# 1 Shocked! A Six-figure Job is Actually...

2014, City of Jin Ling, China  
  
The blazing hot sun in June was heating up the ground as if it were trying to evaporate every last bit of water from the asphalt roads.  
  
Lu Zhou listened to the sound of cars honking and looked at the busy people rushing along the streets. He stood in front of the Telecom Business Hall as he stared straight at the roads. Although cooled air occasionally blew across his back, his thick costume prevented him from experiencing the luxury of air conditioning.  
  
Someone might ask, why was he here?  
  
Of course, it was for survival…  
  
Okay, let's clarify.  
  
Telecom Business Hall partnered with Vivo phones to do a promotion over the summer holidays. Workers were paid 60 yuan an hour to stand outside the door in a puppet costume. The pay was almost double the pay of him handing out flyers and not to mention, he did not have to suffer from people rolling their eyes at him. Additionally, because the temperature outside was over 30 degrees, he would receive a 10 yuan per hour bonus. This added up to a total of 70 yuan per hour.  
  
After Lu Zhou heard about the salary, he did not even hesitate before accepting the job.  
  
Analyzing it logically, if on average he worked five hours a day, that amounted to 350 yuan a day. If he worked thirty days a month, that would add up to 10,500 yuan.  
  
Who would have thought that a six-figure job was actually located at the entrance of the Telecom Business Hall?  
  
Of course, Lu Zhou knew that even the rich and powerful Huawei could not afford to do promotions every day, much less a company like Vivo.  
  
However, even if he only worked for a week, he would still earn 2600 yuan.  
  
Just as Lu Zhou got so bored that he started to count the number of leaves on a parasol tree, a fat and dark-skinned man who was wiping the sweat off his face walked towards him.  
  
The fat man's name was Wu Dahai, and like Lu Zhou, he also majored in mathematics at the University of Jin Ling. However, Wu Dahai was two years older. He was in his third year and would be going into his fourth year in a couple of months. He was the manager of these part-time working students. It was him that introduced Lu Zhou to this puppet costume wearing job.  
  
"Lu Zhou, are you okay? How about we find someone to replace you? You can go rest in the Telecom Business Hall for a bit," said Wu Dahai. His physique was not made for this kind of horrible heat. His whole body was drenched as if someone just lifted him out of the water.  
  
Even though he really wanted to rest, Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "I'm okay, I can still maintain for a bit."  
  
"I said, are you really okay or not? You've been standing here for a whole afternoon," said Wu Dahai with a worried expression on his face.  
  
He was actually scared that the guy was going to get a heat stroke.  
  
"I'm fine, honestly. You don't need to worry about me," said Lu Zhou. As he firmly shook his head, he added, "I'll finish in an hour. I've already been here for so long, I can do an hour more. Don't you agree?"  
  
Wu Dahai looked at Lu Zhou and hesitantly said, "Okay… I won't worry about you then."  
  
"Yeah, go and do your own stuff."  
  
Wu Dahai saw how firm Lu Zhou was, so he did not persist.  
  
Actually, Wu Dahai felt lucky.  
  
After all, it was difficult to find someone who would be willing to work in this hot weather. There were quite a lot of part-time workers, but most were not as hardworking as Lu Zhou. Otherwise, it could have resulted in Wu Dahai having to wear the "puppet costume" himself.  
  
After the fat guy walked away, Lu Zhou turned back and continued to stare at the parasol tree outside of the Telecom Business Hall.  
  
Suddenly, Lu Zhou felt the view in front of him was looking kind of weird.  
  
Why are the people on the street… flying towards the sky?  
  
His legs felt weak and his entire body fell onto the ground.  
  
With what remaining consciousness that he had, he heard the sound of footsteps hurrying towards him and shouting coming from the Telecom Business Hall.  
  
"The mascot at the front door is having a heatstroke!"  
  
"Quick, take off his helmet and bring him some water!"  
  
"Fuck me, Lu Zhou, please tell me you are okay!"  
  
"No response, not good. Quick, send him to the hospital!"  
  
"Use my car!"  
  
"…"  
  
The last ray of light vanished from his sight bringing forth endless darkness…  
  
…  
  
Lu Zhou was a first-year student that majored in mathematics at Jin Ling University and he would be going into his second year in a few months. In the beginning, he applied for software engineering, but he was a few marks short from the requirements. In the end, he had to compromise and went to the unpopular mathematics department.  
  
Sometimes Lu Zhou could not help but asked himself, what was the point of studying this horrible major for four years?  
  
It seemed like there was no answer.  
  
There were two standard paths for math majors, either going into further academic studies (overseas or graduate studies), or switching into another major.  
  
Actually one could also work at the University, but as a bachelor student, one would have to be very close with the teachers. However, even if one stayed to work, one would only be doing miscellaneous work. It would be better to stay and do a Master's degree instead.  
  
However, it was not realistic for Lu Zhou to do a Master's degree.  
  
Lu Zhou's family was located in Jiang Ling. Even though the name sounded similar to Jin Ling, they were thousands of miles apart. His middle-class father was working at a metal factory in Jiang Ling. His sick mother was retired at home and spent quite a lot of money on healthcare.  
  
His entire family relied on his dad's income. He also had a little sister in high school and it was going to be expensive when she went to university.  
  
His father's intentions were to not let Lu Zhou worry about money. Instead, he wanted Lu Zhou to continue his studies and get a doctor's degree.  
  
However, Lu Zhou clearly knew that this was not possible.  
  
Given that he had already set half a foot into the society, he had to consider other more realistic issues.  
  
To be more specific, he had to consider his money problems.  
  
He did not want to be a burden for his family or an encumbrance to his little sister's future. Therefore, ever since he entered the university, he wanted to become financially independent. While others were out celebrating their youth singing at clubs or studying hard at the library, he was handing out flyers, installing routers, and delivering food.  
  
Sometimes he could not help but ask himself what was the point of university life. The jobs that he was doing did not require any skills that even a high school student could do it. A high school student might even do it better. At least, they would not get a heat stroke merely from standing for a few hours outside an air-conditioned room.  
  
Yet, like the question of a "mathematics major's career", there was no answer to this question.  
  
At that moment, he fell down…  
  
When his consciousness finally returned, Lu Zhou was stunned as he looked around at the white surroundings.  
  
What… is this place?  
  
No one answered.  
  
With his memory being in some kind of foggy state, he recalled that he had a heat stroke at the Telecom Business Hall and that some kind individuals carried him into a car before sending him to the hospital. However, the place did not look like a hospital at all. It did not even look like real life.  
  
Just as Lu Zhou was feeling anxious about this situation, a semi-transparent screen suddenly emerged in front of him. He was so scared that he jumped backward.  
  
High tech… system? What the hell?!  
  
Lu Zhou was shocked as he looked at the black texts that gradually emerged on the semi-transparent screen. He immediately felt excited.  
  
Could it be… I was selected by the legendary system?  
  
He had read novels online that was about this.  
  
With a gulp, Lu Zhou asked, "System… what can you do?"  
  
Although there was no mysterious voice answering his question, words started to appear on the transparent holographic screen.  
  
[  
  
High tech system:  
  
This system is dedicated to improving the level of the user's education level. As for the system's secrets, please explore them yourself. As for the system's functions, detailed instructions will be given to the user.  
  
The main interface of the system is as follows:  
  
※Core science: The trunk of the technology tree focuses on theory. There is a level 10 limit. Experience points can be only earned from missions and cannot be redeemed from general points. A completed technology tree will unlock futuristic options and giant engineering missions.  
  
A. Mathematics: The basis of all subjects. It will determine the level limit for other science subjects.  
  
B. Physics: Can help you understand the universe.  
  
C. Biology: Can help you understand yourself.  
  
D. Engineering: Transform tools, the environment, and the world.  
  
E. Materials Science: Materials and engineering cannot be separated.  
  
F. Energy Science: From fossil fuels to Helium-3, from lithium batteries to antimatter batteries, from the wireless transmission to ultra-long distance laser transmission, all life feeds on using entropy. The development of energy is at the distant stars of the sea.  
  
G. Information Science: Genetics is God's code, whereas the ultimate goal of the code is to create a god.  
  
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※Technology branch: These are the branches of the technology tree. After unlocking a specific technology branch, experience points are needed to level up. 1 experience point can be exchanged by 1 general point.  
  
For example: Genetics level 1 requires biology level 1, but you can also unlock genetics level 1 by consuming 100 general points. (0/1000)  
  
Genetics level 2 requires biology level 2, engineering level 1, and 1000 experience points. Only then you are able to go from level 1 genetics to level 2 genetics. (0/?)  
  
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Technical Blueprint: As what the name implies. Easy to understand technical blueprints. They contain small projects such as a nanochip, to giant projects such as a Dyson sphere.  
  
If you meet the manufacturing requirements, they can be produced by following the instructions of the blueprints.  
  
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General points: Can be used to activate the mission rewards, or consume 200 points to generate a new random mission. Can be consumed to solve technical problems. (Price of solving the problem depends on the subject level, technical difficulty, and the difficulty in solving the problem)  
  
Missions: Three random missions are generated every time. You can choose to execute one of the missions. Upon completion, the rewards from the respective mission are given. After the completion of the mission, the mission panel would be reset immediately.  
  
]  
  
Lu Zhou did not even know what facial expression to use. He thought that mathematics was useless but the system conveyed that mathematics was the father of all other subjects. The feeling of redemption had rendered him speechless.  
  
Lu Zhou was about to encounter something that was going to surprise him even more.  
  
After the instructions disappeared, his characteristic panel immediately appeared.  
  
[  
  
High tech system:  
  
User: Lu Zhou  
  
Core science:  
  
A. Mathematics: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
B. Physics: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
C. Biology: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
D. Engineering: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
E. Materials science: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
F. Energy science: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
G. Information science: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
Technology branch: None  
  
Technical blueprints: None  
  
General points: 0  
  
Mission: None  
  
]  
  
"Even though I wasn't a straight A student, but I was still in one of the best universities. Isn't this row of zeros a bit insulting?"  
  
Lu Zhou did not know if he should laugh or cry as he looked at the row of zeros.  
  
This system must have made a mistake!  
  
Just as Lu Zhou was thinking about it, his shoulders started to shake violently and his consciousness was immediately pulled out from the pure white dimension.  
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# 2 A Genius Student“s Lifestyle Does Not Need An Explanation

"Lu Zhou, wake up!"  
  
With his shoulders violently being shaken again, Lu Zhou slowly opened his eyes and saw Wu Dahai's fat face.  
  
"Fuck! You're finally awake," said Wu Dahai before letting out a long sigh as he let go of Lu Zhou's shoulders. He laughed apologetically, "Hope you don't mind. I didn't mean to disturb your rest. I saw that you were snoring and guessed that you were okay."  
  
Lu Zhou looked at the surrounding white walls and the bedsheet covering the hospital bed before asking, "Where am I?"  
  
"Don't you remember? You had a heat stroke at the Telecom Business Hall!" said Wu Dahai as he sat back down onto the chair. He sighed and patted his stout thighs before saying, "Ah, I told you not to be stubborn and you didn't listen. We're only doing this part-time. We're not professionals. What's the point of working so hard? Look at you now. You've sacrificed your health. Is it worth it?"  
  
Reluctantly, Lu Zhou smiled as he asked, "What did the doctor say about my health?"  
  
"Not much, just a bit of dehydration," said Wu Dahai. He pointed at the nightstand with his chin as he added, "I put a cup of water there. Don't forget to drink it."  
  
Lu Zhou cleared his throat and sincerely said "Thanks."  
  
"Don't thank me. You're considered a junior student. As a senior student, it's my duty to take care of you," said Wu Dahai. As he waved his hand, he added, "You should rest well and go back to school when you're fine. I've already paid your wages so check if you've received it. Also, don't worry about the hospital bill. It wasn't a lot and I've already paid for it."  
  
"How can I accept this…"  
  
"It's fine. Don't be sentimental. I arranged this job for you. It's my responsibility when something happens to you," said Wu Dahai. He stood up from the chair and said, "We'll leave this situation at that. You should go and rest for a couple of days. Don't go start working again."  
  
Lu Zhou wanted to say something but he was unable to find the words. Instead, he nodded his head and said thank you.  
  
Wu Dahai waved his hand as a sign of "no thanks needed" and left.  
  
Lu Zhou laid on the hospital bed and sighed towards the ceiling.  
  
"Looks like I have to find a new part-time job…"  
  
After all the trouble, Wu Dahai probably would not want him back. Not to mention, Lu Zhou was disappointed in himself. He had caused so much trouble for them. He could not ask for any more help.  
  
He rolled over and thought about that motley dream. He closed his eyes and quietly whispered, "System."  
  
No response.  
  
"High tech system."  
  
No response as well.  
  
Lu Zhou's cheeks were slightly reddened.  
  
Fucks sake!  
  
Guess it was a dream after all…  
  
However, when he opened his eyes, he was shocked by what he saw.  
  
His entire surroundings were covered in pure white. There was the semi-transparent holographic display with the characteristic panel that was full of zeros. Everything felt like it was a reality.  
  
Lu Zhou was surprised for a short moment before squeezing his fists in immense happiness.  
  
Haha!  
  
This is real! This isn't a dream!  
  
A line of reminder text suddenly appeared on the semi-transparent characteristic panel.  
  
[User, please select mission]  
  
Lu Zhou tried to contain his excitement as he walked towards the screen and touched the [mission] icon.  
  
Immediately after, a semi-transparent chat box appeared in front of him.  
  
[  
  
Mission 1: Physical Fitness  
  
Description: First of all, you need to have a healthy body if you want to excel in scientific research. You have to outrun journalists, fight against zombies, and perform continuously for 72 hours. Training your body is no easy feat. User, please begin now.  
  
Requirements: A five-kilometer jog in one hour. Think of the mission to begin the timer. (Able to repeat the challenge upon failure)  
  
Reward: 20 experience points for any science subject. One lucky draw ticket. (100% garbage) ]  
  
[  
  
Mission 2: Develop relationships  
  
Description: If you want to be in the academic field and do not wish to buy people dinner, you have to learn to manage relationships.  
  
Requirements: Develop a good relationship with Professor Lu Fangping, the Head of Mathematics of the University of Jin Ling. (Minimum relationship score of 30. The mission relationship score target will be displayed after the mission starts)  
  
Reward: 100 mathematics experience points. 400 general points. One lucky draw ticket. (97% garbage, 3% high tech sample)  
  
]  
  
[  
  
Mission 3: A genius student's lifestyle does not need an explanation  
  
Requirements: Study at the library for 24 hours. Think of the mission to begin.  
  
Reward: The number of experience points for each subject is determined by the type of books read and the books' value score. 100 general points. One lucky draw ticket. (90% garbage, 9% sample, 1% blueprints)  
  
]  
  
This system is pretty honest. It even gave the percentages.  
  
But what the hell is this running mission? 100% of getting garbage?! Fucking scam!  
  
Also, what the hell is this developing relationships with a professor? Buying him dinner? Giving him gifts? Either way, it will cost me a lot of money.  
  
Only the last mission seems a bit normal. Even though it didn't say how much experience points it would give, the probability of getting garbage is the lowest! From a game theory perspective, this mission should be the best path, right?  
  
Not to mention, studying at a library for 24 hours seems pretty easy to accomplish.  
  
After considering everything, Lu Zhou did not hesitate and picked the third mission.  
  
A genius student's life does not need any explanations!  
  
[You cannot change the mission after selecting. There is no time limit. If you give up on the mission, a penalty of 200 general points would be imposed. User currently has 0 general points. Do you confirm your selection? (First reminder)]  
  
Lu Zhou did not hesitate and said, "Confirm!"  
  
[Selection completed. Best of luck]  
  
White light rays flashed. The characteristic panel's [mission] section went from "None" to "Mission three".  
  
Lu Zhou closed his eyes and took a deep breath. He whispered to exit the system. When he reopened his eyes, he saw that he was back in the hospital room.  
  
He laid on the bed for a while and took a couple of minutes to process the new information.  
  
He did not know why, but he somehow became a user of this high tech system.  
  
He thought back to when Wu Dahai shook him awake. The system's space should be deeply embedded in his consciousness as it was something out of this reality. Furthermore, the time in the system space and outside should flow concurrently.  
  
To be honest Lu Zhou did not even feel like the system really existed.  
  
However, all of this did not matter.  
  
It could be an alien's scheme, an April fool's joke, or something was just plain wrong with his brain. He had already accepted the mission so he might as well complete it to find out.  
  
Lu Zhou grabbed the water cup from the nightstand and drank it all. He then got out of the bed.  
  
He got his body temperature measured by the nurse and it confirmed that he was fine. He then left the hospital and walked to the nearest bus stop to take the bus back to school.  
  
When he got back to his dorm, only Liu Rui was in the room. His other two roommates must have gone to the internet cafe.  
  
Liu Rui noticed Lu Zhou coming back and put down his textbook. He adjusted his glasses as he asked, "Lu Zhou, I heard that you had a heat stroke?"  
  
"Yeah… but it wasn't a big deal," said Lu Zhou as he forced a smile. He walked towards his bed.  
  
For this type of four-person dorm, the upper bunk was a bed while the lower bunk had a desk and a cabinet. Lu Zhou stored all his cards in the cabinet drawer.  
  
After a bit of searching in the drawer, Lu Zhou was relieved that he finally found his library card. He then left the dorm with a backpack.  
  
The chilly night winds blew across the parasol trees causing it to make rustling sounds.  
  
The streets were brightly lit by lights. There were students and teachers walking around with textbooks in their hands. On the field, some people were holding hands as they walked while others were running with a partner. It was almost like this school would always be lively and full of energy.  
  
It was already eight o'clock. Lu Zhou looked at the brightly lit library and felt a feeling of unfamiliarity and nostalgia.  
  
How long has it been since I came here?  
  
He took a deep breath. With a feeling of unease, he walked into the library.  
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# 3 A True Genius Would Never Waste His Time

"Mission begin!"  
  
Lu Zhou closed his eyes and whispered the words. He did it two more times just in case it was not enough.  
  
When he opened his eyes, he saw a line of semi-transparent words floating in front of him.  
  
[Mission three begins. Current time: 0 hour. Timer stops when exiting the library.]  
  
Lu Zhou was startled by the words that appeared suddenly. He looked around the area and when he saw a student walked right through the semi-transparent words, he started to relax.  
  
It turned out that no one else could see the system's words.  
  
Anyways, spend 24 hours reading a couple of books in the library and the mission should be completed, right?  
  
Lu Zhou walked towards the mathematics section as it was better than nothing. He was about to browse through the books when he suddenly noticed that the books had number labels. In addition, there was a pattern in the color of these number labels. As the numbers went from large to small, the colors went from red to gray.  
  
[Di Donne's Foundation of Modern Analysis, 10]  
  
[Linear-Algebra (Greub), 0]  
  
[New Mathematical Analysis Lectures, 100]  
  
[…]  
  
What the hell?!  
  
Lu Zhou suddenly recalled mission three's rewards. The mission's experience points were awarded based on the value score of the books.  
  
In other words, if all he did was to stay in the library, he would only get the lucky draw ticket.  
  
A true genius would never waste his time at the library!  
  
Lu Zhou gulped as he thought about it.  
  
However, there was one thing he did not understand. Why did the advanced mathematical textbooks had such low value scores while the beginner mathematical textbooks had such high value scores?  
  
Especially given that "Di Donne's Foundation of Modern Analysis" was heavily endorsed and recommended by his teacher as a "must read". It was very difficult for students to fully comprehend this textbook. One would need to be at least familiar with real and general functions in order to understand it.  
  
He suddenly remembered that in his characteristic panel, his mathematical level was 0. He was mildly stunned by it.  
  
No wonder!  
  
Maybe the so-called value scores are based on his current knowledge level?  
  
The so-called value scores had two sides. Take Riemann's conjecture as an example. It added significant value to the academic world with thousands of mathematical theories built on the foundations of Riemann's conjecture. Its value was therefore extremely high. However, with regards to Lu Zhou, it would be very difficult for him to understand Riemann's conjecture and it would not help him in his studies. Therefore, the value score was zero.  
  
Lu Zhou understood the value scores and did not hesitate before picking up "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures".  
  
Coincidentally, the exams for his Mathematical Analysis 2 were in two weeks. He did not fully understand some of the harder topics so this would count as his revision.  
  
When he found a seat, he sat down and began to read the mathematical analysis book.  
  
To be honest, he did not really like to dive deep into mathematics, but surprisingly, he was able to tolerate reading the book.  
  
He did not know if it was due to the effect of the system, but he felt himself gradually entering into a state of full concentration. It was almost as if he forgot about everything around him. There were only himself and his book. Nothing else existed.  
  
As time slowly passed by, there were fewer and fewer people in the library. Lu Zhou was unaffected by it. He was still deeply immersed in the book's ocean of knowledge.  
  
Someone tapped his shoulder and knocked him out of the state of "immersion".  
  
"Student, it's 10 o'clock, the library is about to close," said the librarian.  
  
Lu Zhou quickly stood up before inserting a bookmark into the textbook. He said, "Oh, sorry. I forgot about the time. I'll clean up right now."  
  
"Don't sweat it. I've been working here for many years and this is the first time I've seen a student this focused on a mathematics book," said the librarian.  
  
"Can I still borrow books? I want to borrow this book," said Lu Zhou. He was still fascinated by the concentration he had earlier and he felt a sense of incompleteness.  
  
He had never been this addicted to solving a math problem before.  
  
It was almost as if he was reading a novel and not a textbook. A novel that contained the life of mathematics.  
  
The librarian saw how polite he was and so, she swiftly said, "It's okay. Go and borrow it if you want to. The computer is still on and I'll help you to process it. Did you bring your library card?"  
  
Lu Zhou sincerely said, "I brought it… Thank you!"  
  
"No worries!"  
  
Lu Zhou stuffed the textbook into his bag and quickly left the library.  
  
He passed through the holographic panel and the mission timer paused.  
  
However, Lu Zhou's attention was elsewhere. He did not want to waste even a second. He only wanted to return back to that magical reading experience.  
  
He went back to his dorm. His other two roommates were back and they were playing League of Legends.  
  
Huang Guangming heard the door being opened. He was fighting intensely with his teammates and did not even turned his head to say, "Buddy Zhou, league?"  
  
He exaggeratedly pronounced the word "league" as it was their phrase to invite someone to fight on the summoner's rift.  
  
"Not today. I still have some stuff to do. You guys can play, right?"  
  
Shi Shangteng pushed the opponents back and had a moment to spare. He looked back and saw Lu Zhou sitting down and reading a textbook that he pulled from his backpack. He suddenly shouted, "What the fuck! Lu Zhou, when did you love studying so much?"  
  
Liu Rui heard Lu Zhou was reading so he forced himself to look over at Lu Zhou's table.  
  
Lu Zhou laughed. It was too difficult to explain so he made up an excuse, "Isn't it exam period soon? I still don't understand a lot of the topics. If I don't revise now, it'll be too late. I'll league with you guys after the exams."  
  
"Fuck trying! Just pass the exam!" said Huang Guangming as he fiercely clicked the mouse to attack the enemy's nexus towers.  
  
If Lu Zhou recalled correctly, Huang Guangming said the same thing last semester. Although Huang Guangming's "Mathematics 1" exam score was 89, it was only 1 mark lower than the genius, Liu Rui's.  
  
Everybody was secretly working hard.  
  
Lu Zhou laughed and did not say much. He flipped to the bookmarked page and focused on the textbook.  
  
10 seconds passed.  
  
10 seconds passed.  
  
5 minutes passed.  
  
He heard the sound of victory coming from behind him. Lu Zhou did not even finish reading two pages before going back to where he started. The words were not entering his head.  
  
"Haha! Silver 4! I ranked up!" said Huang Guangming arrogantly while he leaned back on his chair.  
  
"I carried you, you trash," said Shi Shang while leaning back on his chair and stretching his back.  
  
"You didn't carry me. I killed the marksman instantly with my amazing Leblanc."  
  
"Amazing, my ass. Stop talking shit when you just got lucky. I carried you from elo   
  
   
hell  
  
   
1  
  
   
. I had to smurf to bring your ass up to silver. You even forgot to get the first win of the day yesterday!"  
  
There was no way for Lu Zhou to concentrate.  
  
It was not because his roommates were talking. He just could not focus his attention on the textbook. His state of mind now was akin to his usual state of studying. The slightest distraction would disrupt his thought process.  
  
