

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

So You Think You Can Math

What to expect from an REU and how it
can benefit your math career.

What is an REU?

Research Experience for Undergraduates



Summer program
introduces
undergraduates to
research



Full time for 6-10
weeks



Stipend!

Many programs
provide room and/or
meals in addition to
the stipend



Small group of
students with a
mentor

Work with a faculty
member, post doc or
grad student on a
real research
project



Social events

My background

- ▶ 1 REU at my undergrad institute
 - ▶ Not a formal program, worked with one professor
 - ▶ only people from my school
- ▶ 2 REUs at UCLA
 - ▶ Much larger program
 - ▶ Students from all over the country
 - ▶ Multiple projects part of the program

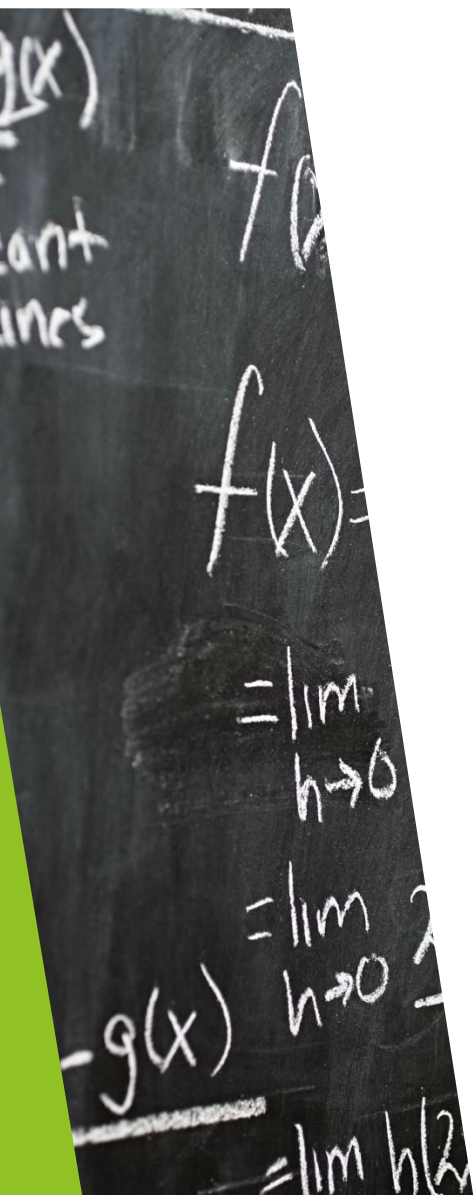
Introduces
you to
Research

How to read a research paper

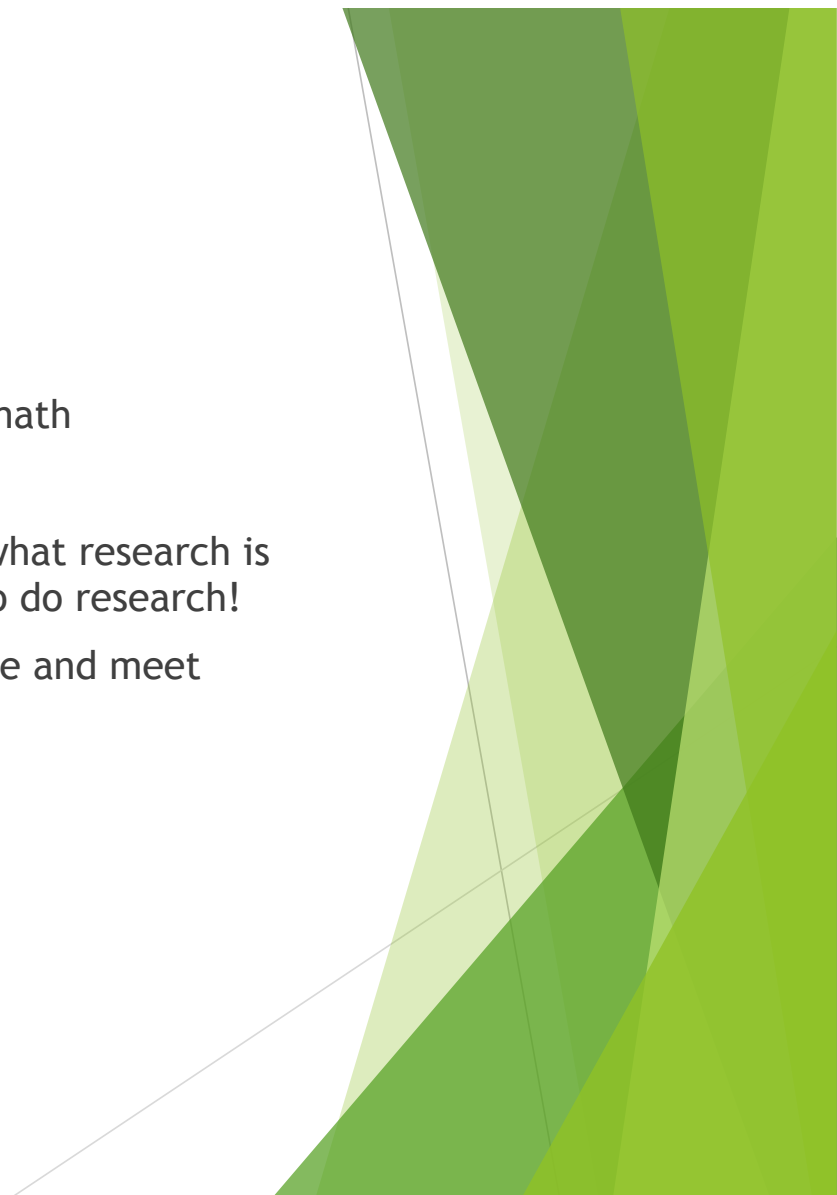
Intro to programming languages

Give short talks on your research

Write academic paper/report



- ▶ Get to experience the creative part of math
- ▶ Learn SO much math
- ▶ An REU is designed for people to learn what research is like—no one expects you to know how to do research!
- ▶ I got to see what a research school is like and meet graduate students



My takeaways

Learned I
wanted to go to
grad school

Feel more
connected to
math community

Not liking a
project does not
mean I don't
like research

REUs are really fun!

Non-math related

- ▶ Live in a different place
- ▶ Frisbee Fridays
- ▶ Game Nights
- ▶ Shakespeare in the park

Math related

- ▶ Working with a small group
- ▶ Nice to have people to brainstorm with



Things I am learning & wish I knew earlier

The way you learn
math constantly
changes

Research is a different
skill than learning for
a class

Asking questions is one
of the most valuable
tools

At some point you will
not know the answer—
that means you're
studying something
worthwhile

The background features a large, abstract geometric design on the right side. It consists of several overlapping triangles and polygons in various shades of green, ranging from a light lime green to a dark forest green. The design is set against a white background that occupies the left half of the slide.

Questions?

Feel free to contact me:
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