those immoral things to reach immoral ends, by moral/ethical I mean those UNIVERSAL moral/ethical truths, to be specific if there's question of life in deciding right or wrong. Otherwise nothing is right/wrong, positive/negative it's all matter of personal choices or values. By the way I think you are pretty clear about what is morally right or wrong; no issues in that and please don't bring up that issue, just for the sake of issue and saying something against. So much for right or wrong ...) I missed my original train of thoughts... yeah, question is not MEANS OR ENDS, what I feel is both are equally important, and dependent on each other, Ends define Means and Means define Ends

Real Life Examples

Take Deepak's example you said he got B when he could have got A, provided he would have chosen some other means, now the question is, was getting A or B ever his END did he once cared for it? Or ever gave a serious thought to work for A or Bs or the small rewards in A or B, If not How can he have chosen those means. That END was never in his mind, and so were his Means defined, he gave importance to END and if I put it other way round, based on his parameters he decided not to follow certain path (means), he can never reach that END, Means defined Ends, he gave importance to Means and he cannot reach that END (leave room for some mystical forces which could give you certain results which you didn't thought of or were not consistent with your means!! These might be negative or positive). Both are equally important and complement each other. Let me digress a bit: Here comes the role of principles or driving force that define you, your intrinsic properties that define you, as in the beginning I said everybody reacts differently to forces, depending upon principles and intrinsic properties, and these principles are extremely personal, you cant see other person from your frame of reference, what drives you may not drive other person, one who got A, was driven by it and he has different principles in life. If you have chosen certain values, ethics or principles to stick to them you made the choice and be ready to pay the price for it, what's wrong? Nothing, it's just a matter of choice, priority, principles and things like that. And you should not crib about, Sachin why at all you are in dilemma?

Now take your example you said your end is Maneet, and to some extent for now you are being driven by her (correct me if I am wrong, you might have higher ends in Mind but for now Maneet has got highest priority) and two means consent or no consent, give equal priority to both (ends and means) if you want to reach your end you have to have proper means, chose consent or no consent based on your principles and choices, you cant get to an end without proper means. You have END in mind and you have chosen the path. Now you can't say you don't care about Means for you are trying to get their non consent converted to consent. And consent will obviously lead to END. You might say END is more important chose the other path of non consent and get her, now it depends upon the principles you have set for yourself and how much can you bend to break them? And by the way it involves another particle, or an amalgamation or inelastic collision of two different systems with number of discrete particles, so more forces (and also brings into question of lives of others), hence equations get quite complicated but can be solved, keeping in mind these new variables and find a Path of least resistance to get to the END (so keep both in Mind, ENDS and MEANS, unless you don't care for other particles around you, and you know you do care). You care for Means, so you made some decisions and now stick to them with confidence, for now you have one short but strong and positive END in mind and your means are not wrong stick to it and things will follow, don't get carried away by others and chart out your things for this END in mind only, for if you wont get to that END, you might have to rethink over all equations from new point of view (taking into consideration one of the strongest Negative force, haunting you if that happens you cant deny this as far as I know you, I wish I am wrong). You yourself care for both Means and Ends. (But again leave room for mystical forces)

Where's the Dilemma?

And as Deepak said if you have proper means you will definitely reach some good END (if not the END you chose) well True, but at the end of the day we do want some Results, you cant keep on moving without goal like a rolling stone, Importance of Ends do matter to us (we all, I don't know about other Junta). We should have Reason to live and work. Equally true is the fact that we all do care about certain Principles (that define our Means to us and these can be different for each of us). So why say only ENDS or Only MEANS when there are no such ONLY things in classical physics and in our life too. So give (why give we always have given) equal importance to both, where's the dilemma, have consistency in your thoughts and deeds, in what you say and what you actually do, you care for both and talk about dilemmas,

WHY? In these personal matters just take decisions for you and taking into consideration your system about what others say and do, what do you think, should you do. And you always have cared for living life and not living through life, and living life is not possible without proper MEANS, so you have always cared for MEANS, why have unnecessary dilemmas.

It is not about you and me everybody have means and ends, people care for both, But are very personal and driven by different forces. Pramod have different ends in mind and chart out paths based on principles true for him. His systems are different and thus you can't define his system from your point of view, he cant from yours. Also, for better results, one clearly needs to understand these principles and theories defining their system. You and I always talk about it, but do we know it clearly? NO. What are three things which you will never compromise on no matter what price you got to pay, why do you do what you do at all? Questions like that. Be clear and stick to them, the values, ethics, principles etc.

On leading or being led, how you can lead others if you can't lead yourself? Moreover leader need to be consistent in his words and deeds and all this requires clarity of above said principles. Define your standards and stick to them. KNOW YOURSELF, don't be shallow in analysis, be profound. And please don't judge yourself on others parameters. One can keep on going But you can't ignore these basics. List is not exhaustive....

Do we think before we act ... yes we do, based on our knowledge database, our thought process, we do think but this database is a result of our very own experiences and others around you who influence your life. Now, again your decision depends upon your driving forces, Ends and Means, your immediate priorities etc. Greater the intensity of certain factor, more partial your decision is in favour of it, and better if it is being influenced more by your Heart Mind and rationality. For at the end of the day you made choice and you will only be answerable for it. You have to pursue it, not others. So FOLLOW YOUR HEART not the fads or JUST what others say (consider others words as facts but have your own rational for what you do.) Others don't take Marketing and HR as a combination should not be the base of your decision. Eat, digest, assimilate and act. This world is big enough for everybody; don't worry if you get wrong!! Ah you know it all in fact better than me or anybody else.