Back at the library, there were people talking and moving, but he could still fully immerse himself in the world of the textbook.  
  
Lu Zhou took a deep breath and put down the "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures" book.  
  
Maybe, it was the power of the system?  
  
   
League of Legends term to say that someone is stuck at the same rank  
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# 4 Everyone Study Questions, I Study Books

It was six o'clock in the morning when he felt his bed shaking softly. Liu Rui squinted his tired eyes and tried to figure out where the shaking was coming from. When he saw Lu Zhou climbing down the ladder, he asked dramatically, "Zhou, you're awake this early?"  
  
Lu Zhou replied quietly as he was afraid of waking up his two other roommates.  
  
"Yeah."  
  
Liu Rui persisted and asked again.  
  
"Working again?"  
  
Lu Zhou hesitated before shaking his head and replied, "Not going. I'm resting for a few days."  
  
"It's so early. Where are you going then?"  
  
"The library."  
  
Suddenly Liu Rui was no longer sleepy.  
  
Lu Zhou went to the toilet to brush his teeth. When he came back and saw Liu Rui climbing down from his bed, he asked curiously, "Are you not sleeping anymore?"  
  
"Study," said Liu Rui as he took his toiletries and swiftly walked towards the toilet.  
  
Lu Zhou did not know whether to laugh or cry at his overly competitive roommate. In the end, he shook his head and did not say anything. He put on his shoes and took his backpack before leaving the room.  
  
Normally, Jin Ling was like a busy stove in June, but the mornings were an exception.  
  
The morning air was filled with a mist that brought with it a pleasant aroma. The breeze blew across everyone's face softly. It felt cool and refreshing and not hot at all. The school in the early morning was like a polite woman who slowly approached. Compared to night time, it was almost like another place.  
  
Lu Zhou bought two buns and a cup of soy milk from the school cafeteria. After eating, he walked relaxingly towards the library.  
  
It was no wonder that Jin Ling was a famous and renowned university. There was no staff at the library yet but the students still read outside at the library's entrance.  
  
Lu Zhou also began to read his level four vocabulary book. Although studying outside was a lot worse than studying in the library, it was better than expected due to the influence of the studious students around him. Lu Zhou waited outside the library till half past seven. Finally, the librarian arrived and unlocked the doors.  
  
The library doors were opened and students flooded through the gates like tides of waves. Within minutes, the crowd outside the library disappeared.  
  
Lu Zhou followed the crowd inside and did not bother browsing any of the books. Instead, he instantly picked up "Advanced Algebra" and sat down in a quiet corner.  
  
Lu Zhou estimated that in his state of full concentration, he could finish reading one chapter in around one to two hours. This included memorizing topic points, doing calculations, question analysis, and other aspects.  
  
It would take maybe until noon before Lu Zhou finished the remaining topics in "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures". He decided to utilize the afternoon to revise some advanced algebra.  
  
Lu Zhou took a deep breath and flipped to the bookmarked page from "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures". He began to focus his attention on the textbook.  
  
Soon after, he began to enter into the state of immersion and forgot everything around him. It was just him and his textbook…  
  
Time passed by slowly and it was soon half past eleven. Lu Zhou relaxed and closed the textbook.  
  
He finally finished "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures". The textbook's value score had decreased to only five.  
  
This observation confirmed his hypothesis. The system scored books not based on it's value to the academic world, but on it's value to Lu Zhou.  
  
As for why the value score was five and not zero, it could be because there were parts of the textbook that Lu Zhou did not fully understand. He would have to read it again to fully comprehend it.  
  
Obviously, Lu Zhou was not doing it. Why would he waste his precious time on merely 5 points? It was an unfavorable deal.  
  
When it was time to eat lunch, Lu Zhou closed the textbook and started to walk out of the library.  
  
He passed the main entrance of the library and glanced at the information panel. The remaining mission time decreased to 18 hours.  
  
Suddenly Lu Zhou did not want the mission to finish so quickly. He had learned more in the past six hours than he had in the past year.  
  
Lu Zhou thought about that unopened "Advanced Algebra" textbook and hesitated.  
  
He still had a C programming language exam. Maybe he should have found a textbook for C instead?  
  
There was English as well.  
  
He did not know if English books had a value score but the English newspapers near the entrance had none. The high tech system had a strange bias towards quantitative subjects and it was not good.  
  
Lu Zhou got a meal set with his food card and quickly returned back to the library. First, he returned the book that he had read. Then, he went over to the shelves and picked up "C Language Fifth Edition" before sitting back down in his seat.  
  
When the lunch break ended, the library became crowded again.  
  
Lu Zhou was completely focused on "Advanced Algebra". He was about to move onto the next chapter when he felt someone tapping his arm. He looked over and saw a beautiful girl with a ponytail and round glasses. She was holding a pen and looked apologetic.  
  
"Classmate, sorry to bother you… Can I ask you a question?"  
  
Lu Zhou nodded his head quickly. "Sure, ask away."  
  
Even though his studying was interrupted, he was not annoyed at all.  
  
What is it that she wants to ask?  
  
Regardless, humans are aesthetic creatures. Beauty is very important in social interactions.  
  
But, out of everyone, why did this girl ask me?  
  
Must be because I'm so handsome!  
  
Lu Zhou loved people who had good taste and asked questions humbly.  
  
He did not have any other motives and he just wanted to help.  
  
"Thanks," said the girl quietly. She swiftly moved her chair next to Lu Zhou and thoughtfully brought a pen and paper.  
  
Lu Zhou took the pen and began to look at the question.  
  
"Let me see… Finding limits, right?"  
  
Find positive numbers a and b. Equation: (X→ 0) lim 1/(x-bsin(x)) ∫2/√(a+2t) dt =1 (integral limits are x and 0)  
  
He had never done this type of question before but he recalled that he saw a similar one in the textbook he just read.  
  
Perfect. He was just learning about algebra. It was time to put his skills to the test.  
  
Lu Zhou began spinning the pen as he started to think. He took less than a minute before saying, "I solved it."  
  
"You… You solved it just like that?" asked Chen Yushan suspiciously. She wondered how the hell did he solve it without writing anything down.  
  
Lu Zhou looked at the girl and thought that this was why they said breast size was inversely proportional to IQ.  
  
However, honestly speaking, he was shocked by how fast he solved the question. He had solved this type of questions before but it was never this easy. He did not even use the paper. The steps to solve the question just came into his head.  
  
Lu Zhou did not waste his time and began writing down the working to the question. While writing he began to explain, "Typical 0/0 undefined equation. Just use L'Hopital's rule. The first step is to separate the integral. That's easy, right? From (X → 0) lim (1-bcosx) = 0, b equals 1. Plug this back into the equation and you would get a = 4. Check the answer and see if I'm right."  
  
Chen Yushan stared blankly at the paper. She thought that this guy's explanation speed was faster than her listening speed.  
  
When he wrote down the two answers, she was still thinking about solving the integral.  
  
She doubted him as she flipped to the answers page. Her eyes widened.  
  
This really is the answer!?  
  
Lu Zhou noticed the girl's facial expression and could not help himself but laughed. He said while spinning the pen, "It's a very easy application of L'Hopital's rule. The calculation part is easy. Are you a freshman? What major?"  
  
Chen Yushan blushed and said quietly, "I'm a master's student…"  
  
Her face was even redder after the words came out of her mouth.  
  
She was not ashamed but she was angry!  
  
She was pissed off!  
  
It's just solving a math question. Nothing to brag about! I haven't touched high school math in years! Who cares if you're better than me? Not a shred of class, fucking single dude. What a loner!  
  
Chen Yushan's anger died down slightly.  
  
As for why she was also alone, it was because she was ignored by her crush.  
  
"Ok," said Lu Zhou with an awkward expression. He thought she was in his year. He did not realize that he was dealing with a master's girl.  
  
He was about to apologize when a loud coughing noise suddenly came from the seats in front of them.  
  
Chen Yushan realized her conversation was disturbing other people. She blushed and playfully stuck her tongue out. She took the papers and question sheet before sitting back down in her seat.  
  
Lu Zhou did not even get the chance to apologize, not to mention getting her name or WeChat number…  
  
He sat down and contemplated for a while. Then he shook his head and began reading "Advanced Algebra" again.  
  
Studying is more important than girls.  
  
Networking and relationships?  
  
Sorry, but a true genius student doesn't play with that stuff.  
  
Rank up mathematics to level 1 means I'd have conquered the world!  
  
Quickly, Lu Zhou was back into the state of concentration. He completely forgot about what had happened as that was just a small obstacle.  
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# 5 Wash Your Face Before the Lucky Draw

The library closed at 10 o'clock. Lu Zhou had just enough time to finish "Advanced Algebra" and "C Language Fifth Edition".  
  
On the way out of the library, Lu Zhou glanced at the mission panel and saw that there were only nine hours left. He felt a little disappointed.  
  
He barely felt that fifteen hours had passed by. He had never felt time passed by like this while reading textbooks before.  
  
After a full day of studying, he discovered an issue. When he finished reading a book, that book's value score would decrease to a single digit. Not just this, but other similar books' value scores would also decrease to different amounts. On the other hand, books that were previously at a very low or even zero value scores started to increase to various amounts.  
  
For example, the "Di Donne Foundation of Modern Analysis" book only had a value score of 10 in the beginning, but now it had more than doubled to a value score of 30.  
  
As he walked home, Lu Zhou could not help but think of what would happen to his body if his mathematics level went from zero to one.  
  
Omniscient?  
  
Able to solve questions instantly?  
  
Or would his brain be filled with the knowledge that he did not even know existed? Would he became a legendary mathematician, similar to the likes of Chen Jingrun?  
  
Lu Zhou thought about this and did not feel excited at all. Rather, he felt nervous.  
  
The human brain was limited. It was akin to how one could not store 2TB of information into a 1TB hard drive. He was scared that the system would force his brain to store the extra information and it might destroy his brain.  
  
Of course, Lu Zhou knew that worrying about it was pointless.  
  
Only the system knew what would happen exactly.  
  
Anyway, the answer would be revealed tomorrow. He just had to get a good sleep tonight and relaxed his overheated brain.  
  
…  
  
[User, congratulations on completing the mission. First mission prize bonus: Additional lucky draw ticket.]  
  
[Mission completion details: Books read in the library: "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures": 100 value score, "Higher Mathematics Tu Boyun Edition" : 100 value score, "C Language Fifth Edition": 100 value score, "Nickelsky Mathematical Analysis Translated Version": 57 value score, "Level Four English Detail Explanations": 0 value score. Total value score earned: 357. Grade: B+.]  
  
[Mission reward: 500 mathematics experience points, 100 information science points, 100 general points, one lucky draw ticket (90% garbage, 9% samples, 1% blueprints) ]  
  
After another day of painstakingly reading books, Lu Zhou finally finished the mission.  
  
Congratulations.  
  
Lu Zhou came out of the library feeling excited. He found a spot near the dull basketball courts where the security cameras could not see him. He looked around to see if anyone was near, exhaled a deep breath and opened up his characteristic panel.  
  
[  
  
High tech system:  
  
Host: Lu Zhou  
  
Core science:  
  
A. Mathematics: Level 0 (500/1000)  
  
B. Physics: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
C. Biology: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
D. Engineering: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
E. Materials science: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
F. Energy science: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
G. Information science: Level 0 (100/1000)  
  
Technology branch: None  
  
Technical blueprints: None  
  
General points: 100 (two lucky draw tickets)  
  
Mission: None  
  
]  
  
Lu Zhou was a bit disappointed that he did not level up but he still had the two prize draw tickets. His disappointment vanished immediately.  
  
What prize could the high tech system give?  
  
He was eagerly looking forward to it!  
  
The two tickets had different odds. The first mission bonus had an odds of 75% garbage, 19% samples, and 5% blueprints.  
  
As for what the samples were for? Lu Zhou did not know either. However, given the type of system, it was definitely not something like a toy car or a water gun. It had to be related to high tech and different from "garbage".  
  
Of course, a little tech was enough. Even if he got a starship, he would not have the space to park it. Not to mention, he would have no idea what to do with it.  
  
He would not get something like a bug spray, right?  
  
Anyway, he began the lucky draw.  
  
He started with the inferior lucky draw - the mission reward!  
  
"Let's go!"  
  
A spinning wheel appeared in front of him. Lu Zhou could not read the words written on it. He could only see the blurry colors.  
  
He held his breath. Looking straight at the wheel, he focused on the path of the spinning arrow.  
  
Suddenly, his brain lit up. He immediately followed his instincts and shouted, "Stop!"  
  
The arrow continued to spin for a few more seconds before gradually slowing down.  
  
[Congratulations, you won the garbage prize.]  
  
[You won a can of coke. Don't be discouraged. Keep trying.]  
  
Fuck you!  
  
Blaming the system was of no use. There was more important stuff to do!  
  
He saw next to the general points was [coke (garbage)]. The impetuous Lu Zhou quickly left the system space. He checked again to see if anyone was around him. He then looked at his hand and began to think.  
  
coke coke coke coke…  
  
Ding!  
  
Without any warning, a can of coke appeared in Lu Zhou's hand when he opened his eyes.  
  
The next moment, his facial expression was indescribably strange.  
  
The fuck?  
  
He sensed that the universe had a contradiction. The law of conservation of mass faced an unprecedented challenge.  
  
How would he use modern physics principles to explain this can of coke?  
  
Lu Zhou did not know.  
  
Maybe he had to be above level 10 in "high tech" to understand.  
  
Anyway, after seeing the can of coke, he was finally convinced. This system was not part of his imagination. It was real. He could affect the physical world with his own brain.  
  
He should not think about the nonsense for the time being.  
  
Lu Zhou cracked open the can, took a big sip and exhaled after.  
  
"Ah!"  
  
Even though the system classified this as a garbage prize, the flavor of the coke rendered him speechless. Lu Zhou usually did not like to drink sodas but he still licked his lips from it.  
  
"Future? There's a brand of coke called Future? Whatever, who cares…"  
  
Lu Zhou shook his head and threw the can into the trash.  
  
He had repeatedly examined the can but it was just a normal aluminum can. Other than the fact that it could satisfy people, there was nothing high tech about it. Even the design and packaging had a "vintage and retro" feel.  
  
The only destination for the can was the recycling plant.  
  
Lu Zhou went to wash his face at the water taps near the basketball courts. He sat back down in the shade and entered the system space again.  
  
This was his last lucky draw ticket and he took a deep breath. Like a gambler, his eyes were red as he pressed the button without any hesitation.  
  
"Let's go!"  
  
"Stop!"  
  
The arrow started to slow down and Lu Zhou's heart was pounding in his throat.  
  
When the arrow stopped, so did Lu Zhou's heartbeat.  
  
[Congratulations, you won the blueprint!]  
  
Lu Zhou was ecstatic. It was all because he washed his face!  
  
Even with only a 5% chance, he managed to get lucky and won!  
  
[Blueprint awarded - Formula and proof for Mersenne prime number distributions.]  
  
Lu Zhou was stunned.  
  
WTF?  
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# 6 The Answer For A Proof Question

As a mathematics major, Lu Zhou was obviously familiar with the Mersenne prime numbers.  
  
Of course, one would have to mention a famous Chinese mathematician when speaking about Mersenne prime numbers. In 1992, he published "Mersenne prime numbers distribution formula" and his paper was able to illustrate an equation for Mersenne prime numbers. It was then famously named "Zhou's approximation".  
  
Previously, the British mathematician William Shanks, French mathematician Tartaglia, German mathematician Luders, Indian mathematician Ramanujan, and American mathematician Gillies had all speculated on this problem. Although they had a common theme, which was the approximation of the equation, the closeness of their research to the exact answer was unsatisfactory.  
  
Zhou's approximation formula was very simple. When 2^(2^n) &lt; p &lt; 2^(2^(n+1)), p has 2^(n+1)-1 prime numbers.  
  
Simple, right?  
  
Anyone could do this, right?  
  
However, the equation had not been proven or disproved. It had become one of the most famous mathematical problems and had been troubling the mathematics community for over 20 years.  
  
It was like Riemann's conjecture. Even though it could not be proven, it did not stop people from using it.  
  
Of course, even though there was an accurate way of using computers to discover Mersenne primes, it was still not an easy feat.  
  
As of today, only forty-four Mersenne primes were discovered.  
  
Was there any use for the Mersenne primes?  
  
It seemed unlikely.  
  
Strictly speaking, using the RSA algorithm, every time an online transaction went through, you would have to thank the unsolvable prime numbers that were hidden in the password. At the same time, large prime numbers were also used to test computer performances. For example, Intel used the GIMPS application to test the chips for bugs.  
  
Anyway, to debate whether mathematics was useful was unmeaningful. Very often, the drives that motivated the mathematicians were not in monetizing the discovery, but merely because the problem was there.  
  
At the end of the day, humans could not look purely at the short term gains but they had to also look at the long term gains.  
  
However, Lu Zhou was not really willing. He did not care about the future. He wanted the gains now!  
  
Also, why was it Zhou's approximation proof! Why not Riemann's Conjecture! Or even the lower level Birch's conjecture would be okay!  
  
Putting the academic value aside, Birch's conjecture prize was already at one million U.S dollars. The prize money came from the well-known Texas banker Birch himself.  
  
As for Zhou's approximation, there were a lot of people that were attempting to prove it. However, there was no prize money attached if one solved it.  
  
A potential chance to own a house just flew away and Lu Zhou no longer felt so good anymore.  
  
However, he should look at the bright side. Even though it was only Zhou's approximation, proving it would still give him some reputation in the mathematical world. Although there was no physical prize that was attached to the discovery, the university would not treat him shabbily either. Three years of scholarship should be guaranteed.  
  
The sophomore who proved Ramsey's theorem was the best example. Apparently, the University of Nanjing gave him a million dollars, half of which was used as funding for his research while the other half for his living expenses.  
  
The University of Jin Ling is among the top 10 in the country. Even though their mathematics department is relatively weak, the University of Jin Ling should still give more money than the lower ranked University of Nanking, right?  
  
After thinking about it, Lu Zhou felt slightly better.  
  
He calmed down and started to look over the proof theorem.  
  
It was different than the coke from the "garbage" category. Zhou's approximation proof was categorized under "blueprint". It was not printed on paper or as a digital file. When he wanted to read it, he just had to think about it and all the proof steps will appear in his brain.  
  
"I can't comprehend this at all… I guess I would have to spend quite a lot of time to understand this proof."  
  
Lu Zhou thought about how he would successfully extract the steps of the proof.  
  
First of all, memorizing it was no use as he had to understand it.  
  
Secondly, he had to portray himself as a genius.  
  
Regardless, if one could solve a high level question such as Zhou's approximation, one would need to at least be able to score full marks in high school maths, right? Even if one accidentally lost one mark, one would still need to get 99 marks.  
  
Lu Zhou was not too concerned about it. It only took him two days to finish learning mathematical analysis and advanced algebra. The lecturers would not trick the students on purpose. They would only test what was in the syllabus.  
  
Everything was already secured… Lu Zhou planned to present Zhou's approximation proof after the summer holidays. In the next two months, in order to maximize his gains, he would try to make himself into a true genius.  
  
He must find teachers to discuss the math problems with.  
  
Level 1 mathematics was also a must.  
  
The summer school was also a must.  
  
He also had to call his parents as it could be New Year before his next family visit.  
  
After getting his prizes, a question popped into Lu Zhou's head.  
  
Is the blueprint prize correlated with subject level?  
  
This question was crucial.  
  
Otherwise, why was he so unlucky and got a weird proof answer? As opposed to the first prize space battleship?  
  
The theory was stuck in Lu Zhou's head. The more he thought about it, the more likely it seemed.  
  
"Ranking up a subject level is a priority. I should get mathematics level 1 ASAP in order to unlock other subjects' level 1 limit. Before that, should I save my lucky draw tickets? But if I don't utilize the lucky draw tickets, I can't refresh the mission list. It's not realistic to hoard the lucky draw tickets…"  
  
He clearly remembered that after he got the mission prizes, the mission list turned gray. Only after using his lucky draw tickets did the mission list became selectable again.  
  
The only way to know was to enter more lucky draws.  
  
If the next consecutive prizes were all proof answers, his theory would be correct.  
  
Anyways, he should be able to take on new missions.  
  
What will it be?  
  
Lu Zhou began to think.  
  
"Open mission list!"  
  
A semi-transparent screen appeared in front of him.  
  
[  
  
Mission 1: The art of profiting from laziness  
  
Description: Profiting from laziness is also a form of art. If you can earn money while being lazy, why would you need to work hard?  
  
Requirements: Utilize the art of language and get your name on a million dollar science research project. Use as little effort as possible to gain the maximum merit. Try to be lazy, young one!  
  
Reward: Subject experience points (Subject determined by research project type, amount of experience points is positively correlated with research project funding, negatively correlated with the amount of effort used). One lucky draw ticket (100% garbage).  
  
]  
  
[  
  
Mission 2: Practice fundamental skills  
  
Description: Rome wasn't built in a day, neither was the skyscraper of science.  
  
Requirements: Solve 200 university level physics exercise questions (Questions are provided by the system and created with respect to the user's current knowledge).  
  
Rewards: Question difficult level x 2. 50 general points. Item: Immersive learning hours (Type: special. Effect: 24 hours. Within a valid time frame, immersive learning is enabled when reading books. Permanent mastery of knowledge gained.)  
  
]  
  
[  
  
Mission 3: Academic starts from theses  
  
Explanation: Theses are the backbone of academia. An academician that can write a thesis might not be successful, but an academician that cannot write a thesis definitely won't be successful. Do not argue with the system about this. The system is definitely right! Publish a scientific thesis and start your academic career!  
  
Requirements: Publish a scientific thesis.  
  
Rewards: Subject experience points (determined by thesis value with a minimum of 100 points). 200 general points. One lucky draw ticket (95% garbage, 5% samples).  
  
]  
  
Lu Zhou had a weird expression after reading the last mission.  
  
Experience points were determined by thesis value?  
  
If he submitted his Zhou's approximation proof into the scientific journal, he would probably get a lot of experience points.  
  
That was pretty tempting…  
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# 7 Everyone Else Is Trash Compared To A Genius Studen

At last, logic overcame greed. Lu Zhou dispelled his unrealistic idea.  
  
There was nothing special about a freshman publishing in a scientific journal. Not to mention, a lot of papers in the Chinese mathematical journals were subpar. As long as one's English was good, one could probably sneak your way through even with subpar work.  
  
This type of masquerading behavior was exposed by an individual who ranked the journals by inferiority. The one ranked at number one was Applied Mathematics (AMC) as it was infamous for publishing subpar work.  
  
The University of Shanghai alone published hundreds of AMC theses just in four years. It was not unusual for someone to publish 20 subpar theses in a year.  
  
To protect the academic integrity of the theses, some old-fashioned journals would often strictly limit the yearly published theses to 100 or less. However, this "monster journal" did not care. It published more than a thousand theses every year. This coupled with the phenomenon of overlapping resonance made the impact factor grew very quickly. Due to the copious amounts of pseudo-peer review, one editorial board published more than a hundred theses!  
  
Lu Zhou was uncertain about publishing in other journals but for AMC…  
  
He could be confident or cocky about it.  
  
Either way, he felt like there was no problem.  
  
However, it would be difficult if he wanted to publish Zhou's approximation in the scientific journal. The problem was not about getting accepted as he could easily get accepted. The crucial aspect was whether he could hold the spot after getting accepted.  
  
Ultimately, Lu Zhou still selected the third mission. He did not plan on using Zhou's approximation. Rather, he planned on writing a phony thesis in order to pass the mission.  
  
His current knowledge of advanced mathematics and mathematical analysis was equivalent to a master's student. If he wanted to write a thesis with his level four English, he only had to learn some technical words. It was nothing a dictionary could not solve.  
  
In comparison, he did not have connections or the emotional intelligence needed for the first mission.  
  
As for the second mission, the university did not even offer a physics class for freshmen. He was afraid that the system would produce high school level physics questions and god knows how low the difficulty level would be. Furthermore, he did not care too much about his physics level. He did not really need to learn it right now. He could just learn it later if he needed it.  
  
After Lu Zhou chose his mission, he patted the grass off his backside and stood up. He put on some music and began to walk towards the dorms.  
  
After being away for so long, Liu Rui would go crazy if he did not get back soon.  
  
