

## The Principle Of Least Astonishment

*When experimental results radically conflict with the current paradigm, it is easier to believe that the experimental results are wrong than to believe that there is something fundamentally wrong with the paradigm.*

Example:-

**“Most geomagnetists dismissed the claim by applying the principle of least astonishment - it was easier to believe that these lava flows did not accurately record the changes in the earth’s magnetic field than to believe that there was something fundamentally wrong with the conventional wisdom of the day.”**

R.T. Merrill, “Principle of Least Astonishment”, *Nature*, Vol. 374, 1995 p:674