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
- 0.9951 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 3rd or 4th grade
- 16% of students develop math anxiety in 9th or 10th 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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