That guy was weird. He was pretty generous but when it came to studies, he was so competitive and selfish it made people speechless. He would chase you across the streets if you looked at his notes and rolled his eyes if you asked him questions. In his eyes, it seemed that everyone in the world was his competitor. What he strived for was not some kind of academic success but the admiration of students and teachers through obtaining the "genius" spot.  
  
Could this type of person be considered a genius?  
  
Lu Zhou did not think so.  
  
In the eyes of a true genius, everyone else was trash. Who cared if you looked at my notes? Did you know about Zhou's approximation? You would not know what it was when it was in front of you!  
  
Lu Zhou would only acknowledge one person as having the qualities of a true genius.  
  
Yes, that was right.  
  
One did not even need to guess. He was talking about himself.  
  
…  
  
When he opened the door to his dorm, it was exactly 10 o'clock.  
  
Liu Rui was holding an exercise book. The other two people were not there. They were probably playing cards next door. Shi Shang was the type of person who only listened in class, but did not allocate additional time to study during exam periods. As for Huang Guangming, he was allegedly called a God of Study. He did not listen to classes. He would cram before exams and still do very well.  
  
Lu Zhou threw his backpack onto the table and started to look for his showering card in the drawers.  
  
At this moment, Liu Rui set down the exercise book in his hands and looked at Lu Zhou's direction.  
  
"Buddy, why are you working so hard?"  
  
"I have to work hard. I haven't touched a book for half a semester. If I don't start now, it'll be too late," said Lu Zhou before he threw his towel over his shoulder and stood up from his chair.  
  
Liu Rui saw that Lu Zhou was about to shower and asked, "I can't solve this problem. Could you look at it for me?"  
  
Oh, this was astonishing.  
  
There were questions that even Liu Rui could not do?  
  
"Let me look at it."  
  
When Lu Zhou reached out with his hands, Liu Rui adjusted his glasses and handed over his exercise book. He pointed at the circled question and said, "This question."  
  
"Calculus problem? This shouldn't be hard…" said Lu Zhou. He glanced at the question and was surprised to have never seen this type of problem before. He was excited. Who cared about showering? He took the exercise book, sat back down and started to draw diagrams on the draft paper.  
  
Previously, if Liu Rui was unable to solve it, there was no way Lu Zhou could. He did not know why but now, there was not even a sliver of the word "impossible" in his mind.  
  
After Lu Zhou spent some time trying to solve it, Liu Rui relaxed a bit. The dumbass he secretly looked down upon was still a dumbass. However he pretended, he was still a dumbass.  
  
As for this question, Liu Rui genuinely was unable to solve it. However, there were official answers with the exact steps to solve it. The reason for asking Lu Zhou this question was not really for help. Rather, he only wanted to "spy on the enemy".  
  
After all, if he actually wanted help for a math problem, he would not ask a dumbass like Lu Zhou for help.  
  
Liu Rui was thinking this and asked, "What if you copied down the question first? I'll move onto the next question first?"  
  
The hidden meaning was that there was no way Lu Zhou could solve it, so he would not waste his time.  
  
However, Lu Zhou's response was not what Liu Rui expected.  
  
"… no need. I solved it.'  
  
Solve- solved it?!  
  
Liu Rui's eyes widened so much that his eyeballs nearly popped out.  
  
"Yeah, you heard me," said Lu Zhou. He was spinning his pen as he explained the formula on the draft paper, "A typical two-step problem. First, you convert Cartesian coordinates into polar coordinates. Due to the interval symmetry, you can simply and reduce this part into cot^2(x)…"  
  
"Then calculate the derivative as csx^2(x)! Then substitute back into the original function!" Liu Rui's pupils contracted slightly. He finally understood the underlying logic of solving this problem. The rest was easy and he just had to calculate it.  
  
Fuck, I didn't think of this step…  
  
"Bingo! I solved it," said Lu Zhou with a smile. Sometimes, even a child could teach others.  
  
"Thanks… Let me borrow the draft paper. I'll try to figure this out."  
  
"Take it and you're welcome!" said Lu Zhou as he generously waved his hands and started to walk towards the bathroom.  
  
Liu Rui took Lu Zhou's draft paper and sat back down. He pushed his glasses and looked at the question. He frowned and went into a deep thinking mode.  
  
Even though the technique was new to him, the steps to solve it was clearly written down. There was nothing out of his knowledge, so he could easily understand it even without Lu Zhou's explanation.  
  
However, one thing he failed to understand was how the hell did Lu Zhou figure it out?  
  
It was also in such a short amount of time…  
  
Maybe he had encountered this type of problem before?  
  
Liu Rui thought that this was the only possibility. Otherwise, he could not imagine how this part-time working dumbass could solve this problem faster than a genius such as himself.  
  
He flipped to the back of the exercise book. When Liu Rui looked at the answers, he froze.  
  
"There's no way…"  
  
The answer is correct… But that's not the main point.  
  
The main point is that Lu Zhou's method is easier than the answers! The answers didn't think about converting the Cartesian coordinates into polar coordinates. Instead, the answers used integral by parts which resulted in a large number of calculations.  
  
And this was a method he thought about…  
  
How is this possible?  
  
Liu Rui bit his lip.  
  
He suddenly had doubts about his life.  
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# 8 The Optimal Inversion Theory of Linear Operators and Linear Functions

Since having the system, Lu Zhou felt his life becoming more structured. Every morning, he would carry his second-hand laptop and headed towards the library. He had never experienced this style of living before.  
  
Sitting at the usual same spot, Lu Zhou opened his laptop and plugged his charger in the wall outlet. He contemplated for a while before typing a line of big words onto a Word document.  
  
[The Optimal Inversion Theory of Linear Operators and Linear Functions ]  
  
[Abstract: Researched a few types of inversion problems of linear functional and linear operators when given full and part information. Introduced the basic results of optimal inversion theory. Especially the construction of the optimal construction method.]  
  
Lu Zhou thought about this problem while lying in bed going through his notes. When their mathematics analysis professor, Professor Tang, talked about the Fourier inversion formula, he mentioned this briefly. It was one of the few unpopular but still cutting edge fields.  
  
Lu Zhou combined some information online and drafted this question  
  
As for how to solve this problem?  
  
Hmm…  
  
With his skill level, there was no way he could solve it. Therefore, he had to use some unconventional means.  
  
If he recalled correctly, the high tech system's general points could be used to solve modern technical problems. He tried to solve Riemann's conjecture but the system did not respond. He thought that the question must be above his mathematical level or that the general points required were an insanely high number that he did not have.  
  
For this level of difficulty, surely the system would give a response?  
  
Lu Zhou thought about this. As he concentrated on the computer screen, he began to think, "system, system, system."  
  
Hmm…  
  
It seemed like there was no response.  
  
What?  
  
Suddenly, a warm air current flew from his back to the top of his head. Lu Zhou felt his brain getting warmer. Immediately after, a "pong" sound went off. An enormous stream of information blasted open like a sea of knowledge. This was followed by lines of text floating in front of his eyes.  
  
[65 general points used.]  
  
[Currently producing an optimal solution based on a mathematical level of 0…]  
  
He did not feel any discomfort. Rather, he felt pleasure. Just as Lu Zhou wondered if he was in a dream, he woke up.  
  
Lu Zhou looked at the white computer screen. He then looked at his hands and the keyboard before muttering with a hint of excitement.  
  
"Solve- solved it?!"  
  
It really solved it!!!  
  
If he was not at the library, he would have started to cheer loudly.  
  
Just like when he was obtaining Zhou's approximation, the entire question's core theorems were planted into his head like a piece of iron.  
  
From steps to answers, every number, every symbol, even every full stop was in his head. It was all so concise and filled with the beauty of mathematics.  
  
The only downside was that this type of beauty was too abstract. He needed to use language to enrich its connotation and turn it into a thesis.  
  
A thesis that could be comprehended by others.  
  
While thinking, Lu Zhou seemed to understand the meaning behind the high tech system.  
  
However, he was confused as to the point of all this.  
  
Suddenly a ballpoint pen poked his arm lightly.  
  
"Umm, student…" said Chen Yushan with a reddened face. Embarrassed, she asked, "Can I ask you another maths question?"  
  
Originally, she did not want to ask him. However, she had asked everyone around her and no one could solve it.  
  
She held her head down in defeat.  
  
Chen Yushan chose to tolerate him and decided to forget the "humiliation" that Lu Zhou had previously caused her.  
  
Lu Zhou opened his mouth and said, "Okay, bring me the question."  
  
Chen Yushan released a breath and quietly moved her chair next to Lu Zhou.  
  
Lu Zhou looked at the question briefly and saw that it was much more difficult than the question that she asked him the other day. It was around the same level as the question Liu Rui had asked him.  
  
However hard it may be, it was only an advanced algebra question. For him, as long as it was a question from an exercise book, he could definitely solve it.  
  
Lu Zhou took a pen and started to write on the draft paper.  
  
While Lu Zhou was doing the question, Chen Yushan secretly looked at his face.  
  
Although this guy's personality was unlikeable, his look of focus was surprisingly attractive.  
  
Chen Yushan was bored while she waited for Lu Zhou to solve the question. She suddenly noticed the Word document on his computer screen. She asked quietly, "Student, are you doing a graduate project?"  
  
It was already June and he still had not completed the graduate project. What a "genius"!  
  
Lu Zhou answered, "No, that's my thesis, I'm submitting it to the scientific journal."  
  
Hearing this, Chen Yushan was filled with respect for him.  
  
Oh my god, I met a god!  
  
I didn't even notice. He looks so young. How is he a PhD student?  
  
Also, this PhD student had already started to submit to the scientific journal during the semester. Impressive!  
  
Filled with worship, Chen Yushan asked, "Student, what do you major in?"  
  
Lu Zhou had a poker face on while he tried to solve the question. When he heard her, he began to smile, "Uh… mathematics."  
  
"Mathematics major, Jesus Christ! Anyone that can study mathematics is a god…" said Chen Yushan. Her worship was even more sincere than before.  
  
She was in the business school. She did pretty well in her other subjects and the only subject she worried about was mathematics. She was about to go into the fourth year. The immense pressure from the postgraduate exams was right in front of her, making her worried about continuing her studies.  
  
"Solved it. I wrote the thought process and steps on the paper. If you look at it for a while, you should be able to understand." said Lu Zhou. He threw the draft paper next to Chen Yushan as he said softly, "Mathematics is partly driven by talent and partly driven by hard work. It's different than other quantitative subjects. You won't understand it by having others explaining it to you."  
  
After all, this was the library. It was unsuitable for discussion. Quiet conversations were fine, but if they kept on talking, people would start to get annoyed. Therefore, Lu Zhou stopped the conversation and gave this girl the necessary resources to figure it out herself.  
  
Chen Yushan thanked him softly and took the draft paper. She then took out her phone and requested softly, "Umm… Student, can I get your WeChat? I still want to ask you if I'm stuck on a question."  
  
"No problem," said Lu Zhou. He did not think much and took out his crappy Xiaomi phone to let the girl scanned his QR code.  
  
"Thanks, I'll buy you food next time," said Chen Yushan. She blushed and thanked him again. She then moved her chair back and continued to study hard.  
  
Suddenly, Lu Zhou had a moment of realization. He forgot to clear up a misunderstanding.  
  
He was not a graduate student. He was just a freshman.  
  
Although… He would be a sophomore in a few months.  
  
If he went after her to specifically clarify this, it would seem a bit obsessive and awkward. He would have to clarify this misunderstanding next time when he had the chance.  
  
He shook his head and put the thought in the back of his mind. His eyes continued to stare at the screen while his fingers tapped lightly on the keyboard. He started to focus on writing his thesis.  
  
…  
  
Although the system gave the answer based on a level zero mathematics , there was one aspect Lu Zhou was certain of. This method of solving it definitely did not come from his current knowledge. Rather, it came from the system's database of knowledge.  
  
While writing his thesis, Lu Zhou was also writing down notes in his notebook. He listed the parts that he did not understand and wrote down a question mark on the steps that he still had doubts about.  
  
When other people wrote theses, it was like they were squeezing water from a sponge. As for Lu Zhou, it was like pouring water into a sponge. It was not output, it was input.  
  
Lu Zhou was in the library for the entire day. Even his lunch was the leftover bao from breakfast.  
  
He looked at the thousands of words on his screen and the two full pages of notes on his notebook. He laid back on his chair and stretched.  
  
"All I have to do now is to understand the parts on my notebook. I'll figure it out myself if I can. Otherwise, I'll just ask the teacher."  
  
"Also for the parts of the thesis that are messy, I should streamline them. I'll do some researching online for steps that are already proven by other theses. After that, I can just delete the proof and label the reference."  
  
"The last step is to double check it… Shouldn't be a big problem for me. After all, I wrote every word personally."  
  
Technically the system wrote it, but it's the same thing.  
  
It was getting late and his tummy started to rumble. Lu Zhou stood up from his chair and started to walk out of the library.  
  
Should I eat barbecue on rice again? Or eat curry?  
  
After he finished his dinner, he would go and visit Professor Tang's office. If he recalled it correctly, he should be on fourth year's classroom duty right now.  
  
Okay, I'll decide at that!  
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# 9 Did I Even Study At University...

The consultation room did not even have a single empty seat.  
  
The third-year students preparing for graduate entrance exams were all focused on studying.  
  
Next to the lectern, sat the professor of University of Jin Ling's mathematics department, Tang Zhiwei. He put the newspaper in his hand down and started to meticulously look at the question on the draft paper. His right hand flipped the pen cover repetitively.  
  
Lu Zhou stood next to him. He clearly understood that this little gesture meant that he was in his deep thinking mode.  
  
"Where did you get this question?" asked Tang Zhiwei suddenly after staring at the draft paper for a long time.  
  
"The textbook mentioned the Fourier series, so I went to the library to find related materials. I found variants of the Fourier inversion theorem and a few applications for the variants. I tried to derive them and was stuck on this one step," said Lu Zhou with an apologetic smile. His facial expression was full of gratefulness.  
  
Tang Zhiwei looked at Lu Zhou for a second before looking back at the draft paper. He put the pen cover down and picked up a piece of chalk. He walked next to the blackboard and paused for a second. His then reached out and started to draft the question on the blackboard.  
  
Lu Zhou looked at the blackboard with immense focus. Perhaps it was because he had already done his homework on these type of questions, he found himself to be able to keep up with the teacher's pace.  
  
The noise created by the chalk on the podium attracted the attention of the third-year math students that were studying. Occasionally, they would look up and stare blankly at the formula that was written on the blackboard before looking back down quickly.  
  
Emmm…  
  
What are they writing?  
  
Time passed by slowly and without them knowing, the entire blackboard was full.  
  
Tang Zhiwei wrote from the blackboard's upper left corner all the way to the lower right corner. He stopped writing and looked back at Lu Zhou before asking, "Do you understand this part?"  
  
Lu Zhou looked intently at the blackboard and nodded, "I get it."  
  
Tang Zhiwei lifted his eyebrows as he asked, "Do you really understand?"  
  
Lu Zhou said, "I really understand it."  
  
Tang Zhiwei did not say much and started to wipe the blackboard with the eraser. He took the chalk and continued to write on the blackboard. He changed his judgment of Lu Zhou's character.  
  
He hated two types of students. The students that asked him for extra marks and the fake students that would purposely ask him very difficult questions.  
  
Especially the latter, as it purely wasted his time!  
  
He clearly was uninterested in maths, yet he acted like he was doing research. Disgusting! This type of people only wanted to get close with the teachers. They completely forgot the point of studying.  
  
Tang Zhiwei was writing the finishing parts and had only a few lines left. He suddenly stopped and looked back at Lu Zhou before asking with a laugh, "I'll finish writing here. You should be able to understand right?"  
  
Lu Zhou nodded, "I understand… Thanks, Professor!"  
  
Chen Yushan sat at the corner of the front row seats. She was secretly observing the two people on the podium. She heard the back and forth conversation of "Understand?" "Understood." Her face had a confused expression written on it.  
  
What do you mean understand, understood?  
  
What exactly are these two communicating?  
  
Chen Yushan realized that with her ability, she could never understand their conversation. All of a sudden, she felt hopeless about her own mathematical abilities.  
  
Maybe… I'm actually just a bad student?  
  
Tang Zhiwei heard Lu Zhou's reply and laughed. He carefully put the chalk back onto the table and sat down. He opened his vacuum flask and drank some tea. He then slowly said, "Do you really understand? Then why don't you finish writing down the steps."  
  
Understand? My ass!  
  
When I was writing, you stood there like a dumbass. You didn't even take notes. If you really understood it, I'll eat this cup!  
  
Lu Zhou saw Tang Zhiwei's expression and he suddenly understood. The professor doubted if he actually paid attention. He was testing him!  
  
Lu Zhou did not know whether he should laugh or cry.  
  
Honest to God! I really understood!  
  
He also did not know why. When Professor Tang was solving on the blackboard, the lines of equations felt so familiar. It was as if he had seen them before, but he could not recall where.  
  
Perhaps it was because he exchanged the system's general points for knowledge and it subsequently covered this information? Or because his own mathematical experience increased and it increased his intuition towards mathematics?  
  
In short, he actually understood it.  
  
Lu Zhou did not know the exact reason but it was obvious that Professor Tang was not planning on solving this question. Professor Tang looked leisurely at him to perform. He could not screw up his chances of successfully submitting a thesis next semester.  
  
With a confident smile, Lu Zhou walked towards the blackboard with a chalk in his hand.  
  
Professor Tang's eyebrows rose as he thought that there was no way this little kid could complete the steps.  
  
There's no way.  
  
Definitely no way!  
  
Even though he already wrote down most of the proof steps, the last few steps of the proof were not something a freshman student could do! Even his master's students would have to go through the steps multiple times before they could understand it!  
  
But this guy! He didn't even write notes when he was listening!  
  
Time passed by slowly. From the initial state of being amazed, Professor Tang's feeling soon turned to shock before it finally became a feeling of approval.  
  
All of the doubts that he had was like snow in the spring. It melted as soon as the sun shined on it.  
  
After Lu Zhou wrote down the last symbol on the blackboard, he looked back at Professor Tang. Professor Tang nodded his head in approval and said, "Not bad… Well written."  
  
The last few steps were slightly different than his method. It was slightly more cumbersome, but still quite sophisticated. This showed that not only did Lu Zhou understood what he said, but he also incorporated his own thought process into it.  
  
This ability was very precious.  
  
It turned out that he had judged wrong…  
  
"It was still thanks to teacher's help. If I do this by myself, there's no way I could solve it until this step…" Lu Zhou apologetically smiled.  
  
He did not lie about this part. The steps the system calculated had a lot "a = b" proofs. It did not really explain exactly why a equaled to b.  
  
He asked Professor Tang for the exact explanation of the proof.  
  
"Don't need to be humble with me. I can see your skill level," said Professor Tang. He closed the lid of the vacuum flask and continued to ask, "What class are you in?"  
  
"Class one. First year. Lu Zhou," answered Lu Zhou honestly.  
  
"Lu Zhou…" Professor Tang repeated it a couple of times as if he was trying to remember this name.  
  
It turns out that this student is called Lu Zhou…  
  
Chen Yushan sat in the corner. She was secretly listening and nodded. Suddenly, she felt something was wrong and she immediately realized it.  
  
First, first year?!  
  
Chen Yushan blushed as she remembered calling him senior. Her entire body was like an ostrich as she rested her head on the table.  
  
Chen Yushan was not the only person that was shocked. Some of the senior female students who were sitting in the front row also looked at this junior student intensely. Their hearts were racing like a pack of lambs.  
  
How smart are the freshmen these days?  
  
How are we supposed to compete?  
  
"It's going to be exams soon, right? How's your revision going?"  
  
"I'm almost done with revising. I just want to study something else," said Lu Zhou with a forced smile.  
  
"Ah, it's a bit insulting for someone like you to take that test," said Tang Zhiwei. With a smile, he asked jokingly, "How about I make a test specifically for you?"  
  
"Please don't! I'll die!" Lu Zhou replied jokingly.  
  
"What? How can a test kill you? I don't believe it," said Tang Zhiwei. He evaluated Lu Zhou before nodding approvingly and said, "Not bad, not bad at all. I rarely complimented students. If you weren't in the first year, I would want to talk to the academic office and take you under my wing to do research."  
  
"Teacher, you spoke too highly of me. I still have a lot to learn. If I actually did research with you, I would drag you down," replied Lu Zhou. He knew that Professor Tang was joking so he was humble in his reply.  
  
Tang Zhiwei criticized him, "Stop! Don't give me all that polite stuff. People in academia have to focus on doing academics. Don't give people that fake politeness."  
  
Although he had no doubt that he was being criticized, Lu Zhou knew that Professor Tang was not angry. Professor Tang was teaching him like he would his own student.  
  
When this old guy got angry, he would definitely put on a smile. For example, when he was writing on the blackboard earlier and thought that Lu Zhou was pretending to know what was going on, he must have been so angry.  
  
"Teacher, you are right. I understand."  
  
Seeing Lu Zhou's sincere expression, Tang Zhiwei relaxed his tone and nodded his head. He continued to say, "It's good that you have an interest in mathematics. I hope that you can continue to maintain this interest. Also, your selection of the field is good. Even though it isn't a popular field, it is a field that one can easily succeed in. If you've good ideas, don't be afraid to go for it. If you don't understand some parts, just read or ask. This is how academia is built. Who knows, you could come up with something no one else has thought of before."  
  
Professor Tang paused for a moment before continuing, "The mathematics department of the University of Jin Ling isn't very strong, but our physics department is very good. The Fourier transformation is used in spectrum analysis, data compression and orthogonal frequency division and its applications are quite broad. If you become an expert in this field, I believe that when you are in your fourth year, physics professors from next door would definitely want you."  
  
Professor Tang laughed and continued, "Study more, read more, practice more, research more. I'll stop rambling. Go and think through this by yourself. I'll stop wasting your time."  
  
"Thank you, professor! I will definitely remember these words that came from the bottom of your heart," replied Lu Zhou sincerely.  
  
"Don't give me that fake politeness. Didn't I just tell you this? Just say thanks, then head off. Do you need me to send you?" laughed Tang Zhiwei.  
  
Lu Zhou smiled. He took the draft paper and pen before walking out of the door. He even closed the door behind him.  
  
Tang Zhiwei looked back at the blackboard and let out a breath. His heart was deeply moved by it.  
  
No wonder Jin Ling is one of the ancient capital of the Six Dynasties and the birthplace of astounding people.  
  
With the University of Jin Ling standing on this dragon's pulse, it would really produce talented people!  
  
The undergraduate students were muddled. They looked at the dazzling equations on the blackboard. When they looked back at their own exercise book, they felt a sense of inadequacy.  
  
Did I even study at university…  
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# 10 I Have Two Girlfriends

Room 201. Male dorm rooms.  
  
Liu Rui was doing practice questions under the light when he suddenly stopped his pen and looked at the room's door. He asked carelessly, "Why hasn't Zhou come back yet?"  
  
Huang Guangming was sitting on the bed playing soul hunters. He did not even raise his head as he replied, "I don't know. Why do you care so much about the guy? Are you gay or something? Disgusting!"  
  
"Come down! I'll beat your ass!"  
  
Liu Rui swore. He grabbed the ladder and started to shake the bed to the point that Huang Guangming could not even see his phone clearly. He quickly grabbed the rail and screamed mercy.  
  
"Brother Liu! Brother Liu! I was wrong, I was wrong! Stop shaking! I'm gonna die! Ahhhhh~"  
  
In fact, there was no way he could die. The bed frame was connected. There were also lots of books and clothes in the cabinet supporting it. Even if Liu Rui threw his entire body weight onto the ladder, he still could not flip over the massive rectangular object.  
  
These two noisy people had already become the norm for Room 201.  
  
Shi Shang was studying English when he suddenly lifted up his head and said coldly, "Speaking of which, Zhou hasn't been working part-time recently. He also stopped playing League at night and he spends all his time at the library. Maybe…"  
  
"Maybe?" Liu Rui's ears perked up.  
  
"Maybe he's dating?" said Shi Shang with a tone of uncertainty.  
  
Liu Rui: "…"  
  
Huang Guangming: "…"  
  
"… Yeah, why aren't you guys talking?" said Shi Shang embarrassingly when he realized the room was quiet.  
  
Liu Rui and Huang Guangming looked at each other before looking at Shi Shang.  
  
In a serious tone, Liu Rui said, "You're crazy"  
  
"Fuck me, call me crazy again and see what happens!"  
  
