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Undergraduate students' perceptions of mathematical proofs. Preliminary report.

Although proving is an indispensable activity in mathematics, there are serious difficulties encountered by mathematics undergraduates in engaging with proof in the right way. In this talk, we will present an initial analysis of a sample of mathematics undergraduate students which will describe their declared perceptions about proof. We would also describe a qualitative study of a sub sample of these students which will analyze their actual perceptions of proof as well as their proof practices. We would then compare their self-declared perceptions of proof with their personal inclinations in proving. (Received February 22, 2016)