

James Stirling Encyclopedia Article

James Stirling

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James Stirling

1692-1770

Scottish mathematician best known for explaining and extending the scope of Newton's calculus. Stirling also published a treatise on convergent series that helped to develop methods of calculating their sums more accurately and efficiently. Stirling's work on mathematical interpolation was also influential, as was his major work, *Methodus Differentialis*. In addition to these accomplishments, Stirling produced important work showing the shape of the Earth to be an oblate spheroid rather than a perfect sphere.