Huang Guangming said seriously, "You're crazy. We're math majors."  
  
"…"  
  
This logic was too perfect. Shi Shang's throat choked up and he was speechless. Tears nearly started to flow down his cheeks.  
  
The ratio of single versus guys with girlfriends in the mathematics department was ranked first in the University of Jin Ling. Other quantitative departments could still find one hot girl, but for them… If they wanted to find a hot girl, they would have to convince some guy to cross-dress.  
  
As for people from the other classes, if they told them that they were math major, their first reaction was, "Oh, you're part of that loner squad,", "Ever had a girlfriend?", "Never had one, right?". Normally speaking, girls dislike guys that were not romantic. It was very rare to find a partner.  
  
Otherwise, why would a tall, handsome, basketball playing, and Rukawa Kaede level guy like me still be single?  
  
Sigh… Reality is cruel.  
  
Shi Shang looked at the sky.  
  
At this moment, Lu Zhou came back to his dorm. He laughed as he opened the door.  
  
"What were you guys talking about? I could hear you guys screaming from across the hallway. Go and find yourself a girlfriend. It'll be too late if you don't."  
  
Huang Guangming had a serious face on as he said, "Zhou, I have to ask you a very serious question. Answer honestly."  
  
"What…?"  
  
Shi Shang asked seriously, "Do you have a girlfriend?"  
  
Lu Zhou said impatiently, "Yeah, sure. I have two! Jealous? Want me to lend them to you?"  
  
"Fuck off!" was the response from the three guys.  
  
Lu Zhou paused. He was surprised by their unison. He suddenly realized something and he laughed as he said, "What… are you guys thinking? I was talking about two-digit composite numbers. I wrote notes on it. Feel free to read them. Just remember to give it back."  
  
"…"  
  
"…"  
  
"…"  
  
Uh.  
  
The room became silent again.  
  
…  
  
In the morning, Lu Zhou routinely woke up in the morning. He brushed his teeth, washed his face, and headed to the cafeteria with his laptop.  
  
The cafeteria had just opened for business and so, the hall was pretty much empty.  
  
When Lu Zhou walked in, he could smell the delicious freshly steamed buns from miles away.  
  
"Ma'am, can I have three steamed buns and a cup of soy milk to take away?"  
  
"Okay! Young man, you're up so early. I'll pick a big bun for you."  
  
"Thank you, ma'am!"  
  
It did not matter if it was a classmate, a teacher, or a stranger, Lu Zhou was always very polite.  
  
His father taught him to be nice to people as he would never get the short end of the stick.  
  
Of course, nothing was that absolute. His father worked at the metal factory for many years and suffered a lot of abuse. On the other hand, even though Lu Zhou remembered the lessons his father taught him, he still could not control himself and would occasionally swear.  
  
Once the buns were packed, Lu Zhou took out his food card and pressed it against the machine.  
  
A second later, he felt embarrassed.  
  
[Card declined]  
  
The cafeteria lady saw how embarrassed Lu Zhou was and laughed before saying kindly, "It's okay. Cash is fine. I can give you change."  
  
Lu Zhou searched in his pockets and took out his wallet. He felt even more embarrassed.  
  
His wallet was empty and it only had a bank card in it. As for his Xiaomi phone, he left it charging back in his dorm room. He could not even scan the QR code to pay.  
  
This cafeteria probably doesn't accept bank cards, right?  
  
System…  
  
Let's negotiate a bit. Can I exchange general points for money?  
  
Lu Zhou said in his heart. He was full of regret when the system did not respond.  
  
At this moment, like a flash of thunder, the card machine rang.  
  
Lu Zhou looked behind him immediately and saw a girl with bangs. She stood there and looked at him with a smile as she waved her food card.  
  
"Hey, morning."  
  
"Morning…" Lu Zhou nodded his head. He was stunned.  
  
This person…  
  
Who is this?  
  
"How dare you! You don't even recognize me!" said Chen Yushan as she knew instantly that Lu Zhou did not recognize her. Her lips perked up in anger.  
  
"Oh, sorry… Thanks. How about I add your WeChat to pay you back?"  
  
"It's fine. It's only two dollars fifty. I'm not that cheap. Also, we've already added each others' WeChat!" said Chen Yushan as she waved her hair and grinned. She reached out with her right hand and said, "Let me reintroduce myself. My name is Chen Yushan. I'm in the business school. Little brother, you can call me older sister."  
  
Lu Zhou did not know why she emphasized on "brother" or why she added a "little" in front of it. He had no idea how she knew he was younger. However, after hearing her talk about adding his WeChat, he suddenly remembered who she was.  
  
Just what…  
  
Her appearance changed a lot!  
  
She was wearing denim shorts and a pair of sandals. He did not know if he should stare at her sexy long legs. She had a small white t-shirt with very noticeable curves. Her face had little makeup and she was wearing bright red lip gloss. Most noticeably, the pair of round glasses came off. Maybe she was wearing contact lenses?  
  
Chen Yushan noticed that Lu Zhou was speechless and she was secretly happy. Her roommate dragged her to give her an appearance makeover, which somewhat annoyed her. However, right now, she felt that the effort was worth it.  
  
Of course, her body was naturally attractive. She was just accustomed to not caring.  
  
A normal person would not get half of the results even if they tried.  
  
"What? Little brother?" Chen Yushan waved her long hair, pouted her mouth, and laughed at Lu Zhou mischievously. Her eyes signaled, "Aren't you going to say anything?"  
  
Lu Zhou paused for a second and looked at Chen Yushan. He contemplated if he should speak. Finally, he gave in to his kindness as he quietly said, "The air conditioning in the library is very cold. You'll feel cold wearing this."  
  
"…"  
  
Chen Yushan felt stupid for anticipating his response.  
  
Lu Zhou ate one of the three buns, put the rest in a plastic bag and stuffed them into his backpack. Chen Yushan was slurping on noodles. She looked at him and did not say much. She only thought it was respectable that he did not waste food.  
  
The pair finished eating at the same time and started to walk towards the library.  
  
At the same old place, Chen Yushan sat next to Lu Zhou. She took out her exercise book and started to read it. Having a makeover was only to experience a change and to satisfy her roommate. It did not change her pace of studying at all.  
  
On the other hand, Lu Zhou took out his laptop and started to edit his thesis.  
  
The calculation method that Professor Tang showed him yesterday was crucial for the development of his thesis. With the memory fresh in his mind, he decided to choose the most important parts of the thesis to write.  
  
After that, there were only three difficult sections left to figure out. If he pushed himself, he could try to finish the thesis by the end of the month!  
  
The science journal review process was very slow and it often took up to three months. Even for a crappy journal like AMC, it was still slow. He did not want to take half a year just to finish his mission.  
  
Time flew by quickly and it was already noon.  
  
Chen Yushan spent the whole morning doing practice questions when she looked over at Lu Zhou and lightly tapped his arm.  
  
"Little brother, little brother, how about we get lunch together?"  
  
She was almost addicted to calling him little brother that she even said it twice.  
  
Lu Zhou hesitated and shook his head, "I'm good. I'm not that hungry. You go first."  
  
Today was Sunday and the food card top-up service was closed. Not to mention, he left his phone in his dorm. How could he let her treat him again?  
  
"Are you sure? I'll treat you," said Chen Yushan.  
  
Lu Zhou was drooling as he thought of the cafeteria's barbecue meat.  
  
Finally, the temptation of food overcame logic. He said apologetically, "Oh… Let's go then. I'll treat you next time."  
  
His buns were already cold anyway. It would taste the same if he kept it for dinner.  
  
"Ah, I'll remember what you said. Let's go then. It'll get too crowded if we don't hurry up," said Chen Yushan. She stood up, turned around and felt confident.  
  
Who cares if your IQ is high? You're still suppressed under my elegant goddess-like appearance!  
  
Meanwhile, Lu Zhou was walking next to her and oblivious of her satisfaction. This was because he was debating a very important question.  
  
Should I eat cumin flavored meat?  
  
Or pepper flavored meat?  
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# 11 Even A Genius Had Shortcomings

The days slowly passed by and Lu Zhou maintained the library and dorm lifestyle. Other than eating at the cafeteria or asking professor Tang for help when he was stuck, the trajectory of his life had not changed.  
  
It was the first time his life had structure since he stepped into the university. Not to mention, he had maintained it for over two weeks.  
  
He had not expected it at all.  
  
Finally, Lu Zhou managed to finish his thesis before the 15th of June. He had also translated it from Mandarin to English.  
  
It was worth mentioning that when Lu Zhou was discussing "Derivation of the Fourier partial series in relation with inversion functions" with Professor Tang, Professor Tang showed immense interest in Lu Zhou's thesis. Professor Tang said that he would not mind helping Lu Zhou to edit his thesis.  
  
Lu Zhou trusted Professor Tang's editing skills when it came to the thesis.  
  
Putting Tang Zhiwei's kindness and generosity aside, he had worked many years as a professor and had published more theses than Lu Zhou had read books. It was rare for him to take notice in an undergraduate thesis. Additionally, the topic of his thesis was nothing special. Even if Lu Zhou solved this age-old problem, Tang Zhiwei would at most feel proud of his student.  
  
Only supervisors who had low qualifications and could not even become professors would pressure students' to complete their graduate projects. They would constantly chase after the students' research results.  
  
Lu Zhou did not know if there was an academic scum like that in a high-level institute like the University of Jin Ling. However, one thing he was certain was that Professor Tang was not one of them.  
  
Having an experienced supervisor giving him advice would greatly increase his chance of successful thesis submission. Also, he believed that Professor Tang would be able to give valuable advice regarding the academic journal selection.  
  
Therefore, Lu Zhou planned on asking Professor Tang to look over his thesis after he finished his math exams.  
  
As for now, he would have to pray to God.  
  
After all, other than advanced algebra, he still had to study for modern history.  
  
The part that pissed him off the most was that for this year, it was a closed book exam!  
  
Lu Zhou did not understand what was the point of studying all this.  
  
Would studying this make me succeed?  
  
Even though he had a million complaints, he still had to study and he still had to learn.  
  
After all, it counted as two credit points and it would impact his GPA by quite a bit.  
  
Lu Zhou persisted as he sat alone in his dorm. He picked up the textbook and started to read.  
  
The results were as expected.  
  
The knowledge did not sink into his brain at all!  
  
Lu Zhou sat in his dorm. After a whole morning of reading, he felt dizzy. He threw the textbook on the table and gave up.  
  
When one was tired, one just wanted to do nothing. Lu Zhou stared at the ceiling mindlessly for two minutes before taking out his phone.  
  
Coincidentally, someone sent him a message. He opened up WeChat.  
  
Chen Yushan: [Little brother, how come you didn't come to the library today? I'm stuck on a question. Could you please help me?]  
  
Chen Yushan: [Photo]  
  
Lu Zhou thought for a second. He then wrote a message and sent it.  
  
[I'm studying modern history. Wait a minute…]  
  
Lu Zhou zoomed in on the question in the photo. He looked at it for a second before putting his phone down and sat up from his chair.  
  
He took a draft paper and started to draw on it. After two minutes, he solved the question.  
  
He took a picture with his phone and sent it. Lu Zhou saw the modern history textbook and contemplated.  
  
I guess mathematics is still more interesting!  
  
Lu Zhou felt lazy. He did not want to study. He picked up his phone and continued to look at his friends' news feed.  
  
After some scrolling, he found a post by his roommate.  
  
[Liu Rui: Ahhhhhh… I haven't studied at all! Mathematics is so hard! I'm going to die T.T]  
  
"…"  
  
Lu Zhou felt like he should block these type of friends online. However, in his heart, he remembered to be kind. So, after some thinking, he still pressed like on the post and then quickly scrolled past.  
  
As he scrolled past the posts, he felt as if he was reviewing theses.  
  
Time passed by without him realizing it.  
  
Suddenly, the door opened. A sweaty Shi Shang walked in carrying a basketball.  
  
"Did you fall in the drain?" asked Lu Zhou after taking a look at him.  
  
"What drain? Basketball! At the end of the month, there is an interclass basketball tournament after my English exams. The class leader dragged me to training," said Shi Shang. He sat down on the chair, opened his water bottle, and started to drink quickly. He released a breath and said, "Motherfucker, class two's center player is way too tall! He could be an electric pole. "  
  
"You're not studying?"  
  
"Study, my ass. I've already looked at the material. It won't change a thing if I study. 90 is unrealistic, 80 is pushing it, 70 is easy peasy. If I want a good mark, it'll be up to Professor Tang's kindness!" said Shi Shang. He was fanning himself with a textbook as he said, "Not to mention, basketball is way more important than mathematics."  
  
"But sports only counted for a few credit points…" said Lu Zhou nonchalantly.  
  
"Lu Zhou," said Shi Shang as he looked sternly at Lu Zhou.  
  
Lu Zhou's entire body felt uneasy when the guy was stern.  
  
"What…?"  
  
"Does your life only consist of credit points?" asked Shi Shang in a heavy tone.  
  
"What else is there?"  
  
"I'll change my question. Do you want chicks?" asked Shi Shang seriously.  
  
"They're okay…"  
  
Lu Zhou felt like he was not that desperate for chicks. From a logical perspective, he was in no financial situation to date.  
  
He was afraid of trouble and he was even more afraid of giving other people trouble. Even though he was certain that he would become wealthy one day, maybe richer than anyone else, he still did not want to steal someone else's youth.  
  
Of course, maybe the only reason he was thinking like this was that he had not met someone he truly loved.  
  
However, who could predict what would happen in the future?  
  
"What do you mean by okay? Lu Zhou, as the dorm leader, I have to lecture you on some life lessons," said Shi Shang. He leaned against the backrest of the chair as he said seriously, "Think about it. When you pass the ball into the free throw line and two big guys are standing in front of you, suddenly you go for a three-step dunk… What will happen next?"  
  
"I… I don't play basketball."  
  
Lu Zhou's height was tall enough to touch the basket, but he was far from dunking. If he tried to take the ball by force, he would probably get blocked.  
  
"Throw! You know how to throw, right! You throw a perfect three-pointer, " said Shi Shang. He continued to say, "Think about it!"  
  
He knew how to throw.  
  
Lu Zhou thought for a bit and said, "The ball went through?"  
  
"Just that? Too young! Too simple!" said Shi Shang. He grabbed his thigh and said in excitement, "It's cheers! Think about those flying pom poms! Those cheerleaders! Think about those girls with long legs and short skirts as they screamed your name with a slight blush on their face…"  
  
"Stop! Stop first!" said Lu Zhou as he pinched his forehead. He interrupted Shi Shang's train of thought as he asked, "Is there even… any girls in our class?"  
  
Not only were there no girls in class one but there were also none in class two.  
  
"…"  
  
The dorm room turned dead silent.  
  
From another perspective, being able to end the conversation with just one sentence was a gift in itself.  
  
Shi Shang let out a long sigh and looked at the ceiling before saying, "I… I can't talk to you."  
  
Lu Zhou sighed as he thought about the same thing.  
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# 12 Jealousy Has Built Up My Walls

The days passed by slowly. Soon, it was time for the "Advanced Algebra 2" exam.  
  
"Students, please turn off your phones. Place your student ID and citizen ID on the table's left corner. I will repeat the exam rules again. There will be no tolerance for cheating. You'll be sent to the academic affairs office if caught. You are all about to enter the second year. I hope you won't make a mistake at a crucial time like this. Every year, there are a couple of students that are dishonest. I hope you can follow the rules."  
  
An old professor stood on the podium and looked around the room. He then pointed at a master's student and said, "Little Wong, start from the right side."  
  
"Okay," nodded the boy named Little Wong. He started to inspect the student IDs starting from the right.  
  
The old professor placed his vacuum flask on the podium and started to inspect the IDs from the left.  
  
Lu Zhou stretched his back. He turned off his phone and stuffed it in his bag. Like everyone else, he placed his textbooks and electronics on the first row tables.  
  
Finally, the day had come!  
  
After finishing the exams, he would have tons of time to do his other stuff.  
  
Lu Zhou went back to his chair and sat down. The master's student looked at his citizen and student IDs. He then sat there while waiting for the test paper.  
  
After all, the University of Jin Ling was a renowned university. When it came to the exams, the rules were very strict.  
  
Even though that old guy wore glasses and had a smile on his face, if he caught you handing notes or looking at your phone, no matter how you tried to hide it, he would know instantly.  
  
A few students brought cheat notes. They sat there anxiously. They wanted to cheat but were afraid to do so.  
  
Lu Zhou sighed. He felt bad for these unfortunate people. He quickly started to write on the test.  
  
Apparently, Professor Tang wrote the test. However, it did not matter who wrote the test as the topics that were tested were all part of the syllabus. At least, from Lu Zhou's perspective, the topics were all very easy.  
  
The first section was filling in the blanks. The first question asked to solve a differential equation. He just had to follow the steps. Although the formula was slightly complicated, it was still the same type of question. Lu Zhou considered them free marks.  
  
The second question asked for the equation of a line using spatial coordinates. It was pretty self-explanatory, so more free marks.  
  
The third question was derivation and fourth was finding the integral of a curve. It was all free marks.  
  
The fifth question was interesting. Using an already known f(x) function, solve for s(-5/2π) by letting a Fourier sine series expansion function be s(x).  
  
Emm…  
  
It was slightly difficult.  
  
Lu Zhou held his hand and tapped the draft paper lightly for a few times. He then solved the problem quickly.  
  
The question looked difficult because it tested one's knowledge of Fourier sine functions and asked to solve an equation. Not to mention the function was not exactly easy. However, after some thinking, the seemingly difficult calculation process was actually not that hard. One just had to follow the steps.  
  
Lu Zhou had already studied two whole textbooks. Therefore it was easy for someone like him.  
  
Immediately after, he looked at the multiple choice questions. These were also free mark questions. He swiftly started to tick the answers.  
  
After that, it was the long questions. He finally had to be serious!  
  
Lu Zhou rubbed his fists. He felt prepared. He was ready to go to work. When he looked at the question, he was stunned…  
  
It was not because it seemed difficult.  
  
But because…  
  
Emmmm…  
  
That was it?  
  
Lu Zhou secretly looked across. His neighbor was struggling while biting down on his pen.  
  
He then glanced back. An even more creative person folded a dice out of the draft paper. They were clearly using magic to solve the question.  
  
A guy stood up and walked towards the podium. He turned in his exam paper and confidently left the door.  
  
Lu Zhou was filled with respect for the guy.  
  
Heroes pass through the same path!  
  
I guess I'm not the only one that thought this exam is too easy!  
  
Lu Zhou stopped hesitating and started to write. He quickly solved the questions on the exam paper. Other than the last question, which took him five minutes, all of the questions only took him two minutes to solve.  
  
He looked over at his paper. He was sure that there were no mistakes. He saw that he did not even use up a quarter of the draft paper provided. Lu Zhou packed his stuff and went to turn his test in.  
  
The old professor was sitting on the podium drinking tea and he did not even look at Lu Zhou as he turned his test in.  
  
However, when his peripheral vision saw a flash of the exam paper, he squinted his eyes.  
  
Oh.  
  
He actually finished it?  
  
It has only been half an hour!  
  
He picked up the exam paper frivolously and adjusted his glasses. He then started to look over the answers.  
  
The first question was correct.  
  
The second question was correct.  
  
Third question…  
  
The further he looked, the more dignified and serious his expression became.  
  
The master's student was curious about what was written on the exam paper. However, looking at the old professor's serious expression, he decided not to go and bother him. He walked off the podium quietly and went to patrol the back of the classroom.  
  
Seconds and minutes soon passed by. After reading the last line of the last question, Lu Fangping's furrowed eyebrows finally relaxed. He nodded his head with approval.  
  
This is interesting.  
  
Very interesting.  
  
"Looks like Professor Tang taught a good student…" He thought. Professor Lu Fangping picked his teacup and took a sip. His face was expressionless.  
  
As for the first two students that left, the exam room had no reaction. At most, they tried to comfort themselves by thinking, "The two idiots already gave up. Guess I'm not the only one that thought this is difficult…"  
  
Other than Liu Rui, who sat behind Lu Zhou.  
  
He saw with his own eyes that Lu Zhou's paper was fully written.  
  
Even though he could not see clearly what Lu Zhou wrote, but from the outline of the equations, it clearly did not look like it was made up.  
  
… Maybe?  
  
He looked at his own paper. He was still stuck on the last fill in the blanks question. He could not think of an answer at all.  
  
Logically speaking, he should give up if he was stuck on a question. He should wait until he finished the rest. Then, he could come back and try to solve it. However, Liu Rui kept thinking that if Lu Zhou could solve it, so could he. He could not handle the defeat.  
  
Jealousy has built up my walls.  
  
Jealousy is making me unable to solve this problem.  
  
Ahhhhhh…  
  
My heart is about to explode!  
  
Liu Rui grabbed his hair as his entire body felt weak.  
  
…  
  
After coming out from the exam room, Lu Zhou did not waste any time hanging around. He went back to his dorm and copied his thesis into a USB. He then went to the laboratory building and found Professor Tang's office.  
  
The office was very quiet. Other than Professor Tang smoking near the windows, there were only two students looking at a computer as they focused on their project. They did not even look at Lu Zhou when he walked in as they completely failed to notice him.  
  
Professor Tang noticed Lu Zhou standing outside the door and he signaled for Lu Zhou to come in. When he saw the USB, he laughed, "Oh, you've already finished your thesis this quickly?"  
  
Lu Zhou said politely, "Yeah, I finally finished it. The English and Chinese versions are here. Could you please look over it for me?"  
  
"Give it here. This is why you come here for, right?"  
  
Professor Tang took the USB from Lu Zhou and walked to his desk. He opened up his laptop, plugged the USB in and started to read the thesis.  
  
"How did your exam went?"  
  
"It was okay. The questions felt pretty easy."  
  
"Ah, quite cocky. I'll personally mark your paper."  
  
"Please have mercy!"  
  
"Don't even think about it."  
  
Tang Zhiwei laughed and opened the thesis. If anyone else begged him like this, he would definitely felt resentful towards them. But when Lu Zhou said it, he did not mind it at all and just laughed.  
  
He knew the skill level of his own students. Asking a student like Lu Zhou to do this exam was a little insulting.  
  
The performance stage for a student like Lu Zhou was not the final exam. It was the "Challenger cup", which was a competition for STEM students, or the national undergraduate mathematical modeling competition.  
  
Tang Zhiwei put on his glasses and focused his attention on the thesis. He continued to read.  
  
Honestly speaking, when he saw Lu Zhou coming into this office, his heart was full of surprise.  
  
Pursuing academics was like using a bucket to carry water from the sea into a reservoir.  
  
The road was bumpy and difficult. It crossed mountains and rivers, and through rain and heat. Finally, you walked to the academic reservoir and use the bucket to pour a drop of water into the reservoir. It would make all of the effort worthy.  
  
Anyone that wanted to be in academics had to carry on sincerely. People that wanted immediate success would never succeed.  
  
No matter how talented he was at mathematics, how much water could an undergraduate student carried in his bucket?  
  
He would not even arrive at the reservoir. The little amount of water would dry up halfway through the walk.  
  
Therefore, Professor Tang Zhiwei was very calm. He did not carry a mathematician's mindset when reading theses, but rather an educator's mindset. It was like he was caring for a newly planted flower.  
  
Even before he even began to read the thesis, he was already thinking about how he could ask Lu Zhou to rewrite his thesis in a relatively inoffensive way. He wanted to teach him not to run before he could walk and did not want to discourage his interest and passion.  
  
Suddenly, Professor Tang was stunned. His eyebrows furrowed and he went into deep thinking.  
  
This…  
  
Was this really written by an undergraduate student?  
  
Maybe he copied it from a textbook?  
  
Professor Tang was filled with suspicions. He randomly chose a paragraph and searched for it online.  
  
Nothing matched.  
  
Not convinced, the old man logged onto a thesis checking website and uploaded the entire thesis onto it.  
  
His eyes widened at the search result.  
  
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# 13 Even If You Guys Aren“t Ashamed, I“m Ashamed!

Plagiarism percentage: 0.3%  
  
It could not be more legit.  
  
"Lu Zhou, let me ask you something and answer honestly. Did you really write this thesis by yourself?"  
  
Professor Tang Zhiwei stared at Lu Zhou. Through his thick glasses, his pupils shined with astonishment.  
  
There was a hint of excitement.  
  
Only thing was, he still could not believe it. He could not believe that the mathematical proof theorem in the thesis was actually written by an undergraduate student.  
  
