Mathematical Autobiography

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Before getting into the details of my Mathematical background, I would like to tell few things about me. My name is Vittal Pai and I am from a place called Bangalore which is known as the Silicon Valley of India. I completed my Bachelors in Computer Science Engineering in 2004. Then I joined Cisco System Inc's INDIA division as a Software Engineer and worked there for little more than 3 years developing software for Cisco routers. Currently I am pursuing my Masters in Math under Computational Track. I am very interested in (Computer) Networking Technology and everything related to its design/development.

Mathematics has been an integral part of my life till today since my childhood days and will be a part in future also. For example math is involved in my (rather our) everyday life at least in the basic form like addition, subtraction in daily money matters :). In terms of academics, I was introduced to basic mathematics like numbers and various operations on them in my school. Later in middle and high schools I learnt the basics of Algebra, calculus, set theory, graph theory...etc. In my 11th and 12th (called as pre-university education) I got to know differentiation, integration and advanced concepts in algebra, calculus...etc. Even in my Bachelors, I had to take four wholesome math courses other than math involved in various (most of) other courses. All through I have enjoyed mathematics which is very evident from my scores in the subjects throughout.

During my Bachelors education (specifically while studying subjects like Electronics, Computer Networks and Cryptography...etc) and majorly during my stint in Cisco Systems, I realized that Mathematics and Computer Science (CS) go together hand-in-hand and it is impossible to be "at least

good" in CS without being good in mathematics. That is the reason I chose to join Math dept under computational track for my Masters so that I can learn both Math and CS together.

I feel working for Dr. Martin's research group will help me better my math and CS knowledge because the research projects involve a lot of work in both these areas. Also, it will add to my existing experience a new dimension and probably more languages like Python. I hope to contribute, learn as well as enjoy working/studying here to the maximum extent.