

Luck in Maths

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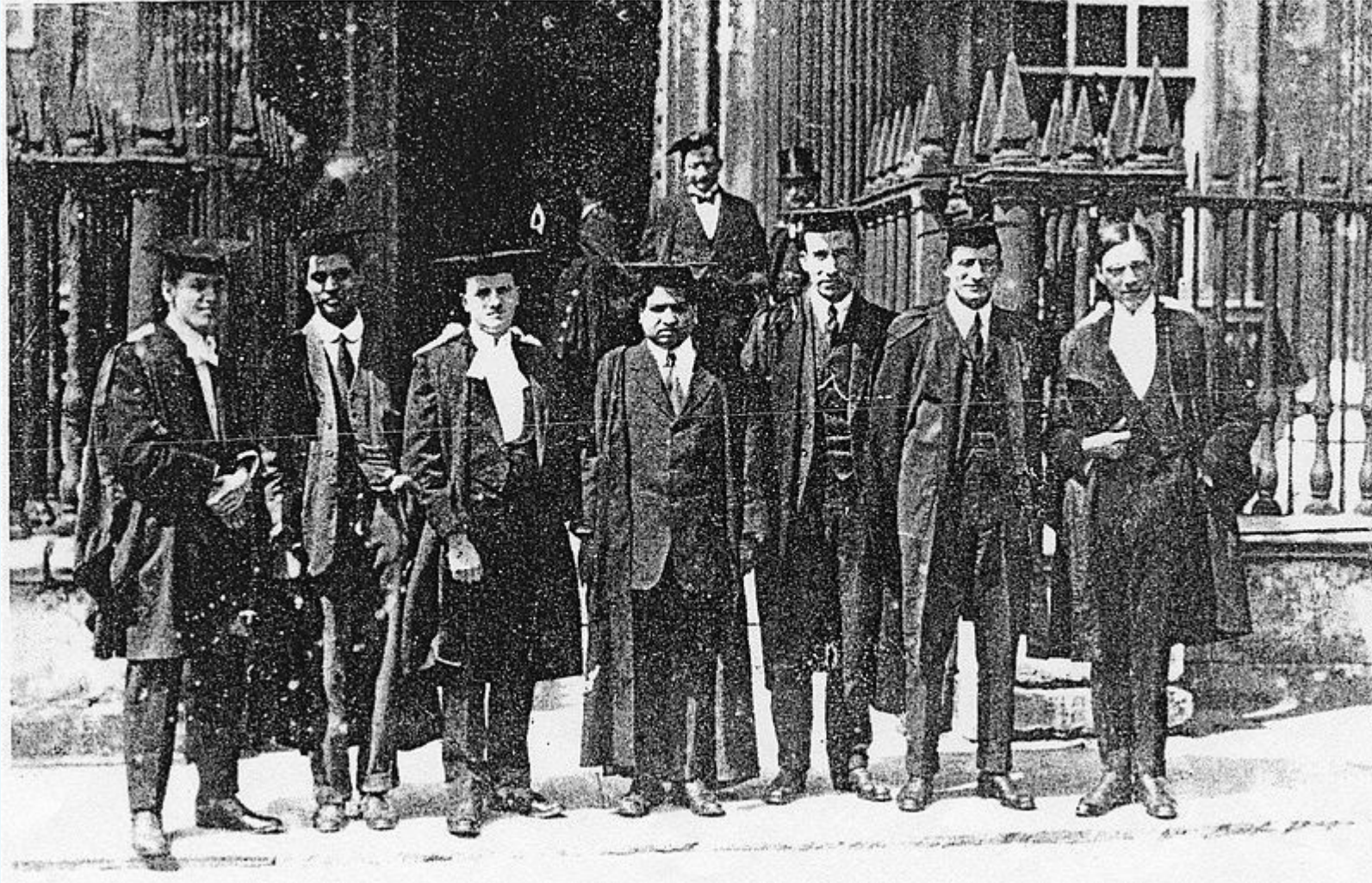
MathsJam 2023

Is there room for luck in maths?

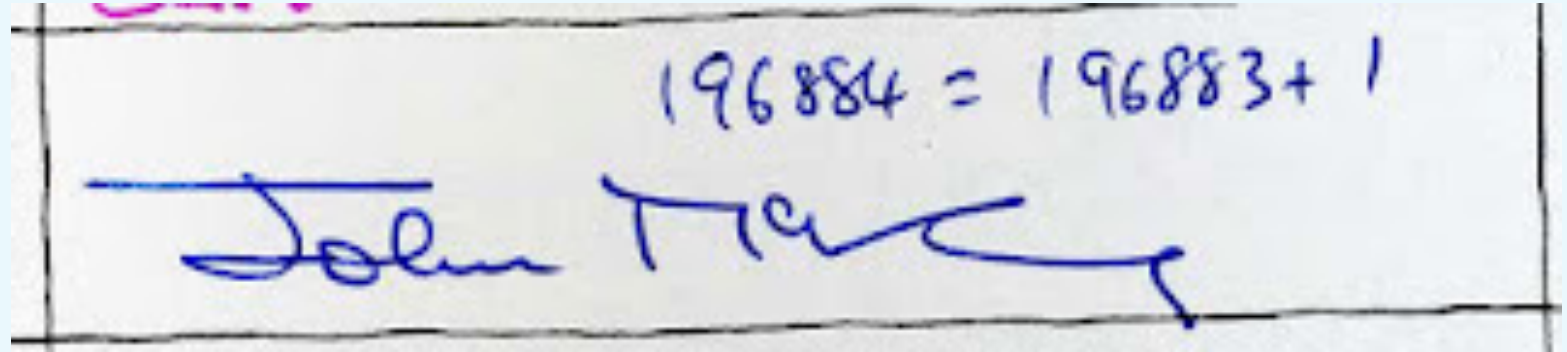
The wrong place or time



Being lucky



Luck in mathematical discovery



Exam logic

$$\log(a + b + c) = \log a + \log b + \log c$$

“I didn’t think it was true, but I could see that if it was true I could do the question. So I tried an example to test it, and it worked.”

Bad luck in exam

$$\log(a + b + c) = \log a + \log b + \log c$$

“I tried taking a , b , and $c = 1, 2$, and 3 .”

**I think that was good exam
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a reasonable choice of example
and therefore the student was
rather unlucky!**

**I think that was good exam strategy,
a reasonable choice of example
and therefore the student was
rather unlucky!
(And it's an example of why exams
are not a fair form of assessment.)**

Thank you!

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