Ah there was one example you quoted! Cricket match and questions based on who was the winner and so on ... hmmm it reminded me of one incident don't know if you remember or not ... something similar was once used in some bikes ad (Calibre?) they asked who climbed Everest first and so on and made same point as you did today! And as usual you were sceptical about that ad and started discussion for the sake of it ... Now, what? Changed your mind Mr. Manager, now you believe in these!

1. Well, tell me do you know if any company existed before IBM (IBM was spin off of which company?)
2. Who invented first I C (you might know this)?
3. Who made the fastest computer?
4. Is Xerox the inventor of photocopier (or Xerox machine)? (Thanks Vineet!!) Today talk of Mobile phone you think Nokia but

Is it always about coming first or being a winner? Again open ended closed question, close because you can define it for yourself but not for others.

with a note that all this sounds simple in words and easy to say and listen and come up with yet new theories and questions countering or complementing it, but keep things short and simple don't complicate matters, have fun and find happiness in small accomplishments and keep moving towards GOAL supreme.

One more thing you said something about crazy things people do to reach their goals, well those actions can't be described by classical physics, which deals with finite energy, they are like photons of quantum physics moving and influencing world to extreme, They are high energy, yet very disciplined in act, can manage different paths at a time (like photon which can exist in different states at a time) and yet reach their END. Enough this will never end ... there can be hundred ways of explaining things All this seems to me as old wine in new (different) package.

PART 2: FULL COURSE MEAL

Starters

Hope you all have digested and assimilated my previous food for thought (nobody told me how it tasted?). Here I will stuff you with more cuisine (As all this is being cooked up in my brain - kitchen, suited to my tastes, you are free to garnish it to your tastes and share the new recipe)

Main course

Equilibrium is a state when sum total of all the forces acting on a body is Zero, thus no motion in any direction, moment component of any force is increased body will start moving in that direction. Now, we all are being forced upon by two main forces: Internal and External (Hope you can differentiate among them... its difficult) while internal forces are our own thought process based on our rational thinking and experiences, external are being impressed upon by the particles (what particles? hope you have read last piece) near us. Are we being Led or Leading? Ask yourself which force is stronger Internal or External. To lead our way, necessary condition is to have stronger(compared to what?) internal forces but its not sufficient: we should have our internal forces complemented with actions too, consistency in thoughts and deeds is a must and indispensable, moment inconsistency creep up, you are bound to face dilemmas or funny questions start haunting you. Let me explain it with an example, remember who was most disturbed when the papers were out and he took them, when his thought process said otherwise, inconsistency And you know what followed next, why were others not disturbed or cared about it? For they did what according to their thoughts, principles and values were acceptable, but one who was carried away and did otherwise was... Either you do where your internal forces drive you or if you have changed your path then better have your internal forces dynamic enough to be changed so as to complimenting the new path. Like you have chosen ICFAI, what you say is a compromise, fine but you cant escape it now (can you) so please don't have any sort of inconsistency in your mind about it,

accept it fully and do your best there, this is what some call Love what you have to do, while former is doing what you love. Both are acceptable, what is not acceptable to have any sort of Dilemmas or inconsistencies, they are sin. We all say so many things but how much do we actually implement in deeds? Oh by the way do we really know our thoughts well? How profane is our analysis of our self?

Had other things to say too but will cut short for obvious reasons. Enough of my thoughts will end with what I read last night, Plato's version of good and bad progress:

According to him in good version of progress we approximate ideal through trial and error without the assumption that each trial necessarily gets us closer to the ideal. While in bad version assumes that no matter what the outcome of trial we always end up closer to the ideal. Bad version amounts to refusal both philosophically and politically to admit genuine errors and hence need to alter

One's course of action or Tit bits (Left outs)

Don't feel like I am intentionally taking you (Sachin) as an example, as usual you and me are the only ones who get excited by these funny questions, so it's bound to be either you or me as examples (oh! Does that mean we are the only ones who are inconsistent?). I could have taken up my examples (you know there are many inconsistencies) but it would have been impersonal for you ;) thought you will be able to associate better with you as an example ;)

And a problem for you all (I will like to hear some technical views of would be managers) Rest all are free to run their horses where ever they wish

Come up with a case study on Possibility of an Indian IBM? IBM in India by and for Indians doing for India what IBM has done for US, penetrating technology deep into nook and corner of India. What strike your mind when you first read this question? And now tell me how to go about it and please don't come up with shallow and run of the mill thoughts give me something solid based on concrete fundamentals that you have learnt. Tell me if you want further clarifications on this.

Desserts

*The pleasure is not when we reach the inn; the pleasure is on the road
(from Don Quixote)*

*Whenever you see a successful business someone once made a courageous decision
(Peter Drucker)*

*To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming is
the only end of life... (Robert Lewis Stevenson)*

Further Readings

1. [What is mature living?](#)
2. [New India](#)
3. [Govinda](#) (From Siddhartha : by Hesse)

*Please Click on the above links to read details

Reference:

S ! d @ Blog : <http://www.siddharths.wordpress.com>