Mathematical Autobiography

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I was born in Seoul, Korea. I came to the United States on April 5, 1992 from South Korea. When my father told me that my family had the opportunity to immigrate to the United States, I jumped at the chance because I always wanted to study in the U.S.A. This was my chance to achieve my dream of studying.

In March 1998, I received my B.S. of mathematics from UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles). I loved the math classes so much that I decided to major in Mathematics. I always felt satisfaction and joy when I was in math classes, and I also liked teaching mathematics to other students. I took many upper division math classes (Numerical analysis, real analysis, algebra, statistics, game theory, linear programming,linear algebra, ODE, etc) because I wanted to go to a graduate school. Also, I studied hard because I was studying what I loved. Every math class moved me closer to my goal.

In the fall of 1998, I was admitted to the graduate school of UCSD (University of California, San Diego). I received a M.A. of Applied Mathematics in June 2000. My area was Numerical analysis and Numerical PDE. After I received my master degree, I returned to UCLA for my Ph.D degree in September 2000. However, during my second year, I started my own business, Thinkers Club, LLC, with my friend. For that year, I went to UCLA for my graduate studies in the mornings, and I worked at my company in the afternoons and evenings. I couldn't study because I didn't have the time. Doing two things at the same time was a burden. I was defeated by my own greed of making money. I had to choose between school and work, and I chose work.

Although starting a company was not my dream, I learned many things. While working as one of the director, I learned patience, management, and the importance of working to achieve ones goal. In particular, I truly knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to obtain the dream that I gave up several years ago, to become a math professor to teach many more students the subject that I love. Therefore, I came back to school, and now I am studying Math(Applied) for my Ph.D degree.

For my master degree of UCSD, I passed two written comprehensive examination (Numerical analysis and PDE), so I didn't have the research experience. I am joining this research group with the hope that I will learn what is research in mathematics. Also, I want to find a good research topic which fits my skills.

The VARK questionnaire gave me the following score: Visual: 1, Aural: 5, Read/Writing:6 , and Kinesthetic: 4. I'm dominantly read-write. I would agree with that, but I do not think I agree with most of the scores.