- **Read with a purpose.** Before reading decide what you want: to learn? consolidate? clarify? find an overview of some material?
- **Be an active reader.** Read with pen and paper at hand, checking the text and verifying what the author asserts is true.
- **Don't read math like a novel.**
- Learn **when to reread** and **when to move on**.

1. **Skim** briefly for an overview of what you're about to read; and **identify what is important**, looking for assumptions, definitions, theorems, and examples that get used repeatedly. In particular: look for things that allow you to calculate!
2. Stop and **ask questions**, like "Why does the theory hinge on this particular definition/equation/theorem?" Helps you focus on what you want from the text.
3. Now do a more **careful reading**, stopping periodically to review; read statements first, and return to proofs later.
4. **Be active**: check author's computations, do examples, expand on steps the author skipped. If applicable, do exercises and problems.
5. **Reflect and summarize.** Try to make connections to things you already know, or process what new things you can do with what you've read. Then write a summary of the text with these things in mind.