Lu Zhou did not avoid those questioning eyes. Instead, he laughed and with a humble tone, he said, "It was all thanks to Professor Tang's education."  
  
Even though I exchanged it with general points, it should count as my own work right?  
  
He had no shame in saying that it was his own work!  
  
Tang Zhiwei looked away from Lu Zhou and continued to look at the thesis for a very long time.  
  
Since Lu Zhou was free, he just stood next to him and waited.  
  
The sky gradually turned darker and darker and the clock on the wall slowly turned to six o'clock. Professor Tang finally read through the last part of the thesis and let out a long sigh.  
  
"The argument in the thesis is pretty good. One could even say that it's very good. But one criticism I have is that the format of the thesis still has some problems. Details such as vocabulary and citations are slightly inappropriate. However, these are all but small problems. Being able to write this type of thesis as a first-year student means that you have great potential!"  
  
Professor Tang took off his glasses and put it on the table. He looked at Lu Zhou, laughed and said, "Leave this thesis here. I'll help you to edit it slightly."  
  
Lu Zhou was full of joy and he quickly responded, "Thank you, professor!"  
  
If he tried to find a professional editing service, it would be quite pricey. Plus, they might not even edit it well. If you find a scummy company and your thesis did not pass, all they would do was to tell you that your thesis was garbage.  
  
"I've wasted quite a bit of your time. You should go back now. Remember to find me two days later, or I can call you… Leave your phone number here. I can't be bothered to look through the student register," said Professor Tang as he pointed at an A4 paper and gave Lu Zhou a pen.  
  
Obviously, Lu Zhou was dripping with joy and he quickly wrote down his phone number.  
  
"Oh yeah, Zhou, let me ask you something. Have you thought about which journal you want to submit to?"  
  
With a forced smile, Lu Zhou said, "I've searched around online. AMC's impact factor seems pretty high. Also, their review process is pretty fast, so I plan on…"  
  
"Don't be ridiculous!" whispered Professor Tang. He added, "What's the point of submitting it there? Thank god I asked you, otherwise it'd be too late! Did you know that the thesis submitted to AMC doesn't even count towards the assessment of the PhD students?"  
  
Uh?  
  
There's such a thing?  
  
However, even knowing about it now, Lu Zhou did not really care. After all, he had no plans to take a master's degree much less a PhD. He had just wanted a fast review process so that he could complete the mission.  
  
If he submitted to a strict journal, it could take months of waiting time. In the end, if his thesis was rejected, he would go crazy.  
  
"The domestic situation for mathematical journals is not good. I suggest that you try to submit internationally. As for your thesis, "Journal of Symbolic Logic" or " International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Mathematics" are pretty good. The first leans towards publications of pure mathematics papers. Whereas the later is for applied mathematics, mathematical analysis, and physics. Among these three fields, I would suggest that you make up a decision by yourself. Also, remember one thing. If you dare to submit this thesis to the AMC journal, don't ever come to see me again."  
  
Lu Zhou, "I…"  
  
He hesitated and changed his words.  
  
"Thank you, Professor Tang, for your wise words, I…"  
  
Professor Tang waved his hands and joked, "Stop kissing my ass. Get lost!"  
  
Lu Zhou left and he closed the door on his way out.  
  
The office suddenly became quiet again. The master's student who was writing his thesis stretched. He looked at the professor's thesis topic and asked quietly, "Professor, was that an undergraduate student with you earlier?"  
  
"Unbelievable right?" laughed Professor Tang. He said, "Let me tell you something. Not only that he's an undergraduate, but he's also a first-year student!"  
  
The eyes of the other master's student widened and he left his project aside as he asked in disbelief, "First year?! He's already starting to submit to SCI in the first year?! Why are the undergraduate students so insane nowadays?"  
  
"Yeah, that's why you guys have to work hard," said Professor Tang. As he looked at his own two students, he said seriously, "Don't get beaten by the younger students. Even if you guys aren't ashamed, I'm ashamed!"  
  
…  
  
While Lu Zhou was consulting Professor Tang Zhiwei with his USB, the "Advanced Algebra 2" exam finally finished. After turning their tests in, chaos ensued outside the exam room.  
  
"Fuck me, the time was way too short! I still had two big sections that I didn't answer!"  
  
"Way too hard! Who wrote that impossible last question?"  
  
"The Fourier series question? I didn't even look at it. I just skipped it!"  
  
"Second to last question, the one about convergence fields and functions of power series, and asking for the sum of series…"  
  
"Don't ask me. I don't know and I don't understand. I just want some silence…"  
  
"Brother Tao, how did you do? Passed?"  
  
"Don't even mention it. I'm waiting for the supplementary exam."  
  
Of course, the dumb students were still a minority. A lot of the geniuses got sucked into these dumb student's mindsets after hearing them complain.  
  
For example, Liu Rui was posting in his friends' news feed right outside the exam room.  
  
[Maths is so hard! I screwed up. I didn't know anything. I'll have to take the supplementary exams. T.T]  
  
Actually, not only did he finished, but he also double-checked everything.  
  
He finished typing and clicked post.  
  
At the same moment, Huang Guangming and Shi Shang came over.  
  
"Liu Rui, what are you doing?"  
  
"I'm playing with my phone while waiting for you," said Liu Rui. He turned off his phone and pretended as if nothing happened as he said, "Come, let's get food in the cafeteria."  
  
"How did Zhou do? I saw him left half an hour into the exam?" said Shi Shang.  
  
"I don't know. Let's ask him when he gets back," said Liu Rui as he shook his head.  
  
Huang Guangming continued to ask, "Oh yeah, Brother Rui, what did you put for the last multi-choice question?"  
  
Liu Rui, "I think A… That question was hard so I guessed."  
  
Huang Guangming laughed and said, "Fuck, I put A as well! I knew I guessed it correctly!"  
  
Shi Shang frowned. He thought for a bit and said, "Wasn't it B?"  
  
Liu Rui recalled the question. He shook his head and said "It definitely wasn't B. Using the information provided, it must've been a series convergence, and its square couldn't diverge… Yeah. I guess it so I could be wrong."  
  
He emphasized again that he could be wrong.  
  
Huang Guangming and Shi Shang were already used to his "humbleness" so they did not find it strange at all.  
  
Huang Guangming remembered being dominated by the horror of mathematics for the last half hour. He sighed and said, "This test is way too hard. I feel like I didn't study at all."  
  
Shi Shang remained silent.  
  
He felt like he did even worse.  
  
At the same moment, a class genius walked by.  
  
The dark-skinned guy stood tall and skinny with his back straight. His name was Luo Rundong, he was a true genius. He was the only student in his class that got a 150 in high school mathematics. Most people were forced to do a mathematics major while he specifically chose to major in mathematics.  
  
As for grades, Liu Rui's were slightly higher because Luo Rundong's English was not as good. However, for advanced algebra and mathematical analysis, Liu Rui could not even match the guy.  
  
"Liu Rui, did you solve that last fill in the blank question?"  
  
"I did solve it. But I don't know if it was right…"  
  
The two started to discuss the math question. Incomprehensible and difficult words started to come out from their mouths and no one around them could understand.  
  
Huang Guangming and Shi Shang looked at each other with a helpless look in their eyes.  
  
If only Lu Zhou was here.  
  
With no Lu Zhou to compare themselves to, they felt like they were the dumb students.  
  
This feeling is too painful!  
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# 14 Get A Job, Genius

[Liu Rui: Mathematics is so hard! I completely didn't understand the fifth fill in the blanks question and the last multi-choice. In the end, I had to guess the answer. Ah, I screwed up. I'll need to do the supplementary exam T.T]  
  
"…"  
  
Lu Zhou was scrolling through his friends' news feed when he saw Liu Rui's post. He twitched his mouth and was about to like the post when he stopped himself.  
  
[The fifth fill in the blanks answer is… The last multi-choice answer is B]  
  
It was difficult to type mathematical symbols on a phone!  
  
He finished typing it and pressed send.  
  
How comfortable!  
  
Lu Zhou was about to put his phone back into his pocket and wanted to continue to eat. Suddenly his phone vibrated. He looked at the notification and saw Liu Rui's reply.  
  
What? How did this guy reply so fast?  
  
Lu Zhou felt slightly surprised and opened up his news feed.  
  
[Liu Rui: … Wasn't it A?]  
  
Lu Zhou laughed and shook his head as he recalled the choices of that question. He took out a draft paper from his backpack and started to write down the steps of the question. He then picked a good lighting angle, took a photo, and sent it.  
  
[Lu Zhou: [Photo] ]  
  
This time Liu Rui's reply was slow.  
  
After a while, Lu Zhou saw that there was no reply. So, he decided to continue to eat his noodles.  
  
He had delayed eating for so long. The noodles would soon become soft if he did not start to eat them.  
  
However, just as he stuffed his phone back into his pocket, his phone vibrated again. This time, it was a phone call.  
  
"Fuck me? This guy must be crazy to call me?"  
  
Lu Zhou hurried and took out his phone. It turned out that the call was not from Liu Rui. It was from Wu Dahai.  
  
Speaking of which, it was him that sent Lu Zhou to the hospital when he had a heat stroke.  
  
Lu Zhou felt apologetic as he did not even get a chance to thank him properly.  
  
After the phone rang for a while, Lu Zhou pressed the answer button.  
  
"Hello?"  
  
"It's me, Dahai," said Fat Wu. He said with a clear voice, "How are you? Are you feeling better?"  
  
"I'm okay. Thanks for last time…" said Lu Zhou. He felt apologetic.  
  
"No need to thank me! I'm just glad that nothing serious happened to you, " interrupted Wu Dahai. He continued to ask, "Are you free tonight?"  
  
"I'm free… What are we doing?" asked Lu Zhou.  
  
"Sorting packages for Shengtong express. 100 yuan for the night, you coming?" asked Wu Dahai.  
  
Lu Zhou immediately asked, "Where?"  
  
Wu Dahai, "There's a car outside the school. It leaves at seven. Hurry up and come if you want. I still need two people. After that, I'll leave."  
  
"I'll come right now!"  
  
Lu Zhou hung up the call and quickly slurped up his noodles. He brought his empty bowl to the counter and quickly left the cafeteria. He called his roommate Shi Shang while he rushed towards the school gate.  
  
"Hello? Zhou, what's up?" answered a deep voice.  
  
"I've some stuff to do tonight. I can't come."  
  
"What stuff? What's going on?" An exciting gossipy voice came from the phone.  
  
Lu Zhou said impatiently, "Fuck off! What are you on? I'm working."  
  
"…"  
  
The other end of the phone went silent for a second. Just as Lu Zhou was about to hang up, Shi Shang suddenly sighed and said with a deep voice, "Lu Zhou, I know that your family is in a tough situation. You can tell me anything. Let's discuss it. You don't have to do this kind of stuff… Anyway, where are you? Is it a guy or a girl?"  
  
Lu Zhou: ? ? ?  
  
Lu Zhou did not respond so Shi Shang was even more worried: "Fuck me! Brother, please tell me that you're thinking this through. You'll regret this for the rest of your life! How… How will you ever face your future wife? Don't hang up, I'm warning you! If you dare to hang up, I'll call the counselor."  
  
Lu Zhou: "… What the hell are you saying?"  
  
Shi Shang paused for a second and felt something was wrong. He said awkwardly with a quiet voice, "… What else could you be doing working at night? I'm convincing you not to go down this path…"  
  
"I'm sorting packages. Fuck off."  
  
That piercing cold voice shocked Shi Shang and before he realized, Lu Zhou had already hung up.  
  
…  
  
The van was parked outside the school. Lu Zhou walked towards the gate and Wu Dahai waved at him from the distant.  
  
Lu Zhou opened up the van's door and sat on a small stool. He looked around the car and other than himself, there were 10 other people packed in the van. They were all students from the University of Jin Ling and they were all male.  
  
Obviously, a girl would not work this type of physically demanding job at night.  
  
Of course, it actually was not that physically demanding as Lu Zhou had done it twice. At least it was a lot easier than passing out flyers. The only bad side was that he had to stay up all night.  
  
However, when Lu Zhou thought about the 100 yuan pay, he decided to stick through with it.  
  
He had to as he only had three thousand left in his bank account. Not to mention, he would have to pay a layout and review fee for the SCI journal. He did not want to be more of a burden for his family or asked them for more money.  
  
Submitting in other magazines had a remuneration. However, for this type of academic journals, there was no remuneration. He might even have to pay for the journal himself.  
  
"A hundred a night and I'll pay you the day after tomorrow. Remember to give me your Alipay account number. Listen to instructions when you arrived at the sorting center. The actions required are very simple. You just have to move the stuff from the truck onto the warehouse's conveyor belt. There is an hour break in the middle and you can play pool in the break room if you wish. I don't suggest you playing against the regular workers as they play for money and could sink three balls in a single round."  
  
"Moving stuff? Isn't that very tiring?" asked a small guy.  
  
Wu Dahai patiently explained, "Relax, you don't have to move it yourself. You know how to play football, right? Two people drag the stuff out of the car and the rest can just kick it along. The path between the unloading point and conveyor belt is easy. Other than large items such as refrigerators or televisions, it should be very easy."  
  
Another guy yelled, "Fuck me, kick? What if it breaks?"  
  
Wu Dahai looked at him and said, "Do whatever you want. It's not like you're paying for it so why worry? Anyway, relax. The distributors usually have strict packing regulations and they would pack a lot of foam in there. Even if you kicked as hard as you could, you could not break it. I'll send you to the national football team if you actually break anything."  
  
The guy laughed and did not say much. He thought, "I want to go to the national team. It's not like you could send me there."  
  
As they chatted, they finally arrived. The van stopped at the entrance of the warehouse. Wu Dahai paid the driver with his phone and called the students to come out.  
  
The warehouse was very large. It looked like it was at least 2000 square meters. There were a couple of trucks parked outside. The regular staff was already working inside the warehouse. A middle-aged guy wearing a blue uniform stood outside the gate and looked around. When he saw Wu Dahai, he waved for him to come over.  
  
"Everyone's here? Do you need to count?" said the man. When he smiled, his yellow teeth showed.  
  
"There's only a few people, so no need to count. Let's start," said Wu Dahai. He then swiftly gave the middle-aged guy a cigarette.  
  
The man laughed, took the cigarette and said, "Okay, come with me."  
  
He turned around and started to walk towards the workshop.  
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# 15 A Way To Liquidate General Points?

Fat Wu's description was accurate. Sorting out packages was as easy as kicking a football.  
  
They would point their toes at the parcel and strongly kick it. The package would fly for ten meters. No one cared about the sellers or the buyers. Nothing mattered as long as the package was delivered.  
  
Actually, it was not that these workers did not want to be more responsible. The regular workers were even rougher on the packages. When the conveyor belt started, there was no time for you to handle the packages carefully. It did not matter whether it said fragile or expensive. If the cardboard box broke, there were designated people to collect them, taped them up, and put them back on the conveyor belt.  
  
"This package broke. It seems to be wine or something. I can smell the alcohol."  
  
"Don't bother with it. It's fine as long as the delivery receipt doesn't get wet. Throw it back on the conveyor belt. Remember, the delivery receipt faces up."  
  
The group of workers had a clear designated parking space to work at. Two people stood next to the truck, took out the packages and threw them on the ground. The other two people threw the packages onto the conveyor belt. As for the rest, they were responsible for "passing the ball". After a while, it was surprisingly fun.  
  
Fat Wu was "passing the ball". He even started to brag to the regular workers' boss and asked for a competition.  
  
There was a guy standing next to Lu Zhou who was taking out the packages from the truck. He saw his classmates kicking the packages around and was unhappy. He could not tolerate it anymore and said quietly, "Take it easy, guys. My package could be in there."  
  
Of course, no one heard him. Even if they did, they would not have listened.  
  
There were so many packages. If they passed them around gently, it would take them all night just to finish a few trucks.  
  
Wu Dahai did not tell them how many packages to sort out. He just told them to listen to him. Lu Zhou estimated that the packaging facility must have had a contract with Wu Dahai. Wu Dahai probably got paid by the number of packages sorted.  
  
For example, assuming five yuan for each package, if they just sorted out two thousand packages tonight, Fat Wu would get a big fat check. If they sorted a thousand more packages, that would be an extra five thousand yuan.  
  
Lu Zhou calculated that there were ten other people here, working for eight hours. They could at least sort thirty thousand packages, right? Maybe even forty thousand. Counting himself and Fat Wu, there were twelve workers.  
  
Lu Zhou suddenly did not feel so good.  
  
Everyone else only got a measly hundred yuan for working all night, but this Fat Wu would probably earn a thousand or two. That's enough for an average student's monthly living expenses! Everyone else received money from home but this guy probably sends money back home.  
  
However, no matter how jealous Lu Zhou got, he knew that if he tried to do it himself, he might not be able to even do it.  
  
First of all, he had to find a lot of workers. Then, he had to organize these workers. Not only did he had to organize, but he also needed to have the ability to negotiate. He had to convince the people at the sorting center to trust him with the task. Also, he had to negotiate a reasonable price that both parties would be satisfied with.  
  
Everything required a high emotional intelligence that one could not learn just by doing practice questions. Lu Zhou observed Fat Wu proficiently delegating the task and knew that there was no way for him to do the same, and neither could those football kicking people.  
  
Otherwise, the person earning thousands a night would not be Fat Wu. It would be one of them.  
  
Ah, what a greedy capitalist!  
  
Lu Zhou's hands were operating like a machine as he unloaded the packages from the truck. He was desperately trying to diverge his thinking so he that would not be so bored. He looked around the warehouse and his mind wandered.  
  
Honestly speaking, from a modern university student's perspective, he felt that the logistics of the sorting center was completely illogical. First of all, it was not intelligently designed. Also, it wasted a lot of manpower on repetitive and skill-less operations.  
  
Of course, he knew that hindsight was 20/20.  
  
Upgrading technology would cost a lot of money. This type of sorting center would not be able to get the necessary fundings needed for an upgrade. Even if the sorting center shareholders had the necessary capital, they obviously would not spend it on upgrading.  
  
Using the risk parity investment principle, the money would either be invested in the housing market or be used to purchase various financial products. This was because the ultimate goal was to get a return on investment. It was not for improving the lives of everyone.  
  
Even if people generally thought that the interests of the two were the same, in reality, they were completely unrelated.  
  
"They can add a conveyor belt to the gate of the sorting center and use intelligent machines to sort the packages. Not only would this decrease the damages done to the packages, but it would also increase the efficiency of the center's delivery rate," thought Lu Zhou as his eyebrows furrowed.  
  
Suddenly, as he was thinking about the problem, he felt that his vision was becoming blurry.  
  
He tried to concentrate but suddenly a semi-transparent holographic window appeared in front of him.  
  
[Number 001 Intelligent sorting system design blueprint (Intelligent machine program). Required: Level 1 information science, level 2 engineering.]  
  
[Required general points: 5000]  
  
"The fuck!"  
  
Lu Zhou was surprised by the sudden appearance of the system. He was even more surprised by the required general points.  
  
5000 fucking general points!  
  
Why is this high tech system so hungry for general points?  
  
"What happened?" asked the guy next to him as he stared at him blankly, wondering what got on his nerves.  
  
"Uh, nothing. I suddenly remembered that I screwed up a question in my exam."  
  
Lu Zhou laughed and quickly dismissed the guy. His focus went back to looking at the holographic window that only he could see while his brain was spinning a million miles per second.  
  
The system could solve real-life problems by consuming general points. Turned out, the problem did not have to be a specific question. It could even be an imagination, with the system filling in the details.  
  
To simplify, it was like writing a good thesis. The user came up with an idea, so he was the creator. The system was like a hired gunman and it was responsible for making it happened.  
  
For example, the 001 blueprint came from his imaginary scheme of the current situation of the sorting center. Of course, his set up was low resolution, resulting in the system designing components that were overly complicated.  
  
In addition, the general points required was determined by the problem's difficulty and skill level.  
  
Suddenly, Lu Zhou thought about something that made his heart skip a beat.  
  
"If I specify the problem to making an intelligence sorting machine arm…"  
  
Lu Zhou shook his head and focused on the new problem. Shortly after, the holographic window popped up a line of text.  
  
[Sorting center intelligent arm machine (XX sorting center). Required: Level 1 information science.]  
  
[Required general points: 1570]  
  
As expected!  
  
Lu Zhou squeezed his fists in excitement.  
  
This is how you properly use the system!  
  
For example, if he wanted to make a phone, he did not have to make the system solve it entirely. Rather, he should split it into many small ideas and only use the system to solve the parts that he could not.  
  
For example, to be specific, take a Xiaomi 4 and yelled, "System, upgrade 10% capabilities". The system could price the upgrade from anywhere between 1000-10000 general points and it would assume that he wanted a complete phone upgrade.  
  
He could disassemble his Xiaomi 4 and took out the Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 chip. Then, if he asked the system to upgrade the chip, under the conditions that the chip process technology did not change, the system would give the design for increasing the chip's performance by 10%.  
  
By specifying the instructions, it might only cost less than 1000 general points for the system to solve the problem. It would give him the blueprint to increase the Qualcomm Snapdragon 801's performance.  
  
Lu Zhou was immediately filled with joy. He had finally discovered a way to monetize the general points of the system.  
  
However, he calmed down quickly.  
  
He remembered that he had only 35 general points left.  
  
Even if he found a way to monetize it, he still needed general points. With his current amount of general points, he could only solve a math problem.  
  
After he thought about this, Lu Zhou was not as happy anymore.  
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# 16 He“s The Best Undergraduate Student!

It was ten o'clock in the morning at the mathematics department of the research building.  
  
Professor Tang sat at his desk and looked at his computer screen. He was editing a thesis meticulously.  
  
He read through the argument and the logical process of the calculation. He could not help but felt a sense of astonishment. Even though he carried a pair of criticizing eyes and wanted to find mistakes to ask Lu Zhou to fix, he felt like he did not even know where to begin.  
  
He finished inspecting the thesis and did not find a single unnecessary calculation.  
  
The only thing he could help was to edit and fix the sentence structure and English vocabulary.  
  
"The young ones are going to soon surpass us," said Professor Tang Zhiwei as he leaned against his chair.  
  
At the exact moment, his office door was pushed open.  
  
The person did not knock or greet him. It was this type of impolite behaviors that made Professor Tang frowned. However, after seeing who it was, he relaxed and his face had a slight smile.  
  
It was Lu Fangping, the head of the University of Jin Ling's mathematics department. Not only was he Tang Zhiwei's coworker, but he was also his friend.  
  
"Old tang, is your phone broken? I called and no one picked up," said Lu Fangping as he walked in with a smile.  
  
"Ah, I have to turn my phone off every year after exams. You know this," replied Tang Zhiwei while he looked at Professor Lu Fangping. He leaned against his chair, picked up his cup of warm tea and asked, "Aren't you busy these days? What are you doing here?"  
  
Lu Fangping sat down in the office sofa and said, "Well I need your help. That's why I came!"  
  
"What a thick skin! Everyone else brought me liquor when they needed my help, and you didn't even bring a cigarette. I'm not helping you!" said Tang Zhiwei jokingly.  
  
"Didn't you hate that kind of stuff? If I brought something, I wouldn't even be let in the door," said Lu Fangping while laughing.  
  
Tang Zhiwei smiled, "Okay, let's end the jokes here. Stop beating around the bush and just tell me what you need my help with."  
  
Lu Fangping slapped his thigh and said, "Ah, we have this national mathematical modeling competition coming up in September. The department wants me to arrange a couple of teams and team up with the computer science department. I want to try and get a couple of national gold medals, and earn some honor for our department and school!"  
  
It was also to boost his annual teaching and research assessment.  
  
If they screwed up, and the entire mathematics department did not even win one gold medal, how embarrassing would the meet be?  
  
Of course, Dean Lu knew not to mention it.  
  
"You want… You want me to be an advisor coach?" said Tang Zhiwei. He frowned, "But I do research on pure mathematics. I'm afraid I can't help you with this mathematical modeling stuff."  
  
Mathematical modeling and mathematics research sounds similar but actually, they were in completely different fields. Whether it was innovative thinking ability or absorbing new information, it was difficult for Professor Tang to keep up with the young people's brains. There was no hope for him to coach them.  
  
"No, I've already finished arranging the teachers' team. I just wanted to borrow two people from your subjects. Is there anyone that is very talented and quick with mathematics?"  
  
