

Discussion in Lecture 1

Your name: Chi-Kwong Li

1. Introduction of yourself.

I was born in Hong Kong, and working at the College of William and Mary, the second oldest university in America. (The first one is Harvard, the third one is Yale.)

I like learning, teaching, and doing research in mathematics.

I like to share with people the joy of understanding and using mathematics.

Besides mathematics, I like music (I played Chinese flute), cooking (Chinese food), reading.

2. What do you expect to learn from this course?

I expect to see how students perceive mathematics. What kind of subjects they can relate them to mathematics.

Five days is a short time. But I hope that students can have a new way to see, learn, communicate, and use mathematics. That may help their future study and applications of mathematics in different areas.

More generally, they will learn how to connect their knowledge from study to practical situations.

3. What is the most interesting / uninteresting mathematics topics you have experienced?

I like most mathematical topics, especially, linear algebra, operator theory, quantum computing.

4. Have you used mathematics in your daily life recently?

Yes. Use it to figure out time I can allocate to students to introduce themselves. Count how many people in my class have actually arrived. Use co-ordinate system to identify people in the class photo...

5. Other thoughts or questions about the course or about general education?

General education is not a special set of skills. Students should be trained to use the theory they learn in practical situations, how to find the techniques needed to solve problems (theoretical or practical), make connections of different subjects, and always have the interest in learning and figuring our new things. Most importantly, they should not wait to be fed by information, they should actively pursue study and seek for useful tools to solve problems.