

OBJECTIVE TESTING OF AN UNUSUAL MENTAL PHENOMENON

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Bertrand Russell once defined mathematics as "the subject in which we never know what we are saying is true". However that may be, those who can do sums with great speed are generally regarded as people having efficient brains. This communication reports the case of a 35-year old subject, (M. G. Arlis) who on repeated testing solved unerringly in a matter of seconds, problems in addition, subtraction, multiplication, extraction of square roots and so on, which ordinary subjects took many minutes to solve. Wherever possible his answers were checked by means of a calculator (CASIO fx - 31).

The extraordinary speed of mathematical computation of this subject may be a function of a peculiar property of his brain or a property of the particular method of computation he employs or both. He claims that the speed of calculation is a property of the method of computation he has invented. His claim is capable of being experimentally falsified and therefore it merits scientific attention. Before putting his claim to the test, it seems desirable to confirm that the mental phenomenon he exhibits is genuine by exposing him to the widest possible critical scrutiny of the scientific community.

The subject has consented to present himself for such a public scrutiny.