
ADRIAN CHITAN, Western University

Mentoring Success: Lessons from a Graduate-Undergraduate Model

Drawing on experience as a DRP(directed reading program) organizer and mentor, this talk addresses the core challenge of scoping rewarding yet feasible undergraduate research projects within a single semester. I will discuss effective project design methods that structure the term into distinct phases for background mastery and focused investigation of deep results through examples experienced locally. This approach enables mentors to design "failsafe" projects that guarantee positive learning outcomes, build student confidence, and provide techniques for successfully transitioning undergraduates into self-directed mathematical research, specifically from the graduate student position.