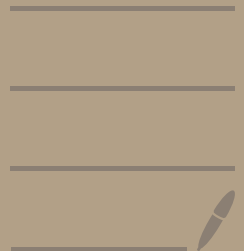L2 - 09/08/2024

What is Mathematics?

सोयम देवदत्तः।

He is Devdutta

Imagine an acquaintance Devdutt whom you have met only once in IIT Bombay. Consider your thought process on meeting him 25 years later.

Earlier $\longrightarrow$ Later

- Silky Hair
- Well-built

- Bald
- Frail

The physical characteristics of the person have completely changed. Yet, you recognise him as the Devdutt you had met 25 years ago.

Why?

The mathematical techique being
used in the situation is
Abstraction.

Abstraction
Removing the inessential features
which can be contradictory

eg – Devdutt being bald after
many years doesn't change
his identity.

Mathematics
Study of nature via precise,
symbolic, logical abstraction.

- 'Study of nature' disqualifies
music.
- 'abstraction' disqualifies Physics.