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How to pick a research project?

This is tough, one of the hardest parts of research.

**WANT**
- Something that you can get obsessed over
  - easiest to determine
  - harder to navigate
  - with multiple collaborators

**SHOULD**
- People will actually read/use/cite your results (even if not immediately)
  - harder to determine
  - requires knowledge of literature
  - talking to experts helps

**CAN**
- You're able to get the project done in a finite amount of time;
  - e.g. by job deadlines for junior mathematicians
  - hardest to determine
  - easier to navigate with multiple collaborators

Not-so-obvious point: has to build upon prior knowledge/skill set. There's a place in time & energy when learning new material.

Obvious point: project should not already be done by others.

For students:
- Off the beaten path: No Competition!