"Ah, that's it? Okay, this is the perfect timing. I have someone to recommend to you. Mathematics class 1, Lu Zhou. Go and take him. Don't need to thank me. " said Tang Zhiwei while smiling.  
  
"Lu Zhou?" Lu Fangping frowned, "I think I've seen his name before…"  
  
Suddenly, he remembered. He encountered the name while he was invigilating the mathematics exam yesterday. The student that finished in half an hour and got all the answers right.  
  
But…  
  
He's only in the first year!  
  
The national mathematical modeling competition dissimilar to the traditional Olympic maths, where they just gave you a test paper. It was to test the students not for their grasp of theory, but their ability to apply theory into real-life situations.  
  
Also, based on the results of the past competitions, the students that got high grades would not necessarily excel in the competition. It was the students that did well in all subjects, that performed well in the competition.  
  
Also, the competition had a wide range of possible questions. A first-year student's knowledge base was limited and difficult to utilize in the competition.  
  
Of course, there was no harm in applying. The important part was participation. However, Lu Fangping did not want those "participation" students. He wanted competitive students.  
  
As for Lu Zhou, even though his mathematical ability was good, but his knowledge base was too narrow!  
  
"You think that he's too young?" Tang Zhiwei instantly knew what his old friend was thinking about, so he laughed.  
  
"You're right," Lu Fangping nodded. He then said, "The computer science department valued this competition. They contributed a second-year computer genius, who won two national computer competitions during high school, and won a national software competition when he was a first-year student. I actually already have a few people in mind, but wanted to ask for your opinion. I think I'll need minimum a second-year student… You catch my drift?"  
  
Lu Fangping conveyed his intentions clearly.  
  
Even though in principle, the school should encourage students to set up their own teams, the school would not mind if the head of departments chose to organize a super team. After all, receiving more medals would be an achievement for the heads and it would bring honor to the school.  
  
The computer science department had such a genius. Even though he said he did care that much, he still could not send a liability. If the time arrived and their "super team" did not even make it into the competition door, how embarrassing would that be!  
  
Tang Zhiwei laughed. He looked at the computer on his desk and said, "I have a thesis right here. Come and look at it."  
  
Lu Fangping was stunned. He did not know what his colleague was doing. However, he still walked over, carrying with him a hint of suspicion.  
  
"Optimal Inversion Theory of Linear Operators and Linear Functionals… When did the direction of your research become this?" asked Lu Fangping excitingly as he read the title of the thesis.  
  
Tang Zhiwei did not answer. Instead, he just urged him and said, "Stop asking questions. Read the thesis and tell me what you think."  
  
Lu Fangping was full of questions but he continued to read the thesis. The more he read, the more he intrigued he was.  
  
After reading the last process of the argument, he stood there and thought for a bit. He then jealously said, "Old tang, to be honest… I envy you."  
  
"I asked you to critique this essay, why are you envious?" laughed Tang Zhiwei.  
  
"Our maths department has so much talent, how come you have a monopoly on this one? Not only do you have a genius undergraduate student, but even your graduate students are also so smart." The more Lu Fangping thought about it, the less content he was. How come he could not coach a student at this level?  
  
Hearing this, Tang Zhiwei laughed out loud. This made Lu Fangping very confused as he had no idea what his old friend was laughing about!  
  
"Graduate student? Hahaha! This thesis was written by Lu Zhou! Guess what happened yesterday? I asked him where he was going to submit this essay, and he dared to say AMC! Thank god I stopped him. If he had gone through with the PhD, he would have regretted it," laughed Tang Zhiwei.  
  
Lu Fangping was thoroughly confused. He looked at the thesis on the computer and then looked back at his old friend. He paused for a long time before asking with an uncertain tone, "Old Tang, why are you pranking me like this?"  
  
"I wasn't pranking you," said Tang Zhiwei. He stopped smiling and looked at his old friend before saying with a serious tone, "This thesis and argument process was entirely done by himself. I explained a few difficult parts to him. The questions that he asked me, confirmed that this is his own work. The only part that I edited was the sentence structure in the thesis. As for the core part of the thesis, and the final arguments, I couldn't find a single mistake in them. Even though the kid's personality is a bit practical and he's pretty impatient, he actually has immense talent. If you want my recommendation for a person to enter your "super team", I would wholeheartedly recommend him. Whether it's thesis writing ability or maths ability, there's no undergraduate student in University of Jin Ling that can beat him!"  
  
He's better than everyone else!  
  
Do you know how many undergraduate students there are in the University of Jin Ling? A dean like me doesn't even know!  
  
However, Lu Fangping was unable to refute.  
  
Especially after reading his thesis, his doubts about Lu Zhou's ability immediately vanished.  
  
If Tang Zhiwei did not tell him, he would have thought this thesis was written by a PhD student.  
  
This student had reached an impossible level in the field of functional analysis.  
  
Lu Fangping said quietly, "I… Don't have much to say, it's up to you to convince him to join."  
  
"Don't you worry about it. The kid listens to me. Don't leave just yet, I'll call him and explain the situation to him," said Tang Zhiwei confidently. He picked up the telephone on his desk.  
  
Representing the department's "super team" in a national competition was a once in a lifetime opportunity. If you win, the dean would know your name and a four-year scholarship would definitely be yours.  
  
Tang Zhiwei did not want to give empty promises. He decided to do it now. Therefore, he called Lu Zhou in front of the dean.  
  
"The number you dialed is not in service, please call again later…"  
  
Is his phone off?  
  
Tang Zhiwei paused. He frowned and hung up the call.  
  
"What is this kid doing? He doesn't even pick up the phone. I'll talk to him later."  
  
Lu Fangping was not worried. He definitely wanted the kid!  
  
His knowledge base would not even matter. He had earned the right to this competition from this thesis alone. The three-man team for this competition would have one person for coding, one for mathematical modeling, and one for writing the thesis. The kid alone could do modeling and thesis writing. This competition was in the bag!  
  
He was also confident that Lu Zhou would accept, so he was not worried at all.  
  
No student would reject this type of valuable opportunity.  
  
Lu Fangping laughed and said, "Okay, thanks for the help. I still have some stuff to do, I won't bother you any longer."  
  
"Don't worry about it, I'll respond to you tomorrow," said Tang Zhiwei as he waved his hand.  
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# 17 Thesis Submission!

What was Lu Zhou doing?  
  
He was obviously sleeping.  
  
After working all night, his phone ran out of battery. He went back to his dorm at seven o'clock in the morning, plugged in his phone and went to bed.  
  
Lu Zhou woke up in the afternoon. There was no one in his dorm.  
  
He felt his stomach rumbling. He rubbed his eyes, climbed down the stairs and went to wash his face. Then, he put on some clothes and headed towards the cafeteria.  
  
Lu Zhou ordered a bowl of fried rice and soy milk and sat down in a corner. He took out his phone and was about to scroll through his friends' news feed.  
  
However, when he opened his phone, he saw that Professor Tang's office left him a dozen missed calls.  
  
"Maybe he finished editing the thesis? Why… Why are there so many missed calls?"  
  
Lu Zhou did not know what to think. In no time, he finished eating dinner and quickly put his tray on the collecting table. He then started to walk towards the research building.  
  
…  
  
"I called you all day and you didn't pick up. What are you doing all day?" Professor Tang sat behind his desk and criticized Lu Zhou.  
  
Lu Zhou scratched his head and replied, "Uh, my phone ran out of battery. I forgot to turn it off."  
  
He did not plan on telling the professor that he was working all night. First of all, the rules of the university prohibited students from staying out all night. Secondly, he did not want this thing to reach the counselor who might tell his dad and caused his family to worry about him.  
  
Thank god that Old Tang did not persist in asking. He took off his glasses and unplugged the USB from his laptop. He then placed the USB on the table and said, "Your thesis is pretty good. There weren't that many changes to be made so I won't ask you to add me as a co-writer."  
  
"How can you do that! Without your help…"  
  
Tang Zhiwei waved his hand. He interrupted Lu Zhou and said," It's my decision. I've read your thesis. Your little thesis isn't good enough for my Tang Zhiwei's co-signature. Teaching is my expertise. I don't care what other professors do, I can't let you write my name on it. If you really want to pay the favor back, just help me do this one thing."  
  
Honestly speaking, someone of Tang Zhiwei's level could not care less about an SCI thesis co-signature. As for Lu Zhou, an entire self-written thesis was very precious. Having Tang Zhiwei's name on it might give Lu Zhou an advantage during the review process, but it was not necessarily a good thing for him.  
  
Lu Zhou said sincerely, "I'll do anything you want me to."  
  
"Ah, it's nothing big. Trust me, it's good for you," said Tang Zhiwei. He spoke slowly, "In September, there's this national mathematical modeling competition. Our department decided to team up with the computer science department and form a super team. I talked to the dean, Lu Fangping, and you're the chosen one."  
  
A national mathematical modeling competition?  
  
Lu Zhou felt slightly astonished.  
  
He had heard of it before. Apparently, the value was very high. It was so significant that some companies' HR department would look twice at your CV if this competition was written on it.  
  
Just what…  
  
As for the legendary mathematical modeling competition, he had only heard about it before.  
  
It was already June, only three months left till September.  
  
Three months of preparation time, was it enough?  
  
Lu Zhou asked softly, "Can I think about it?"  
  
Professor Tang frowned. He reached out his hand, pressed on the USB and said, "Think about it? This is such a good opportunity! Okay, you can go and think about it but this USB stays here. You can take it back when you're done thinking!"  
  
When Lu Zhou looked at how illogical Professor Tang was behaving, he did not know whether to cry or laugh. He said, "But Professor Tang, I've never been in this type of competition before. If you ask me to represent the department in the competition and I screw up…"  
  
Entering the competition is no problem…  
  
I just don't want to be a liability!  
  
"Don't worry about it. What's there to worry about?" said Tang Zhiwei angrily. He paused for a bit then said gently, "Don't overestimate this competition. Just enter it with confidence. Your ability is definitely good enough. I'm sure of it."  
  
Given that Professor Tang already begged him until this level, it would be unreasonable not to accept.  
  
Actually, if he was to think about it, there was no downside to entering this type of competition. The only thing that made Lu Zhou hesitated was that training for the competition would interfere with his work and the completion of the missions.  
  
He had already planned to attend summer school and quickly level up his system. He wanted to at least be level 1 mathematics as looking at the row of zeros was too painful. Other than completing missions, the rest of the time was allocated to working. Not only did he had to pay for summer school, he still had to save up for the livings fees for next semester.  
  
As if Professor Tang saw through Lu Zhou's thought process, he said, "Even though there isn't any prize money associated with the competition, there is a prize from the school. A team that wins the gold medal will not only receive a ten thousand yuan prize, they will also receive a priority on scholarship assessment."  
  
'Professor Tang, I've thought about it. Let me represent the department in the competition!" said Lu Zhou with a serious look on his face.  
  
Professor Tang forced a smile and set down his cup. He waved his hand and said, "I already put your name down. Come here and meet your teammates on Saturday. That's all, don't forget."  
  
"Okay!" said Lu Zhou with high morale.  
  
A ten thousand dollar prize! Splitting it three ways would still be around three thousand! Plus adding the eight thousand yuan scholarship, that would be over ten thousand dollars!  
  
The amount was little for a student with a rich family, but for someone like Lu Zhou who only had three thousand in his bank account, it was a massive amount of money!  
  
After thanking Professor Tang again, Lu Zhou took the USB and went back to his dorm.  
  
The sky was already dark. Other than Liu Rui, who was still studying maths in a classroom, Shi Shang and Huang Guangming had already come back. They sat in front of the computer and were playing games intensely.  
  
Even though Lu Zhou also wanted to relax with them, he knew that he still had some stuff to do. In the end, he gave up on this thought. He carried his laptop to the bed, connected it to the wifi and started to upload his thesis.  
  
He contemplated for a long time. Finally, he selected the journal from New York University's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences - Theoretical and Applied Mathematics Communication.  
  
As for why, it was obviously because there were no submission fees.  
  
On the other hand, he might have to wait a long time.  
  
Lu Zhou opened up the website, filled in his name and email, then spent around ten minutes filling in other miscellaneous stuff. He finally reached the last step and submitted his essay.  
  
The status displayed "Submitted to the editorial office". Now all he had to do was to wait. He just had to wait for an editor to notice his small thesis.  
  
Lu Zhou stretched his back and was about to lay down on his bed. Suddenly, his phone vibrated.  
  
He thought it was Chen Yushan asking for help again, but instead, he saw an email notification.  
  
Lu Zhou saw the title of the email and he was stunned.  
  
He thought he read it wrong and so, he read it again.  
  
"… How is this possible?!"  
  
It was the copyright authorization agreement issued from America!  
  
Which was to say that his thesis had already entered the "proof" stage!  
  
Even though different journals had different rules, but most journals would send the license agreement after accepting the thesis, and the process would take one to two weeks.  
  
Which was to say that his thesis skipped ahead of the line, and directly went to the computer of the journal editor.  
  
Maybe this is the power of the system?  
  
Lu Zhou gulped. He opened up the email and downloaded the contract. He signed the license agreement as required and sent the electronic file back to the address given in the email.  
  
After a five minute wait, he refreshed the submission page.  
  
[Under review]  
  
Lu Zhou felt his heart beating very quickly.  
  
This meant that his thesis had already passed through a technical format review.  
  
It would soon be reviewed by a professional academic editor, which was also the so-called peer review!  
  
The average person would be stuck a few times in the technical editor's review. However, because Old Tang helped him modified the thesis, he seemed to have passed the first time. The following review process was the strictest stage of the SCI journal submission and it was also the slowest stage.  
  
In normal circumstances, academic reviewers themselves were also researchers. Reviewing was a non-paying job and it required a lot of effort. So, after submitting one's own work into the academic world, it was entirely determined by the academic reviewer. If you encountered a temperament or busy reviewer, they might stall the submission by one or two months!  
  
Lu Zhou refreshed the page again after waiting for around five minutes.  
  
This time, the status of the submission did not change.  
  
Lu Zhou did not know why, but he felt relaxed after seeing this.  
  
Even though the system's abilities surpassed his estimations, it seemed to return to common sense in the most critical time. Academic reviewers would not be staring at their inbox all day, waiting for unpaid work.  
  
It seemed that the system could not manipulate the behavior of a person. It seemed to possess some sort of mysterious power as it was able to accelerate his submission process within the acceptable rules. Maybe it made his thesis appeared in the first line of the academic reviewer's email address. However, this power was still subject to certain constraints.  
  
Lu Zhou was still unsure of what exactly could the power be. However, no matter what, this was a good thing.  
  
If the system is really powerful enough to dominate a person's behavior, it would be very scary.  
  
Although he enjoyed the knowledge and convenience of the system, he did not want to eventually become the puppet of the system. Freedom was priceless even in difficult circumstances.  
  
Of course, it would be great if his thesis was accepted before his mathematical analysis exam.  
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# 18 The 100 Experience Points That Made Me Go Crazy

Lu Zhou did not expect that his unintentional thoughts became reality.  
  
The day before his mathematical analysis exams on Saturday, he received an email regarding his successful submission.  
  
Lu Zhou could not wait to open up the website. He entered his account and password excitedly and saw the submission status column became [Completed - accepted]!  
  
That meant that the reviewer was very satisfied with the author's thesis and decided to accept the thesis.  
  
Once at this stage, the paper would be published in the journal either in this month or the next. It would also be accepted into the SCI journal database, thus allowing mathematics researchers from around the globe to refer to it.  
  
Lu Zhou's heart was filled with excitement. He took a deep breath and tried to meditate to calm himself down.  
  
In general, anyone that could skip the [Revise] stage was insane. Even experienced professors would occasionally be tortured by the ridiculous requirements of the reviewers which resulted in them having to rewrite the thesis two or three more times.  
  
He skipped this stage, which meant that there were no mistakes that the reviewer could find.  
  
Of course, 80% of the work was still credited to the system. If the mathematical argument process given by the system was found to have a mistake, then the reviewer had to be crazy.  
  
The format of the thesis was checked by Professor Tang himself so it definitely had no problem. Not only did Professor Tang published countless SCI theses, but he was also one of the few famous mathematical journal reviewers. His experience in this area was good, to say the least.  
  
Lu Zhou saw his roommates concentrating and studying mathematical analysis, so he set his laptop aside and took a deep breath. He then entered into the system space that was hidden deep inside his consciousness.  
  
He opened his eyes and was soon met with white surroundings.  
  
Lu Zhou walked slowly in front of the holographic panel and selected the mission icon.  
  
[Congratulations, user, for completing the mission. Hope user can make persistent efforts.]  
  
[The mission completion is as follows: Estimating the academic value and influence of your thesis, estimating the value of your thesis… Mission evaluation: S (100 general points awarded]  
  
[Mission reward: 400 mathematics experience points, 100 physics experience points. 200 general points, one lucky draw ticket (95% garbage, 5% samples)]  
  
So close! It turns out that there is also an assessment of the influence of the thesis!  
  
If he had chosen the infamous AMC as a target for submission, the evaluation of his grade would not be this high.  
  
Lu Zhou was deeply grateful for Professor Tang's help. Without his advice and support, the final destination of his paper would have been drowned in the ocean of AMC.  
  
An S evaluation was worth 100 general points!  
  
"System, open up my characteristic panel!" said Lu Zhou excitedly.  
  
[  
  
Core science:  
  
A. Mathematics: Level 0 (900/1000)  
  
B. Physics: Level 0 (100/1000)  
  
C. Biochemistry: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
D. Engineering: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
E. Materials science: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
F. Energy science: Level 0 (0/1000)  
  
G. Information science: Level 0 (100/1000)  
  
General points: 335 (One chance of lucky draw)  
  
Mission: None  
  
]  
  
Lu Zhou looked at the mathematics experience points and his eyes jumped.  
  
He did not know how the system judged, but for some reason, it gave him 100 physics experience points. As a result, he was just off 100 points away for his mathematics to level up.  
  
I'm really going to go crazy!  
  
Lu Zhou was going insane.  
  
"System, can you transfer the 100 physics experience points into mathematics?"  
  
The system did not respond.  
  
Lu Zhou continued as he tried to reason, "System! You made an evaluation mistake! Where in my thesis did I cover physics?"  
  
However, the system still did not respond.  
  
Facing the ignorant system, Lu Zhou sighed and gave up.  
  
He calculated that it was only 100 experience points, so he would get it by his next mission.  
  
He just felt bad that the precious 100 experience points went to physics. Even computer science would be fine! Or even engineering! Anything was better than this purely theoretical subject!  
  
Up next, was the exciting lucky draw.  
  
Lu Zhou looked at the unlikely 5% sample probability and sighed. Suddenly he was not so excited anymore.  
  
If I get a [garbage], I'll eat this system display!  
  
Speaking of which, last time was a can of coke. What will it be this time?  
  
Maybe a can of sprite?  
  
Please don't. Can you at least give me some food, so that I can save some money?  
  
Lu Zhou finally pressed the lucky draw button and waited for the judgment of his fate.  
  
[Congratulations, you won the sample prize.]  
  
Emm…  
  
What?  
  
The fuck?  
  
Surprised, Lu Zhou held his breath in.  
  
He had actually won with just a 5% probability!  
  
This was high tech! And it was not a blueprint! This time, it should not be a "proof question answer", right?  
  
[Received: Nanobody needle (Lasts for 2 hours, no side effects. Enhances muscle cell ability, coordination, and 50% nerve reflex speeds.]  
  
Lu Zhou: ? ? ?  
  
Lu Zhou looked at the icons and instructions on the screen and did not know what to do.  
  
What does this thing even do?  
  
Using it for an all-nighter?  
  
Only lasts for two hours! I'd rather drink some tea.  
  
It might be a good idea to sell it to athletes. The stimulant as given by the system definitely can't be detected in blood or urine tests.  
  
However, Lu Zhou felt that if this thing leaked out, he would get into a lot of trouble.  
  
Throwing national security and safety aside… How could this thing impact the sports world? Some people might think that it would not impact much, but it could boost someone into the NBA or a professional football player.  
  
Yeah, a bit exaggerated. Yet it was along the lines of that.  
  
Two hours was long enough to change the outcome of a match. The outcome of a match was often in many peoples' interests. For example, gamblers or sponsors. There would be a lot of people that wanted this thing.  
  
Moreover, they certainly would not be satisfied with just one needle.  
  
Lu Zhou was unsure how much they would pay for this. However, one thing he was sure of was that his little body could not handle it.  
  
Since he did not have access to athletes of the highest level, at best, maybe he could reach the school team. Besides, even if he had access to the athletes at the national level, they would not believe him. Only God knew what was inside his needle or if he was sent by the opposing team.  
  
"Even though it isn't garbage, it is similar to garbage. I want to become a genius. What's the point of this thing… I'd rather just have some food," sighed Lu Zhou. He did not even have the energy to argue with the system.  
  
Fucking useless!  
  
Who cares, who cares.  
  
Lu Zhou took a deep breath, prayed for a bit and pressed the mission button.  
  
He hoped that the missions this time could be a little better.  
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# 19 The Three Missions That Scammed The User

Hmm…  
  
In a sense, these refreshed missions were actually pretty good.  
  
Especially after he looked at the first mission.  
  
[  
  
Mission 1: Never stop researching  
  
Description: Blow up a municipal research institute  
  
Rewards: The subject experience value is determined by the research contribution of the institute (minimum value 5000). General points are determined by the amount of economic loss occurred. One chance of lucky draw (85% garbage, 15% sample).  
  
]  
  
"What in the hell is this?" Lu Zhou could not help but swear out loud.  
  
He now understood why this so-called high tech system would have a long distance running mission.  
  
It was to train his body in preparation for this type of mission.  
  
Without any hesitation, Lu Zhou excluded this mission as an option even though the experience points awarded was tempting.  
  
[  
  
Mission 2: Not a single grain of sand in your eyes  
  
Description: Corruption is the root of the prevention of academic progress. The waste of scientific research funding in human society leads to the social resources that should be devoted to exploring the future to be consumed in meaningless things. A true academic warrior cannot hold a single grain of sand in his eyes. The academic community also needs discipline. Head on, young man!  
  
Requirements: Collect evidence of corruption and defeat any professor (any levels above associate professor). Use any means necessary to end his academic career.  
  
Reward: Subject experience points are determined by the level of corruption of the target. (minimum 3000 points). 1000 general points. Sample given (small reconnaissance drone)  
  
]  
  
Morally, it seems correct, but apologies, I want to graduate!  
  
Lu Zhou ruled out the mission without any hesitation.  
  
There was no way he could collect enough evidence. Even if his evidence was conclusive, it would be a huge news story. The door for an academic community would close on him. After all, the school needed honor. They would not be happy at an instigator like him.  
  
As for an anonymous report, it was even more useless.  
  
This was not without precedent.  
  
Lu Zhou felt that he was not a person with a strong sense of justice. He was more rational than emotional. He had a little conscience at most.  
  
This type of vigilante act should be handed to people that cared about it.  
  
Lu Zhou was about to continue reading when his heart suddenly tightened.  
  
Wait, I already rejected two missions, so there's only one mission left to choose?  
  
Before, some of the three missions given were pretty bad, but most of them were acceptable. He even had room to choose the mission based on the mission rewards.  
  
But this time…  
  
It seemed that something was wrong.  
  
Please don't give me another bad mission!  
  
Lu Zhou swallowed his spit and continued to read.  
  
[  
  
Mission 3: Become an academic mudslide  
  
Description: Since you don't want to become an academic rive slide, go become a mudslide! Let the entire academic world tremble under your crazy water!  
  
Requirements: Successfully submit 10 SCI theses within two months and pass the review process. If the 10 theses are not completed within two months, failure is given and the rewards would be canceled. Completing the mission ahead of time will increase the evaluation.  
  
Prize: Every thesis carries a fixed prize of 100 experience points towards the relevant thesis subject. 800 general points. One chance of lucky draw (90% garbage, 9% sample, 1% blueprint)  
  
]  
  
Lu Zhou: "…"  
  
He did not have a choice and so, he forced himself to choose mission three.  
  
The worst case scenario was a two-month delay on his missions. Anyway, the system did not mention any punishment if he had not completed the mission. If he failed to finish the mission, all he would lose was his 200 general points.  
  
However, he could have traded 200 general points for a lot of theses!  
  
Sometimes, he really thought that the purpose of the system was not to help him but to take revenge on society.  
  
Generally speaking, other than those weird subjects or very hardworking researchers, publishing two papers in a year was considered pretty good.  
  
