

*Fear Math? Fear No More!*  
*Analysis of Math Anxiety in*  
*MATH 1010 Students*

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# *What's the prob Bob?*

## *Problem*

- Student's enrolled in university level math are not succeeding.
- They are scared of math.
- This fear is causing creating a road block in the academic success of many bright, well qualified students.



# *I can read!*

## *Literature Review*

- People have been studying math anxiety for over 30 years, but research has stalled in the last 10 years.
- Current views of mathematics anxiety in the academic world
  - varying tests for the existence of mathematics anxiety
  - Causes of mathematics anxiety range across a broad list of possibilities
  - Methods of overcoming math anxiety are very extensive.



# Let's Ask!

## Methodology

- Who: 283 MATH 1010 students
- What: information regarding level of anxiety
- Where: UNT
- How: analysis paper interviews



# Looking at the Numbers

## Findings

- 31% report that they enjoy math
- 40% consider themselves proficient in math
- 55.5% report that math "makes them anxious"
- 55.8% think they suffer from math anxiety



# On a scale of 1-5...

- Overall average anxiety level: 2.07
- Avg anxiety of "anxious" students:  
3.76
  - 25.2% report a 5
  - 39.4% report a 4
  - 22.6% report a 3
  - 12.3% report a 2
  - .6% report a 1



# *Of those that report enjoying math... (31%)*

- 64% consider themselves proficient
- 29.2% report feeling anxious about math
- 34% report suffering from math anxiety
- .9951 is the average anxiety score



# *Of those that report not enjoying math... (69%)*

- 23.2% consider themselves proficient
- 67.5% report feeling anxious about math
- 66% report suffering from math anxiety
- 2.59 is the average anxiety score



# *Of those that report that math makes them anxious...*

- 16.6% enjoy math
- 20.4% consider themselves proficient
- 89% think they suffer from math anxiety
- 3.881 is the average anxiety level.



*What do all these  
numbers mean!?!?*



# *Some More Numbers*

- 9% of students develop math anxiety in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 16% of students develop math anxiety in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 25% of students develop math anxiety their first year in college



# Conclusions from Other Research

- Math anxiety may or may not be a disease.
- Math anxiety is “treatable”.
- Math anxiety affects all different kinds of people, but is more debilitating for some than others.



# *What do we do now?*

- Clearly, we need a change.
- Paradigm Shift
  - Students
  - Faculty
  - The World!



Questions?



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