

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN (1887–1920)

The Man Who Knew Infinity

RAMANUJAN WAS PROBABLY A GENIUS, BECAUSE HIS STATEMENTS "COULD ONLY BE WRITTEN DOWN BY A MATHEMATICIAN OF THE HIGHEST CLASS; THEY MUST BE TRUE, BECAUSE IF THEY WERE NOT TRUE, NO ONE WOULD HAVE THE IMAGINATION TO INVENT THEM."

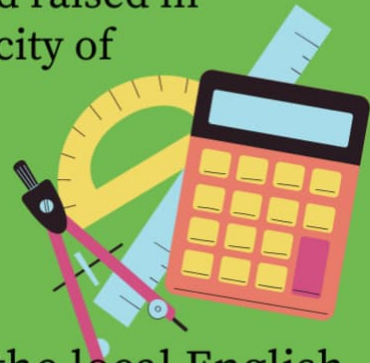


Srinivasa Ramanujan Iyengar

(Best known as S. Ramanujan)

(22 Dec 1887 - 26 April 1920)

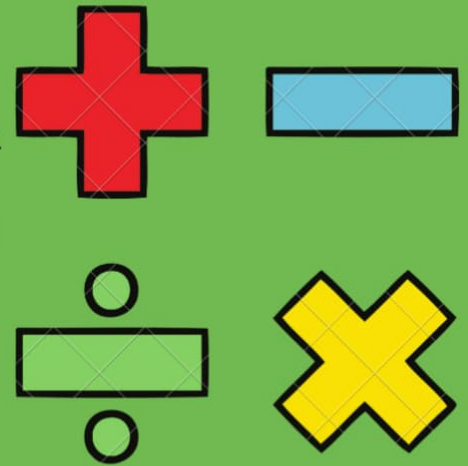
- Ramanujan was born and raised in southern India near the city of Madras(Chennai)



- Ramanujan studied at the local English language school, displaying his talent and interest for mathematics.

<https://www.slideshare.net/mobile/caddis2/life-of-ramanujan>

- When he was 15, a university student lent him a copy of Synopsis of Pure Mathematics. He decided to work out the over 6000 results in this book, stated without proof or explanation, writing on sheets later collected to form notebooks



- A professor at the Presidency College recognized his genius and supported him, and in 1912 he found work as an accounts clerk, earning a small salary.

- Ramanujan continued his mathematical work during this time and published his first paper in 1910 in an Indian journal. He realized that his work was beyond that of Indian mathematicians and decided to write to leading English mathematicians.



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" RAMANUJAN WAS MY DISCOVERY I DID NOT INVENT HIM, LIKE OTHER MEN, HE INVENTED HIMSELF, BUT I WAS THE FIRST REALLY COMPETENT PERSON WHO HAD A CHANCE TO SEE SOME OF HIS WORKS AND I CAN STILL REMEMBER WITH SATISFACTION THAT I COULD RECOGNIZE AT ONCE WHAT TREASURE I HAD FOUND. " - PROF. G. H. HARDY

- In January 1913 he wrote to G. H. Hardy, who was inclined to turn Ramanujan down, but the mathematical statements in the letter, although stated without proof, puzzled Hardy. He decided to examine them closely with the help of his colleague and collaborator J. E. Littlewood.



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- Hardy arranged a scholarship for Ramanujan, bringing him to England in February 1918. Hardy personally tutored him in mathematical analysis, and they collaborated for five years, proving significant theorems.



- He was one of the youngest members ever appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society.



- Unfortunately, in 1917 Ramanujan became extremely ill.
- He returned to India in 1919, continuing to do mathematics even when confined to his bed. He considered mathematics and religion to be linked.
- He said that "an equation for me has no meaning unless it expresses a thought of God."
- His short life came to an end in April 1920, when he was 32 years old.

