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Broadly construed, Platonism is a philosophical understanding of abstract mathematical objects as existing in a plane outside the tangible world. This stands in contrast with the view that mathematical concepts exist only insofar as they are used to describe worldly objects. While the philosophical details may be esoteric, the authors believe it is reasonable to make a basic assessment of one's place on the Platonist continuum through a short series of directed questions.

In this study, the investigators used a short anonymous survey with a group of student volunteers who have completed courses in the calculus sequence, and plan to analyze the relationship, if any, between their place on the continuum and their success in the course. The investigators hope these research findings will help to determine whether it may be prescriptive to address philosophical questions in early mathematical coursework in order to improve performance in advanced mathematics courses. (Received September 17, 2013)