

Mathematical Autobiography

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From small days I always had an interest in mathematics. My favorite subject in each grade of school used to be mathematics and also was considered to be good at it by my teachers at school. It interested me so much that I choose to do mathematics in Advanced Level examination. Hence, I did pure mathematics, applied mathematics, Physics and Chemistry as my subjects for my Advanced Level examination. I always used to win the mathematics prize in my class and finished my school winning the best physical science student of the year.

Since, finance is a subject where mathematics is applied very much, I did a diploma on management course which is concentrated on finance during the break between Advanced level examination and starting university. I was selected to the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, which is one of the most prestigious universities in Sri Lanka to do my Bachelor of Science based on the grades I obtained in my Advanced level examination. Having my interest in mathematics, I chose pure mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics and computer science. In my third year being eligible to specialize in any of the subject I did in the first two years, I opted to do the Financial, Business and computational mathematics special degree.

During the under graduate years I studied , differential equations, optimization, numerical analysis, real analysis and algebra from mathematics and from statistics: hypothesis testing, Analysis of variance, Regression analysis etc. Having the above mentioned mathematical background I wanted to apply them in the practical world though I also wanted to learn them further. Hence, I joined the quantitative section of an investment research outsourcing company where mathematical modeling was involved. During the short stay at the company I learned a little bit of the finance world and how mathematics is applied. Therefore, I wanted to explore more on mathematics so that it would be easy to apply myself in the practical world and also gain more knowledge. That being the case, I applied to Ohio University, Athens for masters in applied mathematics.

Fall 2008, I started my masters with the goal of completing it and gaining knowledge to enter the practical world of mathematics. With an applied mathematics background, I want to gain knowledge for the future as well as apply myself in real world practical problems so that I would be able to use the knowledge I gained throughout the years. At present having completed one year in my masters I have done some courses in Differential equations, numerical analysis and statistics. With all the courses I have done up to now, I am also considering an actuarial career at the moment and would like to decide as soon as possible one path to follow. Also during the period of study in my masters I got the opportunity to teach undergraduate course which was a new teaching experience for me.

Now in my second year of study in my Masters I would like to join Dr Martin Mohlenkamp's research group which I think will help me a lot in understanding the research side and also will give me the opportunity to learn more and improve in my inter personal skills by working in a group. Therefore I think this research experience will be an additional benefit beyond the masters in mathematics I am doing at present.