Thomas Simpson Encyclopedia Article

Thomas Simpson

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Thomas Simpson

1710-1761

English mathematician best known for his work on the numerical integration of equations and mathematical interpolation. Simpson also made significant contributions to probability theory, including work that showed the arithmetic mean of a number of observations is more appropriate than the results of a single observation. Simpson wrote several mathematics textbooks, including *The Doctrine and Application of Fluxions* ("fluxions" was Newton's term for derivatives of mathematical equations).