A Few Brief Remarks on the Aerodynamic Properties of Addition

In all attempts to prove that $2 + 2 = 4$ wind velocity has never been taken into account.

The addition of integers is indeed only possible in sufficiently calm weather, so that the first 2, once it has been set down, stays in place, until one can set down the little cross, then the second 2, then the little wall on which to sit and contemplate, and finally the result. After that the wind can blow, two and two have become four.

But as soon as the wind springs up, the first number lies on the ground. And try as you may, the same happens to the second. What is, then, the value of

$$2 \quad + \quad 2 \quad = \quad ?$$

Current mathematics is not able to give us an answer.

Now if the wind raged, the first number would fly away, then the little cross, and so on. But let us suppose that it subsided after the little cross, then we could end up with the absurdity $2 = 4$.

The wind doesn't just blow hither, it also blows thither. The number one, an especially light number for which a whiff is already enough to displace it, can then drop into a calculation where it does not belong, even against the will of the person doing the calculation. That was foreseen by the Russian mathematician Dostoevski when he dared to say that he had a weakness for $2 + 2 = 5$.

The rules of decimal notation also prove that the Hindus must have faced our axiom more or less consciously. Zero rolls away easily, it is sensitive to the slightest whiff. That is why it is not taken into account when placed to the left of a number: $02 = 2$, since zero always takes off before the end of the calculation. It is only meaningful on the right, since there the preceding numerals can hold it in place and prevent it from flying away. Thus $20 = 2$, as long as the wind doesn't exceed several meters per second.

We will now draw some practical conclusions from these observations; as soon as one anticipates atmospherics, it is good to give one's addition an aerodynamic form. It is also advisable to write it down from left to right, as well as to start as close to the inner margin of the piece of paper as possible. When the wind then makes a calculation in process slide, one can almost always catch it before it reaches the margin. Using this method one will, even in a equinoctial storm, reach results such as the following:

$$2 \quad + \quad 2 \quad = \quad 5$$

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