

L N K de Silva

Dept. of Mathematics, University of Colombo

For Kant, time was a priori, and it had nothing to do with the existence of matter. Newton believed in absolute time and space and his mechanics is based on these concepts. Einstein introduced the concept of relativity of time, and gave a different interpretation to the Lorentz transformations.

Over the years the question "What is Time" has been discussed by various thinkers and there seems to be no agreement on a solution among the Physicists and the Philosophers who have been attracted to this problem.

In a recent communication the author attempted to show that the concept of time arises from the changing nature of matter. This idea is now extended to show that time is only a concept of man involving his consciousness. Matter is always in a state of flux, and man had to introduce the concept of time when he tried to abstract an isolated "Unchanging matter" from the interconnected sea of processes that constitute the "Universe".

Reference

1. de Silva, L.N.K. (1984) Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc. Advmt. Sci. (1) 72.