If a person published fifty or more a year, no matter what department it was, it would definitely be crappy work.  
  
If Professor Tang knew that Lu Zhou published ten SCI papers in two months, he would be massively pissed off.  
  
No. I can't let him know!  
  
Feeling stressed, Lu Zhou exited the system space and laid down on his bed. He thought about the mission for a while.  
  
I had just spent so much effort just to submit one thesis, now I have to submit ten! Isn't this a bit too much?  
  
After a bit of groaning, he suddenly thought it through.  
  
In fact, when he thought about it carefully, accepting this mission was not necessarily a bad thing.  
  
The 800 general points were pretty tempting. Also, each paper had a fixed experience value of 100. He considered that he could pick any subject for his papers. If he wanted mathematics experience points, he could submit a mathematics paper. If he wanted information science experience points, he could just submit a computer-related paper.  
  
In other words, the experience points could be manipulated by himself!  
  
He could publish a mathematics paper and then published nine computer papers! This way, his information science experience points would reach 1000, enough for a level up! And he would reach mathematics level 1 at the same time, thus, killing two birds with one stone!  
  
Moreover, this system did not have a rigid requirement for the quality of the theses, and the task rewards were not linked to the academic value of the papers. This meant that no matter how boring the paper was, as long as it could be approved, it would be accepted into the SCI journal.  
  
Lu Zhou's eyes lit up.  
  
He immediately climbed down the ladder while taking the computer off his bed and stuffing it into the backpack. He grabbed a T-shirt and put it on.  
  
Liu Rui caught a glimpse of Lu Zhou and saw that his mathematical analysis book was still sitting on the table. He asked, "Lu Zhou, are you not going to study mathematical analysis? Tomorrow is the exam."  
  
Lu Zhou walked to the front door and as he put on his shoes, he said, "I have some stuff to attend to at the library. I'll come back later and see if I feel like studying."  
  
Liu Rui was curious and so, he asked, "What's there to do at the library? Isn't there wifi in the dorm?"  
  
"The wifi in the dorm can't download papers from the journal website. I recently entered a mathematical modeling competition. A lot of specific topics can't be found with Baidu."  
  
Obviously, Lu Zhou was not going to reveal that he was researching thesis topics, so he just gave an excuse. After all, if Liu Rui knew that he published in the SCI journal while they were all revising for the exam, his mind would explode.  
  
Lu Zhou was still concerned about the mental condition of his roommate.  
  
Upon hearing about the national mathematical modeling competition, Huang Guangming, who was still doing practice questions, suddenly raised his head and yelled, "Fuck me! Zhou, you're insane! Treat me to dinner when you win the prize money!"  
  
"Ok, ok, call me brother Zhou and I'll treat you!"  
  
After responding, Lu Zhou immediately walked out the door. He did not give a chance and left Huang Guangming behind.  
  
"Brother Zhou! Brother Zhou! Don't leave! I said it!"  
  
Facing the densely written exercise book, Liu Rui's expression was a bit stiff and confused.  
  
A national mathematical modeling competition?  
  
He had also paid attention to this competition before and even consulted the seniors who previously won the first prize about the details of this competition. He was deeply saddened by his lack of ability. Originally, he was preparing to enter when he was in the second year. He did not expect the idiot Lu Zhou to apply…  
  
Although the probability is low, but if he wins the competition…  
  
There's no way.  
  
Liu Rui took a deep breath and squeezed his fists. He made up his mind.  
  
I still have three months till September.  
  
After the mathematical analysis exam, I'm applying as well!  
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# 20 Two Gods Carry A Trash?

It was Saturday afternoon, Lu Zhou finished his mathematical analysis exam and turned his paper in. He then walked to Old Tang's office.  
  
He walked in and was surprised to see quite a lot of people standing in his office.  
  
In addition to Professor Tang, not only was Dean Lu here but also Professor Zhang Zhongjie, the Director of the Computer Department of the Software Institute. His name was well known in the computer industry. Even though Lu Zhou had never taken his classes, he still knew who he was.  
  
In addition, there was a young man and a young woman.  
  
The guy wore glasses. He was neither tall nor short. He looked very ordinary and did not stand out much. However, just from standing there, Lu Zhou could feel his "genius" aura.  
  
It seemed that this was the genius that Professor Tang talked about. The guy that won the national computer design competition twice in high school!  
  
This guy really is a genius!  
  
Lu Zhou said in his heart.  
  
He completely ignored the girl.  
  
One, the presence on her side was too wrong and secondly, it was because she portrayed a feeling of being "weak".  
  
However, what surprised Lu Zhou was that she was the first to say hello.  
  
The girl smiled naturally, "Hello, are you the genius of the math department?"  
  
Lu Zhou said modestly, "I'm no genius. There is a lot of genius in our mathematics department."  
  
Lu Zhou took this chance to look at her.  
  
Her hair was combed into bangs and her face had light makeup on. Her face was probably a 6 or a 7. She wore a plain white floral dress that hanged down to her ankles and a pair of white shoes.  
  
They're standing very close. Maybe this is the genius' girlfriend?  
  
Ah, even such an ugly guy can find a girlfriend…  
  
Lu Zhou thought.  
  
Professor Tang smiled and criticized, "You're way too humble. I have to criticize you. There isn't a single undergraduate student smarter than you. The advanced algebra 2 exam, I wrote it entirely. You were the only student that scored full marks. I personally marked your paper. It seems that I have to give you a separate paper next semester!"  
  
"Stop joking, professor. Please have mercy," said Lu Zhou with a smile.  
  
The perfect score was expected. After the exam, he guessed that he would probably get full marks, so he was not surprised at all.  
  
However, the two students were actually surprised by Lu Zhou's performance. Even the computer raised his eyebrows slightly.  
  
It was not hard to be good at mathematics and his score was pretty good as well.  
  
However, getting a perfect score was a different story.  
  
"Wow, you are so good!" said the girl while she batted her eyes with her long eyelashes at Lu Zhou. She reached out with her hand and said, "My name is Lin Yuxiang. I'm a student from the computer department. Can I ask for your help in maths?"  
  
"I'm Lu Zhou. Of course, you can," said Lu Zhou cautiously after shaking her hand.  
  
"Haha, if you guys want to discuss mathematics, I'm all for it. But discuss it later! let me introduce you guys. This is Wang Xiaodong, this is Lu Zhou, then this is …" Dean Lu gave an introduction for the two people but hesitated when he arrived at Lin Yuxiang.  
  
Professor Zhang came over with a smile and said, "This is Lin Yuxiang. She's also a first-year student. She's the vice president of our student union, and she came here together with Wang Xiaodong."  
  
In other words, I didn't ask her to come.  
  
The expressions of Professor Tang and Dean Lu were somewhat weird, but they had nothing to say.  
  
"Hello."  
  
"Hello."  
  
The exchange between the two geniuses was very simple.  
  
"So, here's the case. I believe that Professor Tang and Professor Zhang have already explained it to you. I will not repeat it again. This is mainly about the team of the National Mathematical Modeling Competition," said Dean Lu with a smile. Dean Lu cleared his throat and continued, "I've discussed with Professor Zhang yesterday. I think our goal should not only be this year's competition but the competition in February next year. You guys are at the top of the software department and mathematics department. I believe that you have this strength! Of course, when we look to the future, we have to be down to earth. I hope that you will win honor for yourself, for our department, and even for the school in the mathematical modeling contest."  
  
"Professor Lu, I have already read the details of the mathematics modeling contest. and the team asked three people to participate," said the computer genius as he adjusted his glasses. He did not give a chance for Dean Lu to speak and continued to say, "With regards to the remaining teammate, I would like to recommend Lin Yuxiang. She originally worked at student council, so she can make up for the areas that I am not good at. She's also the vice president of the Literature Society, so she would have no problem writing the thesis."  
  
There was a big problem. You could not mix literature and thesis writing.  
  
Also…  
  
Lu Zhou sighed softly.  
  
It seemed that this man's emotional intelligence is even lower than mine…  
  
Sure enough, Dean Lu and Professor Zhang's face were somewhat subtle and unnatural.  
  
Although the intention of the mathematical modeling contest was to encourage college students to participate in the competition freely, they should let the school organized the teams. After all, the instructors, training materials, and training venues that were prepared for them were all the best.  
  
In addition, the goal was not just to win this year's competition, but next year as well. It was not that he could not recommend anyone, but at least the person he recommended should have some achievements right?  
  
Student council?  
  
Society?  
  
What kind of achievement is this…  
  
"Dean Lu, Professor Zhang, and Professor Tang… Please allow me to make this request. Although I feel that I'm still far from the level of these two study gods, I'll try to keep up with their footsteps!" said Lin Yuxiang with a slightly lowered head. She continued to say sincerely, "Please believe me and give me a chance to prove myself!"  
  
Professor Zhang and Dean Lu's expression was that of hesitant. They exchanged looks.  
  
They were still searching for the third member. The genius math student and computer student teamed up. They were going after the first prize or even a special prize.  
  
According to the original plan, Dean Lu planned on arranging a student with excellent thesis writing abilities.  
  
Then…  
  
To be honest, Dean Lu did not like the girl very much.  
  
However, at this moment, the genius computer student opened his mouth and said, "Professor, as a matter of fact, I originally planned on teaming up with this girl. When I suddenly received the notice from the school, I thought… I'd rather team up with someone I'm familiar with as this will increase the odds of winning."  
  
After listening to him, Lu Zhou secretly shook his head.  
  
This guy, do you even know what you are doing? Do you think that you are the head of the department?  
  
Do you think competition is a vacation with your girlfriend? You can do whatever you want just because you're a genius student? Not to mention, even if you don't want to listen to the suggestions of the professors, you should at least discuss it with me.  
  
He was too lazy to care about this guy's egotistical attitude.  
  
Seeing the atmosphere was a bit awkward, Professor Tang, who had never spoken, suddenly smiled and joined the conversation, "Let the young people decide what they want to do. We're too old for this. Speaking of writing theses, Lu Zhou has some experience, right? Oh yeah, which stage is your SCI submission at?"  
  
"I have already passed," said Lu Zhou with smiled. He suddenly thought that Old Tang might think that he submitted it to AMC and therefore, he quickly added, "I submitted it to your recommended "Theory and Applied Mathematics Newsletter"."  
  
"How come you didn't even tell me you passed!"  
  
Lu Zhou quickly explained, "I only passed yesterday. I planned on telling you today."  
  
This time Dean Lu spoke, "Theory and Applied Mathematics Newsletter? Not bad, It's the official publication of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University right?"  
  
Professor Zhang also looked at Lu Zhou in a strange way and said, "A first-year student publishing in SCI. Impressive."  
  
"Of course, I taught him myself," said Professor Tang. As he sipped his tea and his eyes smiled, there were wrinkles near his eyes.  
  
This old gentleman was this type of person.  
  
If you kissed his ass, he would not be happy at all. But if you complimented his own student, he would be ecstatic.  
  
"Wow, you're so good… I thought you were older than me, but it turns out that you're a first-year student as well," said Lin Yuxiang. She opened her mouth in surprise and was openly awed by it.  
  
Wang Xiaodong did not say anything but from his expression, it seemed that he had slightly approved of his new teammate. However, even though he did not say anything, he was slightly unhappy about Lin Yuxiang's attitude towards Lu Zhou.  
  
"Professor, you thought too highly of me. It was all because of Professor Tang's help," replied Lu Zhou humbly.  
  
Professor Zhang looked at Lu Zhou and nodded with approval at his humble attitude. Then he thought of his own department's genius, and could not help but shook his head in his heart.  
  
Being confident isn't a bad thing, but arrogance is not the same.  
  
Still a level behind…  
  
"Then, this year's national competition is set. As for next year's US competition, we'll decide after observations," said Dean Lu. He heard that Lu Zhou had published in the SCI journal so he did not say much. He just asked jokingly, "Oh yeah, Lu Zhou, you don't have any opinions on this new teammate, right?"  
  
Lin Yuxiang looked at Lu Zhou and blinked her eyes. She was like a deer in headlights.  
  
Naive girl, you think that you can just trick me?  
  
Lu Zhou thought for a while then shrugged.  
  
"I… don't have an opinion."  
  
Even though he was not very satisfied with this third teammate, he considered that with the computer genius here, it would make up for his lack of programming experience. With the arrogant nature of the genius, the team would be broken up if he did not agree.  
  
He weighed the pros and cons. It was better than him trying to find two garbage people. At least, this garbage was still slightly useful. He was not that good at public speaking so she could do that.  
  
After hearing about the prize money the school would give, he decided.  
  
I'm going to get the first prize!  
  
Wang Xiaodong released his breath in relief. Lin Yuxiang's face burst into smiles as she looked at Lu Zhou gratefully.  
  
Lu Zhou smiled and did not say anything.  
  
Professor Lu clapped his hands and said, "Then, It's settled. Professor Liu Xiangping will be your advisor coach. Tomorrow morning at eight o'clock, meet at Building A classroom 104. Professor Liu will brief. It's getting late, so you guys should go rest."  
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# 21 He Turned Out To Be An Honest Man

"Lu Zhou!"  
  
Lu Zhou was walking towards the male dorms when he heard someone shouting his name. He turned and saw Lin Yuxiang jog towards him.  
  
Her fair hands rested on her kneecaps as Lin Yuxiang bent her waist and gasped slightly. She gasped again and asked, "Why are you walking so fast?"  
  
Lu Zhou asked, "What's up?"  
  
"Nothing's wrong. I just wanted to thank you for what happened back at Professor Tang's office. I owe you one," said Lin Yuxiang with a smile on her face.  
  
"Oh, that's nothing. Don't need to thank me," said Lu Zhou as he shook his head.  
  
"Even though I know I'm very stupid, I'll work hard and catch up to you! So… thank you for giving me a chance," said Lin Yuxiang.  
  
Emm…  
  
This isn't possible.  
  
There's no way for you to catch up. You can't even catch up to the tail light.  
  
However, he did not burn this bridge. Lu Zhou still tried to smile, "Well, work hard. I believe you can do it."  
  
"Really? Thank you for your support!" said Lin Yuxiang. As she kept her hands behind her back, she said happily, "Then… As a way to thank you, can I buy you food?"  
  
Even though the suggestion of food was very tempting, Lu Zhou still rejected it when he thought about the relationship between his other teammate.  
  
"Go and eat with your boyfriend. I won't be third wheeling you guys."  
  
Lin Yuxiang heard the words come out of Lu Zhou's mouth and laughed. She played with her hair as she said, "What are you talking about? I don't have a boyfriend?"  
  
Lu Zhou was slightly stunned and asked, "Isn't that Wang Xiaodong your boyfriend?"  
  
"What are you talking about?" Lin Yuxiang groaned with dissatisfaction. She looked at Lu Zhou seriously and said, "He's older than me and I treat him like a brother. It's not like that."  
  
What, what, what?  
  
What is this?  
  
Lu Zhou paused for a second before coming back to a realization.  
  
Ah…  
  
This is the so-called thing right…  
  
Lu Zhou laughed and tried to refuse gently, "I'm sorry. I still have some personal stuff to do tonight. Let's go some other day."  
  
Lin Yuxiang obviously did not expect the rejection. She was stunned for a second then immediately her face light up with a smile again, "Well! I'll contact you later then… Oh yeah, give me your WeChat."  
  
This time Lu Zhou did not reject her and he took out his phone.  
  
After all, she was his teammate. Having her contact details was convenient.  
  
After exchanging WeChat, Lin Yuxiang held her phone as if it was a treasure. She happily thanked him, turned around and walked away briskly.  
  
…  
  
There was a type of girl in the university - pretty, innocent, and their smiles were like your first love. A smile that gave you butterflies in your stomach.  
  
They would make you think that they liked you and would inadvertently start to approach you.  
  
"So good", "Wow, you're amazing", "Ah, if only I was half as smart as you."  
  
They could recognize their shortcomings and where their shortcomings were. This was obviously an advantage, but they were dissatisfied with themselves.  
  
They were good at using the art of language and their circle of friends to mask themselves into a lonely and weak person. To arouse the attraction of the opposite sex and to manipulate them.  
  
However, when you started to chase her, you would walk a step forward while she would walk a step backward.  
  
So, you would start to reflect on yourself and doubting yourself. You started to gradually lose yourself and you would become a black hole filled with dissatisfaction.  
  
Until one day, you discovered that you were just one of the many prisoners trapped by her…  
  
If you abstract this phenomenon into a social behavioral model, you would find this collective social behavior to be similar to the structure of ants.  
  
All the workers and soldiers were loyal to one queen ant. Only a small number of male ants, that were strong, wing growing "bachelors", would have a chance to mingle with the queen.  
  
As for that Wang Xiaodong, his role was probably the so-called spare tire?  
  
Through a rational analysis, Lu Zhou felt that he probably understood it now.  
  
As for Lin Yuxiang's objective, it was very clear to him. She was trying to win a prize in the mathematical modeling competition. Perhaps she saw that Lu Zhou was unhappy with having her as a teammate, so she deliberately approached to manipulate him.  
  
If she could make these two guys fought for her, then that would be even better. She just had to sit back and win the national competition by doing nothing.  
  
He had to admit. This type of girl was the nemesis of a genius.  
  
Those who devoted too much time to study was bound to have difficulty balancing other areas.  
  
Why Lu Zhou did not get baited by her?  
  
That was because he knew better.  
  
He knew that he was honest and slightly handsome at most. He was not rich or tall.  
  
Getting into a relationship with this girl was completely pointless.  
  
…  
  
Lu Zhou went back to his dorm and was about to bring his laptop to the library to continue research thesis topics.  
  
However, just after he stepped his foot into his dorm, Huang Guangming came over and slammed the door.  
  
Kacha---  
  
What?  
  
He even locked it?  
  
Lu Zhou watched Shi Shang and Liu Rui walked towards him with a smirk on their face and he said, "Say whatever you want. Let's discuss. Other than money problem, we can discuss it!"  
  
Shi Shang laughed and said, "Zhou."  
  
Liu Rui smiled and followed, "Zhou…"  
  
Lu Zhou, "Can you guys stop being so romantic, I'm getting goosebumps!"  
  
Huang Guangming blocked the dorm door with his body and said with a serious face, "We saw everything. Be honest! Who was the girl downstairs? Which department? When did you start dating? Which stages are you guys at? What are you feeling?"  
  
Lu Zhou: ? ? ?  
  
Shi Shang patted Lu Zhou's shoulder and sighed, "Brother, it's not that I don't want to help you, but can you look at it from our loners' perspective? Brother, I would just ask you for one thing. Go and invite your girlfriend's roommates. Let's arrange some activities. I'll cover the costs. You can decide on the specific activities. I'll owe you one whether I get a girlfriend or not."  
  
Lu Zhou sighed. He held the hand that was on his shoulder, "Brother, it's not that I don't want to help you… But that student is my mathematics modeling competition's teammate. Also, she was brought in by another teammate. It was my first time meeting her today."  
  
"How is this possible! So you guys have nothing going on?" asked Liu Rui suspiciously.  
  
'Yeah, you could say so," nodded Lu Zhou.  
  
The three guys in the dorm suddenly looked like shrimps as they said stuff like, "No fun, let's go", "I told you, Zhou is still a loner", "Let's just get Shi Shang a girlfriend and make him set up a group date for us". They sat back down in their chairs and got ready for a video game match.  
  
The exams for mathematical analysis and advanced algebra were completed. Next week was English and C language exams. The dorm already started to get into summer vacation's mentality and no one wanted to study.  
  
Lu Zhou saw that no one was bothering him anymore and so, he took his computer bag and left.  
  
Yesterday, although he stayed at the library until closing time, other than downloading a lot of documents and reading a lot of books, no progress was made.  
  
But yesterday's accumulation provided him with a lot of ideas. Today, he was ready to work hard, finished selecting the topics, and to start writing the theses.  
  
This sounded like it would be simple, but actually, it was very difficult.  
  
The mathematics thesis was easy to write, but the other nine computer theses were not his expertise. He had read more than 30 related theses. More than half of them were in English. After downloading them from the library, he stayed up until two o'clock in the morning and he had barely finished reading. He still had very little understanding of the topic.  
  
Even if he learned the C language textbook, he still would not understand the harder topics.  
  
As expected, his study ability was no match with a real genius.  
  
If only the system gave him another studying mission…  
  
Lu Zhou walked towards the library and suddenly remembered.  
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# 22 The Correct Thesis Writing Posture

Lu Zhou was different compared to how most people wrote theses. All of his problems could be solved by asking the system, therefore the importance of proposing appropriate ideas far exceeds the realization of the idea itself.  
  
Thus, the key to the problem itself lied in choosing the topic.  
  
Lu Zhou's criteria for choosing a topic was very simple.  
  
Since he was going to be a mudslide in the academic world, then he would have to find the easiest topic to do! The easiest journal to submit to!  
  
What was worth mentioning was, as the second largest science major in the engineering department, finding an easy journal to submit to was relatively easy.  
  
Just like mathematics, where a "new solution to a proof theorem" could be published into a thesis, in the field of computer science, even a new algorithm could be published into a paper.  
  
13 years ago, in an interview with the guy who founded Khan Academy, he said, "90% of academic papers are useless", and "How many PhD papers have really been used?". Hundreds of silicon valley giants agreed with him.  
  
Of course, there was a lot of criticism towards him.  
  
The statement indeed was biased, but it also reflected some problems on the opposing end.  
  
Internet information security and artificial neural networks were considered the norm. Also, big data and cloud computing had become hard hitting areas. Artificial intelligence was even more of a mess as even civilians had joined in on the conversation. In addition, it was not just domestic, it was the same abroad. It was a common problem for all "young disciplines".  
  
Lu Zhou considered these factors. Therefore, he eventually chose the area of artificial intelligence.  
  
Of course, the field of artificial intelligence was huge. From video games to frequency changing electric toothbrush, strictly speaking, this thing had penetrated into society. It was just a matter of how deep the level of penetration was.  
  
Lu Zhou thought for a bit and typed a line of text in a Word document.  
  
[Application of Artificial Intelligence in Geographic Information Systems]  
  
From the phone's navigation system to autopilot driving, from traffic control to unmanned aircraft navigation.  
  
He chose the later, just in time for the emerging concept of "unmanned aircraft logistics".  
  
Of course, this area was still very broad. However, he was not worried as he had nine theses to submit!  
  
It was like pouring water into the sea of academia. He planned on breaking it into nine parts with a hose and then slowly poured it in.  
  
Hence, his fingers tapped the keyboard and he continued to write.  
  
[A pixel analysis algorithm based on artificial intelligence]  
  
[Optimization Algorithm for Dynamic Image Recognition Based on Artificial Intelligence]  
  
[Automatic measurement method of human body size based on artificial intelligence algorithm]  
  
[An Artificial Intelligence Algorithm for Harvesting Addresses]  
  
{An artificial intelligence based…]  
  
However, it was not just about completing the title. He still had to write an abstract to describe the topic in detail. After all, a video game "bot" and Ironman's "Jarvis" both belonged to the same category of artificial intelligence. Lu Zhou did not expect the system to accurately understand the difference between the two.  
  
Due to this, not only did he had to write a detailed description of the idea, it would not even appear in the final thesis.  
  
He had just finished all of this when the library approached its closing time.  
  
He dragged all of the documents into the same folder that had the thesis on mathematics. Lu Zhou stretched his back and leaned back on his chair. He thought back to when he wrote his first thesis and started to say in his heart.  
  
"System, give me a thesis price estimation."  
  
The system very quickly gave an answer to his question.  
  
[Total 10 questions. Total cost: 210 general points. Would you like to confirm a purchase?]  
  
An average cost of 21 general points, after that he would only have 125 general points left. However, he would receive 800 general points when he completed the mission, not to mention additional rewards if he received an S grade. This was worth it!  
  
"Confirm purchase!"  
  
Lu Zhou closed his eyes. Soon, a feeling of being shocked by electric traveled from his spine up to his brain. This was followed by a huge flow of information.  
  
Although his information science experience points had not changed one bit, after receiving this new information, he felt his understanding of artificial intelligence had deepened.  
  
Purchasing knowledge with general points was also a learning method. However, it was much simpler and easier than studying it by himself.  
  
Of course, it would still take a while for him to completely digest this knowledge.  
  
However, it was enough for him to write the theses!  
  
Lu Zhou took a deep breath and opened his eyes. There was a spirit of fire in his eyes.  
  
Ten theses.  
  
