

# SquirrelInHell

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## Epistemic Laws of Motion

*Standard Disclaimer #14074: I speak to those who know how to listen. Slightly interesting ideas are best transferred under the guise of practicality, boredom, and clear-headedness. But what about very interesting ideas? These might well be best told under the guise of chaos, demonic possession, and madness.*

**Note: in retrospect, this post is too obscure to get useful ideas out of it. Consider it unendorsed.**

### 1st Epistemic Law of Motion

Every person persists in their state of doing nothing or executing always the same strategy **S**, unless they are compelled to change that state by external epistemic pressure **P**.

Assuming constant non-zero psychological resistance, the first law can be written as:

$$\left| \sum P = 0 \Leftrightarrow dS / dt = 0 \right.$$

### 2nd Epistemic Law of Motion

Every change of epistemic pressure  $\Delta P$  is equal to the change in a person's strategies  $\Delta S$  times their psychological resistance **R**.

$$\left| \Delta S = \Delta P / R \right.$$

### 3rd Epistemic Law of Motion

For every epistemic pressure, there is an equal and opposite psychological defense mechanism.

Everything clear? Great! Now let's do some calculations and practice on a real-world problem.

### Example problem

A 70-year-old Catholic becomes a Jehovah's Witness, actively working in the movement. Estimate how likely they are to change their mind about this decision.

Solution:

We know the change of strategy from the problem statement:

$$\left| dS = \text{medium} \right.$$

Also from the age of 70 years, we can estimate psychological resistance:

$$\left| R = \text{high} \right.$$

Then from the 2nd Law we calculate epistemic pressure:

$$\left| P = R * \Delta S = \text{high} * \text{medium} = \text{high} \right.$$

Finally, we use the 3rd law again to get the answer: high epistemic pressure results in strong psychological defenses. Therefore it is unlikely that this person will change their mind again.

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