

Math 198, Spring 2003

UNDERGRADUATE MATHEMATICS FORUM

Monday, 4:15–5:15 PM

Beckman 134

PROFESSOR GU

In this course, students are exposed to the mathematics research literature, and gain experience presenting and critiquing oral presentations.

Each week, two students will present material based on their own research or on a topic that has been published in a mathematics journal. Typical talks should last about 20 minutes plus up to 5 minutes for questions from the class. The speaker should spend a minute or two describing the journal that the article came from, or if based on the student's own research, a journal that proved useful in her or his investigations. Use of overhead transparencies is strongly encouraged.

Early in the semester, students will declare the topic that they plan to speak about. They should then locate an interesting article on that topic using a search engine such as:

- Math SciNet, located at <http://www.ams.org/mathscinet/search>
- Web of Science, located at <http://wos.isiglobalnet.com>
- Journal Search, located at <http://www.math.hmc.edu/journalsearch/>
- Your own legs! Check out the math journals on the second floor of Sprague Library or the first floor of Pomona's Seeley G. Mudd Library.

For each talk, three students and one professor will fill out a short evaluation of the talk.

Here is how Math Forum will be run this Spring.

- You have a choice of whether to attend the weekly Monday meetings, or the weekly Wednesday colloquium. The colloquiums will be held at Scripps College, Humanities Auditorium this semester, Wednesdays, 4:15–5:30 PM. Refreshments prior will be in the back of the same room.
- Out of your two semesters of Math Forum, you can't choose the Wednesday colloquium twice.
- Attendance will be taken each class. To pass the class, students are allowed one absence. (Missing one student's talk counts as half an absence.) Students can make up absences (or earn credit for future absences) by attending certain extra-curricular mathematical activities. For example, students who attend the Mount Baldy conference or a local MAA meeting will earn up to 3 credits.
- For the Monday option: students will be required to present once during the semester, on a paper or topic of their choice.
- For the Wednesday option: attendance will be taken each time. Students will be required to turn in three colloquium critiques over the course of the semester. To encourage active listening, at three of the colloquia, students should submit to Prof. Gu a written summary of the talk, describing its key points, and indicating those parts of the talk that were most interesting, and where the speaker could have used some improvement. The first, second, and third summary must be turned in by the end of September, October, and November, respectively.

Here are the two url addresses where the colloquium is posted weekly:

<http://www.math.pomona.edu/activities.htm>

<http://www.calendar.claremont.edu/>

You may print out a copy and take a look before you go to the talk.

This is what I would like you to do today:

1. Please tell me whether you want to come to the Monday meetings or the Wednesday colloquium.
2. Assign Talks for Monday meetings.
3. Regardless of your decision, I would like as many people as possible to come to the Monday meetings for the next two Mondays. Thesis students will be presenting work on their researches, so let's try our best to support them. Monday @ 4:15, Beckman B134.
4. Have photos taken for our bulletin board.
5. If you are going to come on Mondays, please let me know if you have an idea about what you would like to present. I'd be happy to help you find a topic.