

Mathematical Autobiography

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1 Introduction

I was born in Vietnam, on April 1st 1982, and the oldest brother in my family. Both my mother and father are peasants, and my younger brother is the second year student of the Ho Chi Minh National University of Natural Sciences. I studied high school in Binh Phuoc, a small province in the south of Vietnam, and got my bachelor degree from Mathematics Department, Ho Chi Minh National University of Natural Sciences, Vietnam.

2 Role of Mathematics in my life

As a discipline, Mathematics offers beauty, elegance and the opportunity to make deep and profound contributions to wide range of disciplines. Mathematics is really an interesting science. It is because both romance and power could be found in mathematics. In addition, it is not only glamorous as dreams are but also real as life. Moreover, it makes me happy every time I solve a hard problem. Also I can live by myself by teaching mathematics without depending on my family.

However, my first chance to study real mathematics only came when I entered the Department of Mathematics of Vietnam National University at Ho Chi Minh City in 2001. Advanced calculus, linear algebra, complex analysis and probability were really enjoyable subjects. I was also attracted by linear programming, modern algebra, ring theory, field and Galois theory. These subjects provided me with a good background for higher studies.

At university, it was very fortunate for me to work under the guidance of Professors Bui Xuan Hai and Nguyen Viet Dong, from whom I concentrated on group theory, Lie algebras, field theory, ring theory, homological algebra, representation theory and linear groups, which are major topics I am currently studying.

Moreover, from my professors I learned how useful mathematics is. In 2005, I officially submitted my Bachelor of Science thesis under the supervision of Prof. Bui Xuan Hai. The major objectives of my thesis were to deeply understand the C-normal definition and propose some applications of C-normal concept in solving some problems related to the group solvability and supersolvability,

especially for finite groups. At that time, I figured out that there is no need to solve a new problem in mathematics but solving an old one in another way also gives great significance. To me it was just a beginning. Later, I have been joining a project with my advisor on linear groups and keeping working at group theory simultaneously. After the graduation, I have been a Teaching Assistant (TA) for linear algebra, higher algebra, advanced calculus and numerical analysis courses at the Mathematics department, Faculty of Foundation Sciences - Ho Chi Minh University of Technical Education (HUTE). I have achieved a great deal of experience in teaching skills. In my opinion, knowledge and enthusiasm are of great importance but actually not enough for a good lecturer. In fact, a good lecturer is required to have good communication skills with students and understand their difficulties and expectation as well. This is a primary reason for me to look for a university where I could pursue a Master program and Mathematics Department of Ohio University is the first choice of mine because it has a good studying environment with many active research groups such as Dr.Martin's group. Particularly, there are researchers doing the same interest as I do. For instance, many Vietnamese elder brothers such as Vu Quoc Phong, Dinh Van Huynh, Dinh Quang Hai, and Cuong Nguyen are successful in their studying and researching. If I have such a good chance to study, I will go further in Algebra. I want to follow in their footsteps. With my abilities, I strongly believe that I will work well and make significant contributions to Mathematics.