

# CARL FRIEDRICH GAUSS

*Gauss is said to be the greatest mathematician since Isaac Newton (some saw he's the greatest of all time)*

## Biography

- Born 1777 in Germany
  - ↳ His mother was illiterate and never recorded the date of his birth, remembering only that he had been born on a Wednesday, eight days before the Feast of the Ascension (which occurs 39 days after Easter). Gauss later solved this puzzle about his birthdate in the context of finding the date of Easter, deriving methods to compute the date in both past and future years
- Died 1855 in Germany of a heart attack



## Philosophy (major ideas)

He conceived spiritual life in the whole universe as a great system of law penetrated by **eternal truth**, and from this source he gained the firm confidence that death does not end all. Gauss believed in an omniscient source of creation

The goal of science is the pursuit of truth