

# To Youth Which Fades Away

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*To Memorize My College Life  
To Thank Those People I Deeply Love*

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Who am I?  
Where am I?  
Where do I come from?  
Where am I going?  
What is it all about?  
Why?  
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Most of us have been puzzled about these ultimate questions, at least when we are young and innocent. We live on this blue tiny dot floating in the vast ocean of universe, struggling with daily life under the shiny light from the sun. Sometimes, we are merely too busy to remember these questions. Life is so hard.

I still remember the first time I looked up to the stars in the sky, realizing that we are distantly related, they passed away millions years ago and turned into the glimmer to meet me for a second across the vast space and time. We are so tiny. The universe is so cruel. We are meant to live out our lives on this dust, experience all the happiness, sadness and then return to nothingness. Nothing lasts forever. What is it all about? I asked physics for answers, and then turned to mathematics, which seems to be more fundamental and essential. I am determined to step on this long journey, following thousands of heroes in the history of human civilization.

Time passed quickly. It seems like yesterday when I came to Peking University with those naive dreams and passion. Here in this campus, I tried to embrace the beauty of real mathematics from scratch, from basic calculus to geometric representation theory, from quintic equations to the mystery of Lie groups. Here in this campus, I met my best friends, my comrades, my advisors, and so many people I will never forget.

There are literally too many people for me to remember here. I deeply thank my (generalized) roommates for accompanying me through these four years. Let me write down their names (and nicknames). Yicheng Shi (big lion), Zuze Peng (cute pigeon), Yu Qiao (naughty duck), who shared the room 501 with me and created a “splendid dormitory culture” together. There are too many stories to record here. Xiaoyi Wang (doctorate), my closest friend and the boy with whom I spend most time. Zhuoni Chi (humorous frog) and Xin Wei (lovely cat), Yutao Xiong (cherry), Yihan Gao (Fe), Xinyin Zhang (cool pig). I still remember those days when we studied the Three Kingdoms history together. Ziyi Zhu, Xin Yuan, Zenan Liu. I can't imagine my college life without you and it is really sad that we will leave each other. It feels like the last episode of *The Big Bang Theory* or *Friends*.

Thank my best friends Yiyang Wang, Shiqing Xian, Zuo Lin, Zhaoxing Gu, Yiming Ma, Ruolin Qin, Jiaxin Dai, Chaowen Li, Jianxiang Tan, An Li, Yan Liu, Kangqi Ma, Yikun Tong, Kexin Liu, Songhao Xin, Xiao'ou Cheng, Jingzi Chang and so on. Special thanks to Zan Zhang, who have accompanied me for more than ten years. Thank you all for accompanying me through all the happiness and sadness. Without you, I don't know how I go through those difficult time and how I enjoy those sunny days. Every time I read our chat history, think of those memories, my eyes are full of tears. Sorry that I am not able to list here all those important moments we shared together.

Now I want to deeply thank all my most important friends, who I met in the world of mathematics, including Wenhan Dai, Daming Zhou, Yuze Sun, Huishi Yu, Yueshi Hou, Xiangtao Chen, Jiayao Tang, Marc Besson, and so on. I sincerely thank all those professors who have helped me so much. Among them, I extremely thank my advisor Qizheng Yin, who is one of the kindest people I have ever met. Special thanks should go to Quan Situ and professor Liang Xiao. I developed a habit that I would thank people for helping me as remarks in my texed notes. Then I have to define new commands “\stq” and “\xl” for short since I always need to mention them. Thank you for helping me so much. Thank math for bringing us together. Because this list is extremely long, I sincerely apologize that I can't list all. However, I know we will meet many times in the future since we are on the same journey and we share the purest and strongest feelings of humankind.

Thank the destiny (if it exists) for letting me meet you all through the vast space and time among several billion people in my life.

Everything in this life is impermanent. There is always something unexpected and we are forced to accept. The pandemic broke out in 2020, suddenly. It has such huge impact on our lives and future that the good old days sometimes seems like dreams. It is difficult to meet friends in person and any departure becomes more heartbreaking. Many plans are boiled and more pities in life. My graduation also becomes cursory and there is even no ceremony due to recent epidemic situation. Courses are suddenly moved to online. Many friends suddenly decide to fly home and we know we won't see each other for long. God knows after how many years we will reunion for several hours and have a meal together. I can't imagine that next time we meet, we may both have families and dress like adults. All these campus days will be so far away that they will be sensed like dreams. There will be many things that happen in the future. Will we remember each other and meet again? Will the buildings still be here and all these trees green in the sun? Will we be old and so different from now? Life is always hard, in the past and in the future. C'est la vie.

Anyway, my college life has inevitably come to an end. I will go to Stanford for my Ph.D. study and continue my pursuit for mathematics. It is a little bit daunting to go to a new world and embrace a new life across the vast ocean, especially in this tough time of pandemic. Therefore, I am extremely grateful to my friend Yixin Hu, who will fly with me and accompany me to the new school. She is interested in neurobiology, another glorious journey to the ultimate questions and the meaning of human beings. I sincerely wish her all the best. May we all have a bright future.

To our youth, which fades away.