

ABSTRACT

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The abstract should be in the form of a brief and concise statement of the main results or points of view of the paper, without demonstrations and with a minimum of formulae. It should not exceed 100 words and should be compressed if possible into a single paragraph. It should be written in the third person. The abstract should be typewritten and in a form suitable for immediate publication in the MONTHLY.

A course was outlined for students whose major does not require a mathematics course and who have only minimum mathematical preparation. Objectives of such a course include: giving students an appreciation of mathematics; presenting interesting mathematics, which can be achieved by maximizing the ratio of ideas and theorems to definitions; letting the student solve some real mathematical problems, specifically letting him make discoveries, formulate conjectures, and prove theorems; and making the students aware that mathematics is a fruitful field for research (unsolved problems should be stated wherever possible). This was illustrated by examples, including the representation of fractions by sums of distinct unit fractions, the representation of fractions with odd denominators by sums of distinct unit fractions with odd denominators, by a discussion of perfect numbers, the four-color problem and others.

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ABSTRACT OF PAPER

Title of Paper: "Mathematics for Liberal Arts
Students"

Time.....60.....minutes.

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Member of Mathematical Association
of America: Yes No