

Tell us about a life situation, media story, or topic – beyond or outside of a classroom or formal assignment – that has captivated you, inspired your curiosity, and led you to delve more deeply into learning about a subject on your own. (100-250 words)

“Heyyy, Universe Creator, what’s this?”

People call it just math.

I’m obsessed with this abstract idea that exists nowhere, but everywhere, independently of human beings. Weird propositions, mysterious equations, fast computation methods... I wonder who hid those Easter eggs, for what purpose. Some intelligence that created the universe? Laplace's demon? I explore math to witness the playful aspect of “something.”

Infinity drives me crazy. There is an infinite number of puzzling equations in which infinity bridges π , e , and other seemingly unrelated numbers. I’ve been pursuing infinity both mathematically and computationally, though it can never be ultimately conquered by us, finite existence.

I’ve been playing with Fourier series in combination with various equations for over four years, just to find beautiful Easter eggs. Hours go by as I fill paper after paper with equations during lunch breaks, commuting time on trains, and even in my dreams. Years of calculations led me to a new discovery about Riemann zeta. I felt as if I had conquered infinity.

Looking at the mystical equations again, however, reminded me that although I can prove them, they still don’t make any sense! Mathematical approaches are like peeping at infinity with a telescope, but I want to get closer. Embarking on the spaceship of Python, I often take endless journeys of infinite summation. However closer the right-hand side gets to the left, finite calculations never become perfectly equal. But I continue staring at the screen, shouting “Come on! Equal to the 1000th!” until I fall asleep.