

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP P1, MAA Session on Philosophy of Mathematics

1003-P1-522      **Homer S. White\*** (hwhite0@georgetowncollege.edu), Department of Mathematics, Campus Box 311, Georgetown College, Georgetown, KY 40324. *Philosophy of Mathematics in Classical India: an Overview*. Preliminary report.

We will offer an overview of the little that is currently known about the philosophical reflection on mathematics in classical India, comparing typical Indian views on the nature and purpose of mathematics with those that have tended to prevail in the West. We will raise, and to some extent suggest answers to, a variety of questions: were Indian views of mathematics overridingly empiricist? Why does mathematics appear to have played no role in classical Indian philosophy, even in technical disciplines such as logic and ontology? Were rigorous proofs important to Indian mathematicians? What were the criteria for an acceptable proof? (Received September 19, 2004)