History of Physics: from Greeks to present day

By

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Host: Assoc. Prof. David Wilkowski

Abstract
The history of physics does not present a smooth and continuous evolution. It will be reviewed, with a particular emphasis on the successive scientific revolutions, starting with the Miletus Ionian School in the 6th century BC, then describing the European Renaissance turn-over in the science approach, and following with the early 20th century revolutions of relativity and quantum mechanics which have paved the way to modern physics. An example of contemporary approach to scientific progress will be considered with the development of laser sources and technology.

Short Biography
Martial Ducloy is “Directeur de Recherche émérite” at CNRS and University Paris 13. His scientific activity has been oriented over the years towards laser spectroscopy, quantum and nonlinear optics, cavity QED, atom-surface interaction, and more recently, matter-wave optics and interferometry.
Along many academic responsibilities, he has been President of the European Physical Society (2001-3), initiator of the World Year of Physics-2005 and President of the French Physical Society (2010-2). He is Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Physics-Singapore, member of “Academia Europaea” and foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.