

STEM Society Meeting, April 13, 2010

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1 The Meeting Location and Time

The April meeting of the STEM Society took place on the second Tuesday of the month, April 13, 2010, at the Trailside Center at 99th and Holmes in Kansas City Missouri. The starting time was 6PM. Topics were: Stereolithography Molecular Models, Linear Algebra and Functional Analysis, Quaternions, Octonians, and their application to rotations and to Physics. Bob Kessler demonstrated the new Macintosh I-Pad. The Stem Society WEB link is:

<http://stem2.org/>

2 About the STEM Society and the STEM Society Website

STEM is an abbreviation for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. There are about 60 people on the mailing list, although usually a

much smaller group attends any one meeting. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Trailside Center at 99th and Holmes in Kansas City, Missouri. The meetings are open to all. We make presentations, have discussions, and sometimes have scientific demonstrations. The topics range from General Relativity to scientific experiments for kids.

The set of meeting notes may be viewed by going down the list of notes appearing on the front page of the site. These notes contains links to documents, which may be viewed or downloaded by clicking the link. Other documents can be reached by clicking the heading "Documents and Downloads" that appears on the left side of the front page. Then click on "documents." The meeting notes may also be viewed in an archive file in the list of documents. Most of the documents are PDF files. They may be viewed or downloaded to the computer by clicking, provided Adobe Reader is present, or another program capable of reading PDF files. There are often more documents available at the site than are listed under "Documents" because they may not have been added to the documents.htm file yet. The web site is at

<http://stem2.org/>

To go directly to the "Documents" list:

<http://stem2.org/je/documents.htm>

3 Meeting Notes

We discussed Stereolithography and molecular models only briefly. We shall get back to this at a future meeting.

We also did not get to the topic of Linear Algebra and Functional Analysis, again we shall visit this in the future.

We did present material on quaternions and octonions. The document presented was:

<http://stem2.org/je/quaternions.pdf>

John Gamble talked about his interest in these things and their possible application to particle physics. He has been pursuing this interest for some time.

I presented my matrix class created in Python. Noel Christiansen gave an explanation of object oriented programming. Python has a very clean

way to do object oriented programming, and operator overloading. My class appears in the document:

<http://stem2.org/je/sciprog.pdf>

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