

Mathematical Autobiography

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Jan. 12, 2010

1 My background

Looking back to my twenty seven years of life, I realize how important mathematics is to me-my whole life is related to it. Born with talent and enthusiasm for mathematics, which I probably got from my father, a successful accountant, I have excelled in mathematics throughout my life. However, I did not truly understand the subject's beauty until high school, during which I was inspired to explore this subject further and pursue a career in mathematics. My growing interest in mathematics eventually led me to enroll in Qingdao University, where I was able to choose from a full range of mathematical courses. In September 2006, I started a new chapter in my life. I became a Master Candidate of Applied Mathematics in University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST), where I got a precious chance to be exposed to higher level of mathematical knowledge. Last year I came to OU and started to pursue my Doctor's degree in Applied Mathematics.

2 My current interests and future goals

My current interest is mainly on Modeling in real life. Seeing the direct results of applied mathematics fueled my interest in utilizing my mathematical ability in a future career. Ultimately, I hope to be able to create mathematical models to help simulate physical, chemical, biological and financial phenomena more accurately. I plan to take the Comprehensive Exams in 2010.

3 Why I am participating in this project

In China I did lots of research on solutions of PDE. Now I'm very interested in other areas of Applied Mathematics, especially utilizing a computer to solve problems in real life. All the time I hope to be able to shed light on challenging problems related to extensive areas in which mathematics plays a key role. Furthermore, I will definitely improve my communication skills and get more teamwork experience from group discussion, which is very helpful for a Chinese student like me in my future career.

4 My preferred learning styles

From the VARK website, the result is that my learning style is a multimodal learning preference. But I prefer Visual Study Strategies, because it is more understandable for me. Actually I don't like read-write, however, as a Ph.D student, I have to read and write a lot.

5 Whatever else is relevant or interesting

Numbers are amazing. After I arrived at Athens, I asked many American students one same question: "Do you know what's the population of Shanghai, China?" But no one could give me the right answer. (The answer is more than 38 million including internal migration.)