1. **What is something you are passionate about (doesn’t have to be technology-related). Describe what interests you about it.**

I am really fond of data analysis especially in financial market trading. I was inspired by this market when I was a freshman. My passion and inspiration can come from many below reasons:

* I am majored in Economics which required me to follow market daily to keep myself updated. When getting news from the listed company, I can know well the macro and micro economy in Vietnam and the world. That can support me for my study.
* As a curious and passionated person when working with numbers, I always want to find the reasons and the ways all figures in the market change. To me, all things happened, especially in this market, is not accidental. There is always a cycle of events behind each change. It arises my curiosity a lot.
* Joining financial market trading can help me to get profits as a passive income.
* Book “A man for all markets” (Eward O.Thorp) affects me a lot in terms of finding the regulations/ methods to beat the markets. I greatly wish I can research some findings to support me investment like he did.
* Finally, I used to work as a Quantitative Analyst in a stock company nearly 1 year and then my company was dissolved in spite of my mind. It gives me unfulfilled passion which I still hope to have chance to pursue this job.

1. **Describe a time when you were excited by an idea. What was the idea, and why did it excite you?**

I still remembered the day I was assigned to find out way to compute a stock portfolio which having highest return but lowest risk by Python. At that time, it’s a new approach to me. In Vietnamese market, hedging risk is something quite familiar and there are not so many methods applied in Vietnam. I also just know it in my CFA studying. It requires me to read many materials to find out the way to create the optimal portfolio. To finish my task, certainly I also received support from Fundamental Analysis Manager. My calculations were basically just based on historical data but it really worked to predict the performance of some stocks in US-China Trade War, in particular Stock NTC in Vietnam market. Investors could earn nearly 100% profits when buying NTC shares in May 2019 and selling after 3 months. No brokers in my boss’s supervision could find out the foreseen signals of this increase. I felt very happy. It’s really considered a big achievement. It’s like the feeling when Eward O.Thorp thought out a chance to beat Blackjack at the first time. Then, it stimulated me too much to learn coding, do research to widen my knowledge. The more projects I finished, the more achievement feelings I got.

1. **Have you ever been offended/upset/angered by some code, software design or mathematical model? If so, what was it and why did it upset you; if not, why not?**

One of my reference to create the portfolio is Markowitz Portfolio Theory with The Efficient Frontier. There was some coding available in the Internet. However, I just started to learn Python in 3 months at that time. The online coding was very hard to comprehend completely. Lots of new syntaxes and calculations, especially matrix calculation inside. I nearly forgot all linear algebra. I was very upset because I thought it was very difficult and I could quit my job if I were not able to solve this problem. When I was a student, Math, Statistics were my strengths. In addition, it was not easy to find a favorite job like that. Therefore, I did not let myself give up like this. Then I took 3 days to “re-learn” matrix calculation and looked into formulas behind these reference code to see how results were calculated. It could be considered my first-time reverse learning. Then, based on my knowledge, I built a set of code for myself to identify my own portfolio.