

Mathematical Autobiography

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I was born and brought up in Shanghai, China. I joined Ohio University in Fall 2007, right after completing my bachelor degree in Mathematics. Now I am pursuing a master degree in Mathematics, pure track.

From primary school to high school, mathematics is easily one of my favorite subjects. I particularly liked the problems such as simplification, inequality, geometry, trigonometry, sum of series, classic probability and whatever has more than one method. But I did not expect to become a math major until my senior year in high school. In those days, I was conflicted if I should be an architecture major which was recommended by some of my teachers, since I spent several years learning Chinese painting and pencil sketch and pretty good at both. It seems a great combination of my strength in art and science subjects, but I really dislike lifeless graph by ruler and compass. At that time, Mr Shi happened to be my senior year math instructor. He is the sort of the person that once you met him and took his math class you would never forget him and what he taught. His class greatly increased my interest and desire to go further in mathematics. So, I determined to give it a try.

Basically my major courses in college consist of three parts: pure math, applied math and computer science. I was taught Analysis, Algebra, Topology, Differential Equation, Statistics, Modeling, Computational Method, Optimization, C programming, Data Structure and Database, etc. Personally, I prefer doing proofs for some reasons. I also quite enjoy reading the proof part of the theorem. I often consider it a way to communicate with those great mathematicians who did those proofs. The permanent charm of mathematics is that when you get started, you can never figure out how far and how deep you need to go so that you can get a full picture of this subject. So going to graduate school is the best choice to take some years to continue understanding and thinking about math.

This is my second year at OU. I spent most of my time taking courses and teaching in the first year. My current interests are still varied, though I am trying to narrow my interests. Currently I am taking Group Theory and Numerical Analysis, because I want to know more about Abstract Algebra and get some rigorous proof training in Algebra, and for Numerical Analysis, I am interested

to get some classic and modern ideas of numerical methods as well as to get some practice in programming. I am also considering an actuarial career where my mathematical knowledge can be applied.

I decided to join this research group because I am always ready to learn something new and challenge myself. I have stayed in the history of mathematics for quite a long time. It is the time for me to come back to its current world and take a look. Since I have never been in a research group before, this is an excited start and there are a lot to learn.

My VARK scores are: Visual 6, Aural 4, Read/Write 5 and Kinesthetic 6. I have a multimodal (VARK) learning preference.