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Youthful achievement in mathematics.

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Summary: Momentous mathematical achievement is frequently associated with those who are advanced in years. Some of the greatest of achievers were blessed with a long and highly productive life. One need look no farther than the mathematical giant Newton (1642–1727), the prolific Gauss (1777–1855), or the insightful mathematician-physicist Einstein (1879–1955). And others too, say, the gifted applied mathematician, Galileo (1546–1642). Yet all of the mathematicians above, whether theoretically or practically inclined (or both), made their marks on mathematics at a very early age. Others did not live to a ripe old age, however, thus raising the question as to how a long and mathematically productive life might have unfolded. Here, for example, are Galois (1811–1832), Abel (1802–1829), and Eisenstein (1823–1852). Note that mathematical distinction is associated with all the mathematicians above going back to their early years. Their portraits must have a special place in a modern era hall of fame.

Classification: A30

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