

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN- A GREAT INDIAN MATHEMATICIAN

Sandeep Kundu

Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Government College Kheri Chopta, Hisar, (India)

Sandeepkundu1984@gmail.com

DIO: 10.6084/m9.figshare.19897747

Abstract: The present paper is aimed at studying the contribution of Srinivasa Ramanujan in the field of Mathematics. Without several formal exercise in pure mathematics, he has done strange work and appeared as one of the great arithmetician of India. His mathematical perception reconstructed and updated 20th epoch mathematics. His supremacy can be observed because he learned some outcomes that are believed to be true but have not been verified totill date. In his short life time he independently evaluated approximately 3900 results. Besides his published work, Ramanujan left behind several notebooks, which have been the object of much study. In 1918, he became the first Indian to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. His findings have recently been applied to physics, where his theta function is crucial to string theory. The Ramanujan Journal was founded in 1997 to publish mathematical research.

Keywords: Number theory, composite number, theory of partition.

1. Introduction

On December 22, 1887, Ramanujan, one of India's most brilliant mathematicians, was born in Erode, Tamil Nadu. K. SrinivasaIyengar, his father, worked as a clerk at a sari business in Kumbakonam. He made historic contributions in the field of infinite series, number theories, analysis and fractions despite of no formal education in pure mathematics . He even provided solutions to mathematical problems that were deemed to be unsolvable by other geniuses. At the age of five years on 1st October 1892, he enrolled in a local school as a student. He showed bursts of brilliance that no ordinary child would have displayed at that age. He completed his primary education at the age of ten and then continued his study at Town High School.

In 1903, he borrowed a library copy of G. S. Carr's collection of 5,000 theorems, A Synopsis of Elementary Consequences in Applied and Pure Mathematics, from a friend. He studied the contents of this book in detail. The book is generally acknowledged as a key

component in developing his genius. At the age of sixteen, he got scholarship. Due to his extreme love for mathematics, he failed in the other subjects and lost his scholarship. So, due to financial problems he left his studies and worked as an account clerk in the workplace of the Madras Port Trust. Mathematicians G. H. Hardy and J. E. Littlewood later acknowledged his work, and he moved to England in 1914. In 1916, Cambridge University gave him a B.A. (later called Ph.D.) for his research on extremely composite numbers. He had health problems when working with his colleagues Hardy and Littlewood, when he was at his finest. He was admitted to a Cambridge hospital and diagnosed with tuberculosis and vitamin deficiencies. After two years of struggle, he recovered and decided to return to India in 1919. However, the improvement was just temporary, as his condition deteriorated again following his arrival in Bombay, and he died on April 26, 1920.

In his short life, Ramanujan made ground-breaking contribution in the field of mathematics. His mathematical notion transformed and reconstructed mathematics of 20th century. A peer-reviewed scientific journal 'The Ramanujan Journal' launched in 1997 to publish work in the field of mathematics. In India, year 2012 was celebrated as National Mathematics Year in the memory of genius mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. The Prime Minister likewise declared that December 22 would be renowned as National Mathematics Day from 2012 forward in the honour for his influence in the field of Arithmetic and to promote the magnificent tradition of Indian mathematics. Ramanujan was deeply religious and gave all praise of his considerable mathematical volumes to divinity: "An equation for me has no meaning unless it expresses a thought of God". In short, legendary Indian Mathematician Ramanujan did extraordinary and remarkable work which have applications in the field of science and technology.

2. Highly Composite Number

A natural number n is a highly combined number if $m \leq n \Rightarrow d(m) \leq d(n)$

where $d(n)$ signifies the number of separate positive divisors of n . The following table depicts the first little highly compound numbers and the integer of their distinct positive divisors.

Table I

N	1	*2	3	4	*6	8	10	*12	18	20	24	30	36	48
$d(n)$	1	2	2	3	4	4	4	6	6	6	8	8	9	10
Prime Factorization		2	3	2^2	$2 \cdot 3$	2^3	$2 \cdot 5$	$2^2 \cdot 3$	$2 \cdot 3^2$	$2^2 \cdot 5$	$2^3 \cdot 3$	$2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$	$3^2 \cdot 4$	$2^4 \cdot 3$

The asterisk-denoted numbers are superior extremely composite numbers. Superior very composite number is a natural number with more divisors than any other number scaled relative to some positive power of the number itself.

3. Hardy-Ramanujan Number

The Hardy-Ramanujan number is discovered after a sketch of G.H. Hardy, a British mathematician who had visited S. Ramanujan in hospital. The sketch is a part of Ramanujan's profile 'The Man Who Recognized Infinity' by Robert Kanigel. Ramanujan was wizard of mathematics and played with numbers.

$$1729 = 1^3 + 12^3 = 10^3 + 9^3$$

It is the minimum natural integer which can be conveyed as the sum of binary cubes in binary various ways. Generalization of this idea developed the notion of "taxicab numbers". Recently, application of this magic number used in formulation of theory of elliptical curves for solving several major Diophantine equations and an analogous problem involving fourth power.

4. Number Theory

The contribution of Ramanujan in number theory is remarkable. Theta function and modular equations formulated by him have applications in the field of number theory. He also worked on magic squares, theory of partitions, triangular number and Diophantine equations. Hardy-Ramanujan 'circle method' which has been described in one of his notebooks has applications in number theory. Ramanujan ideas of number theory have application in Cryptography.

4.1 Magic squares

Ramanujan designed a super magic square. The top most row in this magic square is his birthdate (December 22, 1887). This is a fabulous magic square since not only ensure the

rows, columns, and diagonals add up to the equal integer, then the four corners, the four internal squares (17, 9, 24, 89), the two middle numbers of first and last rows (12, 18, 86, 23), and the two middle numbers of first and last columns (88, 10, 25, 16) all add up to the sum of 139.

22	12	18	87
88	17	9	25
10	24	89	16
19	86	23	11

4.2 Theory of Partition

Ramanujan's fascination for magic squares led him to work on the theory of partitions. Three papers on the theory of partitions were published in the years 1919, 1920 and 1921. Suppose $p(n)$ denotes partition function, definite as the integer of ways of articulating n as a sum of natural numbers $\leq n$.

For example,

$$1 = 1$$

$$2 = 2 = 1 + 1$$

$$3 = 3 = 2 + 1 = 1 + 1 + 1$$

$$4 = 4 = 2 + 2 = 3 + 1 = 2 + 1 + 1 = 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$$

$$5 = 5 = 1 + 4 = 2 + 3 = 1 + 1 + 3 = 1 + 2 + 2 = 1 + 1 + 1 + 2 = 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$$

and so on. As n increases, $p(n)$ becomes larger and larger. The following table describes the values of $p(n)$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots, 10$.

Table II

n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$p(n)$	1	2	3	5	7	11	15	22	30	42

About the dividers of a natural quantity, G. H. Hardy and E. M. Wright remarked as, “in spite of the definition of $p(n)$, not very much is known about its arithmetic properties”.

5. Recognition

- Stamp released by the Govt. in 1962.
- ‘The Ramanujan Journal’ launched in 1997 to publish work in the field of mathematics.
- Year 2012 was declared as National Mathematics Year by Govt. of India.
- December 22nd has been celebrated as National Mathematics Day since 2012 onwards in the honour for Ramanujan’s contribution in the field of Mathematics.
- Tamil Nadu govt. celebrated 22nd December 2017 as ‘State IT Day’.
- SASTRA Ramanujan Prize-Awarded to young Mathematician up to age of 32 every year.
- ICTP Ramanujan Prize- Awarded to an investigator from an emerging country less than 45 years of age who has showed outstanding study.

6. Some other contributions

Apart from the contributions described above, he operated in some other parts of mathematics such as hypergeometric series, continued fractions, analysis, congruence’s, asymptotic expansions and their applications in the field of science and technology. He independently invented Bernoulli numbers and using these numbers formulated the value of Euler’s constant up to 15 decimal places.

References

1. Ramanujan S.: Highly composite number. Proc. London Math. Soc. 2, XIV, 347–409 (1915).
2. Ramanujan S.: Some properties of Bernoulli’s number. J. Indian Math. Soc. III, 219–234 (1911).
3. Ramanujan S.: Squaring the circle. J. Indian Math. Soc. V, 132 (1913).
4. Ramanujan S.: Some properties of $p(n)$, the number of partitions of n . Proc. Camb.

- Phil. Soc. XIX, 207–210 (1919).
5. Hardy G. H.: The Indian Mathematician Ramanujan. The American Mathematical Monthly. 44, 137–155(1937).
 6. Hardy G. H., RamanujanS.: Twelve Lectures on Subjects Suggested by His Life and Work. American Math. Soc., Rhode Island (1999).
 7. Robert K.: The Man Who Knew Infinity: a Life of the Genius Ramanujan. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York (1991).
 8. RamanujanS.: Question 464. J. Indian Math. Soc. 5, 120 (1919).
 9. RamanujanS.: Collected papers of Ramanujan. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge(1927).
 10. RamasamyA. M. S.: Ramanujan's equation. J. Ramanujan Math. Soc. 7, 133-153 (1992).
 11. Berndt, Bruce C. :An Overview of Ramanujan's Notebooks. Charlemagne and His Heritage: 1200 Years of Civilization and Science in Europe. Ed. P. L. Butzer, W. Oberschelp, and H. Th. Jongen. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 119–146 (1998).
 12. Berndt, Bruce C. and George E. Andrews.:Ramanujan's Lost Notebook, Part I. New York: Springer (2005).
 13. Berndt, Bruce C. and George E. Andrews.:Ramanujan's Lost Notebook, Part II. New York: Springer (2008).
 14. Berndt, Bruce C. and Robert A. Rankin.: Ramanujan: Letters and Commentary. Vol. 9. Providence, Rhode Island: American Mathematical Society (1995).
 15. Berndt, Bruce C., and Robert A. Rankin.: Ramanujan: Essays and Surveys. Vol. 22. Providence, Rhode Island: American Mathematical Society (2001).
 16. Berndt, Bruce C.: Number Theory in the Spirit of Ramanujan. Providence, Rhode Island: American Mathematical Society (2006).
 17. Berndt, Bruce C.: Ramanujan's Notebooks, Part I. New York: Springer (1985).
 18. Berndt, Bruce C.: Ramanujan's Notebooks, Part II. New York: Springer (1999).
 19. Berndt, Bruce C.: Ramanujan's Notebooks, Part III. New York: Springer (2004).
 20. Berndt, Bruce C.: Ramanujan's Notebooks, Part IV. New York: Springer (1993).
 21. Berndt, Bruce C.: Ramanujan's Notebooks, Part V. New York: Springer (2005).