He would take a month at most.  
  
He was going to complete this!  
  
…  
  
The next day, Lu Zhou forced himself to wake up early. He brushed his teeth and put on his clothes, and then he went out of his bedroom.  
  
As a result of staying up all night, there were two dark circles below his eyes. He could not even count the number of times he yawned on the way to the cafeteria.  
  
"Lu Zhou!"  
  
Chen Yushan was wearing a backpack and stood nearby. She smiled and said hello. When she noticed his dark circles, she said, "Wow, where did you get those panda eyes?"  
  
"I got them from the zoo… This joke is so cold, it's not funny at all," said Lu Zhou while yawning.  
  
Chen Yushan's appearance looked the same as usual. A pair of thick round glasses with her long black hair tied in a ponytail. Speaking of which, he had only seen her wearing makeup and contact lenses once. In a time where even young girls started to wear face masks, this type of "natural" girls was rare.  
  
They began to walk together.  
  
Chen Yushan asked, "You're not going to the library today?"  
  
Lu Zhou thought for a bit and said, "I might go in the afternoon. I have a mathematics modeling competition training to attend to first."  
  
"Wow, math modeling competition," said Chen Yushan. She nodded her head and said with experience, "The prize money for that competition is pretty high. It'll be very helpful for your future career. I'll root for you!"  
  
"You've joined before?"  
  
"What are you talking about? I won the level two prize. I amazed the audience with my strengths!" said Chen Yushan as she flicked her eyebrows satisfyingly. She pumped up her chest and said, "If you don't understand anything, feel free to ask for my help!"  
  
"Cool, cool, cool," replied Lu Zhou with a perfunctory attitude.  
  
I guess this modeling competition doesn't care about your mathematics skills…  
  
That's a bit difficult to do.  
  
Just as Lu Zhou was thinking this, Chen Yushan who was walking next to him opened her mouth.  
  
"Wait a bit, don't move."  
  
"Yeah?"  
  
Chen Yushan turned around, opened her backpack, and pulled out a pack of tissues.  
  
Lu Zhou was confused about what she was going to do. She took two steps, looked at Lu Zhou with a serious face, then suddenly reached out and wiped his face.  
  
"Ah, disgusting. You don't care at all, do you? You didn't even wipe your eye boogers before leaving the dorm.," said Chen Yushan as she threw the tissue into a trash can.  
  
The fuck?  
  
Lu Zhou face was instantly red and he was no longer sleepy.  
  
It was not because he was embarrassed.  
  
It was because…  
  
Did I walk around all day with that big eye booger on my face?  
  
Lu Zhou had a stiff expression as he asked quietly, "It… wasn't that obvious right?"  
  
Chen Yushan laughed, "Okay, fine. It wasn't that noticeable. But I do suggest you go and wash your face in the bathroom before you enter a classroom."  
  
No s\*hit, Sherlock!  
  
Lu Zhou immediately went into a bathroom, splashed some water on his face, and started rubbing.  
  
…  
  
He felt refreshed after washing his face.  
  
Lu Zhou went into the classroom with a wet face. He walked in and saw only one person inside.  
  
He sat down in the first row and greeted the person.  
  
"Morning."  
  
Wang Xiaodong saw Lu Zhou and his expression did not change much. He just nodded briefly and said hello. He then started to read his textbook again.  
  
Next week was the school wide English exams. Only people like Lu Zhou, who studied the entire level four English textbook like a freak, was unworried about the exam. After all, the exam's vocabulary and grammar requirements were level four. Therefore, he only had to study the level four textbook. He would not get that high, but 80 marks were no problem for him.  
  
Sitting there was boring and talking with Student Wong was even more boring. Lu Zhou took out his phone and started to read the material from yesterday. With these materials, he began to slowly digest the knowledge his brain took in last night.  
  
Fortunately, most of the artificial intelligence programs were written in C++ because the language had higher degrees of freedom. The popular language Python was used to write a shell at most. For example, the first generation artificial intelligence learning system by Google, "DistBelief", was the best example of an AI written in C++.  
  
The only programming language Lu Zhou knew was C++, so it was not difficult for him to understand this knowledge.  
  
If someone ever asked him how he wrote these theses, he could still write a couple of lines.  
  
With the two people busy doing their own activities, the time reached eight o'clock quickly. With the sound of the bell ring, their instructor for the mathematical modeling competition, Liu Xiangping, walked into the classroom.  
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# 23 The Classic Business Modeling Problem

When Liu Xiangping saw the two people in the classroom, he smiled and said, "There are only two people here? I heard there's another one."  
  
"… I'll call her and ask," said Wang Xiaodong. Embarrassed, he walked outside with his phone.  
  
The professor was not in a rush. He opened his vacuum flask and sipped some hot water. He then casually sat next to Lu Zhou and asked with a smile, "What's the current situation on your team's configuration?"  
  
Lu Zhou put down his phone and replied with a smile, "I'm responsible for building the model, Wang Xiaodong is responsible for programming it, and Lin Yuxiang is responsible for writing the thesis and presenting."  
  
"Modeling, coding, and writing. The standard configuration I see," said Professor Liu. He laughed and continued to say, "Speaking of which, you're the undergraduate student Lu Zhou, right? I've read your thesis and it was really good."  
  
Lu Zhou eyes lit up, "Professor, you're in mathematics?"  
  
"You could say so, but I research physics side of things and I don't publish mathematics theses much," said Teacher Liu. As he squinted his eyes and looked at the classroom door, he said, "Your female teammate seems to be quite unreliable."  
  
Lu Zhou felt awkward and could only smile out of politeness.  
  
Teacher Liu smiled as well and left the issue alone. He paused before saying, "As for your team configuration, let me suggest some slight changes. Making the model and thesis should be done by one person, the two other people should program the model. The advantage of this is that the person writing the model would have a strong grasp of the topic, and thus, the process of writing the thesis would be much smoother. Of course, the downside is that the person would be under a lot of pressure. The competition is only three days long. It means that when the person finished writing the model, he or she would have to immediately start writing the thesis."  
  
Lu Zhou asked thoughtfully, "Two people for coding?"  
  
Teacher Liu sipped his tea and replied slowly, "That's right."  
  
Lu Zhou laughed and did not give an answer yet, "I'll think about it. After all, I should discuss this with my teammates."  
  
At the same time, the sound of footsteps came from outside the corridor. The last teammate had finally arrived.  
  
"My apologies, I'm slightly late. I'm really sorry!" said Lin Yuxiang as she walked into the classroom with Wang Xiaodong. She looked down at the professor with an apologetic expression.  
  
"It's okay. Since everyone is here, let's begin," said Professor Liu Xiangping as he smiled casually. He did not blame her for being late. He turned around and walked to the podium, plugged a USB into the computer, turned on the projector, and pulled out his PowerPoint presentation.  
  
"Before I present, I want to first ask you guys a question. This question isn't very hard in itself, but it's an example of a mathematics modeling question. I hope you guys can understand what exactly is mathematical modeling by doing this question."  
  
He pressed the mouse and turned the PowerPoint to the next page.  
  
"Three businessmen, each carry a passenger on a boat to cross the river. The boat can only accommodate two people. The passengers secretly decided that if there are more passengers than businessmen on either side of the river, they'll kill the businessmen. However, the method of taking the boat is determined by the businessmen. Question. How can the businessmen cross the bridge safely?"  
  
In reality, this question was not difficult at all.  
  
Lu Zhou did not even use the power of the system to find an answer. He replied.  
  
"First round, two passengers go, one passenger comes back."  
  
"Second round, two passengers go again, one passenger comes back."  
  
"Third round, two businessmen go, one businessman and one passenger comes back."  
  
"Fourth round, two businessmen go, one passenger comes back."  
  
"Fifth round, two passengers go, one passenger comes back."  
  
"Sixth round, the last two passengers go and they would successfully cross the river!"  
  
Clap, Clap, Clap!  
  
Lin Yuxiang started clapping with her tiny hands and her face was filled with an expression of being awed.  
  
Wang Xiaodong's expressions did not change one bit. He looked like a worldly man.  
  
From his perspective, this question was not that difficult. Although he did not try to solve it himself, he believed that his IQ was high enough to solve it in the same amount of time.  
  
"Completely correct," laughed Professor Liu. He continued to say, "Even without any mathematical knowledge, this problem can be solved simply by logical analysis. What if we expanded this question into N businessmen?"  
  
This question was slightly harder. However, while the mathematical side was easy, the hard part was abstracting this problem into a mathematical problem.  
  
Lu Zhou gave it a serious thought for a moment. He already had a general outline in his brain.  
  
"Can I use the blackboard?"  
  
"Of course, you can," said Professor Liu Xiangping while he waved his hand as an invitation.  
  
Lu Zhou walked up to the blackboard and started to write with a chalk.  
  
[Let the number of businessmen before crossing the river as Xk. Let the number of passengers be Yk. k = 1, 2…, Xk. Yk = 0, 1, 2, 3. Let the two dimensional vector Sk = (Xk, Yk). A successful crossing condition is recorded as S.]  
  
Therefore S={(X,Y)|X=0,Y=0,1,2,3;X=3,Y=0,1,2,3;X=Y=1,2}  
  
2. The number of businessmen on the kth ferry is 2 Uk, and the number of followers is Vk. The two-dimensional vector Dk=(Uk, Vk) is defined as a decision. Allow the decision set to be recorded as D, which is known by the boat capacity: D={(U,V)|1≤U+V≤V, U, V=0,1,2}  
  
3 Combining the above conclusions, the variation law of state Sk with Dk is: S(k+1)=Sk+(-1)^k\*Dk  
  
]  
  
"Amazing…" gaped Lin Yuxiang as she looked at the blackboard with a blank face. Her mouth was slightly wide opened. She watched Lu Zhou walked down the podium and she asked in surprise, "You don't even need to write down your calculations?"  
  
"I can just calculate it in my head," said Lu Zhou while laughing.  
  
Wang Xiaodong still remained silent.  
  
From looking at his expression, the arrogant genius was thoroughly convinced by Lu Zhou's mathematics ability.  
  
Professor Liu looked at the steps on the blackboard and nodded his head, "Perfectly correct! But from a mathematical model perspective, you only completed half of the work. After building at the model, there's still one more step. Implementation of the model. Of course, this model is very simple and I trust that Student Wong can definitely use his programming skills to build this. So, we won't waste our precious time."  
  
Wang Xiaodong pushed his glasses. The expression on his face remained the same as it portrayed a sense of confidence.  
  
Given that there was no chance for him to show off his programming skills, he was a bit disappointed.  
  
After a pause, Professor Liu continued to say, "Data modeling is actually a process of simplifying a practical problem into a problem that can be expressed in terms of data and simple sentences. Then, solve the problem through mathematical tools."  
  
"So, the key is, what actual problems are your team going to solve?"  
  
"Building a model isn't testing your programming abilities or your mathematical abilities. It is actually testing your ability to translate real life problems into data and find a way to solve it. You guys have to remember this."  
  
"As for building the model, I don't have much advice. There is no shortcut other than to practice and broaden your knowledge. As for programming, I can give some advice."  
  
"There are four types of commonly used software. Matlab, Mathematica, Lingo, and SAS. You don't need to master all of them but you have to at least master one of them. The key is to use the software that suits you to solve the actual problem," said Professor Liu Xiangping while he looked at Wang Xiaodong.  
  
This was because he was mainly talking to him.  
  
Wang Xiaodong pushed his glasses, nodded his head, and said, "I've used Matlab and SAS so there's no problem."  
  
Professor Liu nodded, "Knowing these two are enough. You guys have to learn this by yourself. I can only help you when you are stuck."  
  
"The last point is regarding textbooks. I recommend that you read some books on mathematical modeling such as Mathematical Models, Mathematical Modeling Algorithms and Applications, and Mathematical Modeling Basics."  
  
"I still have some handouts and materials from the university. You can copy them and look at them at home but remember not to pass them out or upload it online. Understood?"  
  
The three students replied at the same time: "Understood!"  
  
Professor Liu laughed and said, "Okay, that's it for today. I don't have much else to say. It's all up to you guys now. Come download the material from me if you need it. After you're done, go and study English."  
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# 24 First Training Session

After downloading the material, Professor Liu dismissed them. He expressed that if they were not busy revising, they should look over the material tonight.  
  
Tomorrow they were going to meet in the school's computer room and to start their first training session.  
  
After Professor Liu dismissed them, Lu Zhou carried his laptop and walked to the library. He continued to write his theses.  
  
He did not even look at the material on his USB.  
  
After all, for him, the system mission was a higher priority than school work.  
  
Other than writing theses, Lu Zhou would occasionally help Chen Yushan with a few math questions.  
  
Honestly speaking, the girl's foundation in mathematics was absolutely horrible. He had no idea how she apparently scored 85 in her first-year mathematical analysis exam.  
  
"You guys don't study mathematics in business school?" asked Lu Zhou. He was completely defeated by a question regarding finding the limits of a function. He rolled his eyes and wrote the answer on the draft paper. Without any mercy, he said, "The teacher just explained this question as an example in class."  
  
Chen Yushan blushed. She refused to accept defeat and defended herself, "I'm studying economics management in the business school. It's not like I study accounting. I've got a lot of other stuff to memorize. When would I have time to study mathematics?"  
  
"I know that you also need to study accounting and statistics for economics…"  
  
"Shut up, I'll buy you lunch."  
  
Lu Zhou shut up immediately. He said in his heart, "Don't be polite, ask me anything you want."  
  
It'd be best if you can buy me dinner as well…  
  
When someone bought him food, Lu Zhou would feel as if he owed them. Even though his financial situation was pretty bad, he would still find a chance to buy them food back.  
  
However, if Chen Yushan wanted to buy him food…  
  
He did not feel ashamed at all.  
  
He used his skill to earn the meal. Why would he have to treat her back?  
  
He helped her with all of the topics in advanced algebra and he did not even charge her. It was normal for her to buy him food.  
  
After the library closed, Lu Zhou went back to his dorm and continued to work a little bit more. He finally finished writing his first thesis.  
  
The value score of the first thesis was the highest out of the ten. The system assessed it at 30 general points. He thought about some of the conclusions of this paper as it was a supplement to the arguments in his previous thesis. Lu Zhou was prepared to submit it again to the "Theoretical and Applied Mathematics Communication" journal.  
  
As for the rest of the nine theses, his submission goal was "Modern Communication and Geographic Information Technology"  
  
As a non-core journal, this domestic journal was rare and it did not require any review and layout fees. It also did not care if the author had financial support. It would even pay the authors 150 yuan per thesis. Comparing this with the other journals that only cared about the pockets of researchers, this was the "clear stream" of the academic mudslide!  
  
Nine theses were 1350 yuan!  
  
By the time he finally finished uploading his mathematics thesis, it was already two o'clock in the morning.  
  
Lu Zhou saw the time was late. He turned off his laptop, yawned, and laid in bed. As he listened to his roommates' snoring sound, he slowly drifted into his dreams.  
  
…  
  
Professor Liu and Lu Zhou were lazy and did not wake up early. He walked into the computer room behind Professor Liu. When he walked in, he discovered that he was not the latest to arrive. When he walked in with Professor Liu, only Wang Xiaodong was inside the classroom.  
  
"Morning."  
  
As always, Lu Zhou smiled and said hello. He thought that the proud genius would ignore him. As a result, he did not expect to hear him reply.  
  
"Morning."  
  
Although it was only one word, it was quite a big breakthrough for him.  
  
Lu Zhou was gratified.  
  
Honestly speaking, he was not worried at all about his team's abilities. The only thing he was worried about was his relationships with his teammates. He knew that he was not the only one worried about this. Professor Liu must also be concerned.  
  
If Lin Yuxiang could be used as a mediator, it would not be that bad to have her on the team.  
  
Probably.  
  
Just as he was going off track thinking about this, Lin Yuxiang finally arrived. This time was better as she was only late by 15 minutes.  
  
As always, Professor Liu Xiangping did not say anything to her. He just smiled faintly. He signaled her to find a place to sit down and then started the course for the day.  
  
According to the training plan, today was the first training session, which was to develop cooperation between the teammates.  
  
They did not want to waste too much time so the questions were not difficult. They could all be solved on the spot.  
  
Professor Liu gave a string of fictitious data of telecom users and made up more than 20 tasks to do. The requirement was to classify consumer habits through mathematical modeling and design products for different user groups.  
  
As the data was made up, the data source was not given in the question. He only gave them an excel spreadsheet.  
  
The knowledge needed for calculations was biased towards statistics. It involved economics and product management techniques. Compared to yesterday's appetizer, the difficulty of this question had undoubtedly improved.  
  
The simple mathematical formulas were not necessarily useless in this practical application. Rather, the difficulty of this question was not in the mathematics part. It was how to convert this type of problem into a mathematical problem.  
  
The good thing was that the question itself was not that complicated. It just required a broad range of knowledge. Lu Zhou thought about it for nearly half an hour. He first used statistical techniques to classify customers. Then he used a matrix algorithm to solve two of the questions.  
  
Lu Zhou brought a couple of draft paper to Wang Xiaodong and put them on his computer desk. He said, "The model is done and I've sent it to your email. The other part I calculated it with a pen so it's written on the paper. You should be fine with organizing the formula and entering it into the computer right?"  
  
Wang Xiaodong nodded and his answer was concise, "No problem."  
  
As expected, the efficiency of the two geniuses was extraordinary.  
  
Lu Zhou quickly finished building the mathematical model. Wang Xiaodong also quickly used the computer in the computer room to code the program. It took them less than two hours. It was estimated that it would take a day but they had already finished it in such a short amount of time.  
  
After examining the results of Lu Zhou and Wang Xiaodong respectively, Professor Liu could not help but be impressed. He had coached a total of five mathematical modeling competitions. These two were the most talented students he had ever met.  
  
Lu Zhou smiled and accepted the teacher's compliment. As for Wang Xiaodong, there was no expression on his face as usual. However, from the corner of his mouth, a sliver of satisfaction could be seen.  
  
The first training session went smoothly.  
  
However, the biggest problem was Lin Yuxiang…  
  
Although this girl had written a lot of student council's reports, she had never written a thesis before. She spent half an hour researching the format requirements and made no progress.  
  
Wang Xiaodong was embarrassed. After all, it was him that strongly recommended Lin Yuxiang and believed that she could take on the role. The competition had not even started and she already dropped the ball in the first training session.  
  
Although Lu Zhou had a slight smile on his face, his heart was full of resentment.  
  
You said you're in student work, then properly do student work. You should stay in your own lane. My future is bright, why would you come and drag me down.  
  
Next time, at least search online on how to write a thesis beforehand. All you know how to do is let people pity you! How useless!  
  
I'm so pissed off!  
  
Teacher Liu was not angry at all. He just smiled and comforted Lin Yuxiang who kept apologizing. He then allowed Wang Xiaodong to guide her through thesis writing and called Lu Zhou to the hallway.  
  
He took out a cigarette, looked at the two students inside the classroom, and said to Lu Zhou, "What do you think? Have you thought about my suggestion from yesterday?"  
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# 25 I“m So Angry

"…" Lu Zhou did not answer.  
  
"I can understand. You must have your own opinions about her," said Professor Liu with a smile. He added, "Just like my research community, every team would always have a useless teammate. They don't care at all about the project. These people would always exist."  
  
"Professor, your mentality is so good," said Lu Zhou with a smile.  
  
"It's not that my mentality is good," said Professor Liu. He waved his hand and smiled, "It's because I'm used to it by now."  
  
He patted Lu Zhou on the shoulder and said in a serious tone, "You have to understand that getting the first prize is our only goal. It might seem unfair to those who have to do more work, but this is just a learning curve."  
  
Lu Zhou thought about it for a bit and nodded, "Okay, I understand. I can be responsible for building the mathematical model and writing the thesis, but I have one condition."  
  
"Say it," said Professor Liu with a smile.  
  
"I want to reduce the number of group training sessions moving forward and change it to solo training. We can resume group training closer to the competition time," said Lu Zhou. He paused for a second before continuing, "This way, I can be more flexible with my training schedule."  
  
Having to get everyone together to train would waste too much time.  
  
Lu Zhou still preferred to work at his own tempo.  
  
"No problem as I originally planned to do this as well," replied Liu Xiangping with a smile.  
  
The two people went back into the computer room.  
  
At last, Lu Zhou could write the thesis.  
  
After all, he had experience from submitting an SCI thesis and he had done quite a lot of research for that system mission. Looking at writing thesis alone, not to mention the useless Lin Yuxiang, even the second-year student, Wang Xiaodong, was no match for him.  
  
Of course, today was just a training session. There was no need to polish the paper in accordance with the standards of the competition. The layout required ten or twenty pages of paper. It could not be finished within a day.  
  
Lu Zhou wrote the key parts of "model hypothesis" and "problem analysis" according to the format of the mathematical modeling thesis. For the less important parts, he wrote down the title and skipped it.  
  
Lin Yuxiang looked at the completed thesis and expressed her gratitude. She expressed pitifully that she had dragged them down today and that she was very sorry and would try to catch up with everyone's footsteps.  
  
Lu Zhou did not respond, but in his heart, he sighed.  
  
Try your best!  
  
After dismissal, Lu Zhou rejected Lin Yuxiang's invitation to buy him food.  
  
He strapped on his computer bag, walked to the library, and began to furiously write his thesis.  
  
Chen Yushan sat next to him. Other than occasionally asking him a question or two, she also had her head down doing questions. Although she was very curious why a mathematics major like him was writing a computer science thesis, she did not ask why.  
  
He leaned against the chair and stretched his arm. Lu Zhou was about to go to the toilet when his phone started to vibrate on his desk.  
  
Lu Zhou picked his phone up and saw it was Fat Wu calling. He immediately stood up and walked towards the library's toilet.  
  
He answered the phone and leaned against the window.  
  
"Hey, what's up?"  
  
"It's me, Wu Dahai. Are you free this week?"  
  
The sincere voice of Fat Wu came through the telephone. It was obvious he needed manpower for a job.  
  
He was a third-year student, but he did not care at all about the graduate entrance exam. He did not look for jobs either. He spent all day working and was never in school. If he did not have a student ID card, Lu Zhou would doubt that he was even a student at the University of Jin Ling.  
  
"What kind of job?" asked Lu Zhou.  
  
Although he was very busy right now, if the pay was high, he would still consider it.  
  
However, he knew that the probability of that was low.  
  
"Jin Ling recently opened a building and the developers need people to pass out flyers. 20 yuan an hour. They need people all week. Are you coming?" asked Wu Dahai.  
  
"… I'm a bit busy these few days. I can't do it," said Lu Zhou with a mild tone. Even though Lu Zhou was a bit excited, he had to think about the nine theses he still had to write.  
  
"It's fine. I'll find someone else then," said Fat Wu. He did not care and said, "Go do your own stuff."  
  
Lu Zhou hung up the call and went to the toilet. Then he went back into the library.  
  
When he returned to his chair, he saw his draft paper under the keyboard and Chen Yushan was sitting next to it. She looked forward to seeing him. When he saw her expression, he could not help but smile. He did not say much and started to pick up his pen to solve the problems.  
  
Finding the general solution for the problem of a second-order constant-coefficient differential equation was a pretty difficult topic in advanced algebra. As it combined multiple knowledge points such as trigonometric functions and integral derivation, it was usually used as the second or last big question on the exams.  
  
However, for Lu Zhou, it was not a challenge at all.  
  
He was not bragging. There was no university level advanced mathematics questions that he could not solve.  
  
Chen Yushan looked at Lu Zhou as he was solving the question and asked softly, "Who called you just then?"  
  
"A student. He wanted to give me jobs," answered Lu Zhou swiftly.  
  
"You still work?" asked Chen Yushan with her eyes widened. She asked softly, "But I see you stay at the library all day…"  
  
"I've been working less recently. I worked at night last time…" said Lu Zhou. He stopped his pen and added, "It was sorting packages."  
  
"Why did you have to specify?" asked Chen Yushan curiously.  
  
"No reason… I solved it."  
  
Lu Zhou said while handing the draft paper back to her. He spent less than three minutes to solve this problem. It was extraordinarily fast. A normal student could take up to half an hour on a question of this level.  
  
"Ah, thank you… I hope you don't mind me asking, but are your allowance not enough?" asked Chen Yushan as she took the draft paper back.  
  
"… You could say so," answered Lu Zhou.  
  
He had never even had an allowance.  
  
Chen Yushan nodded her head as a sign of understanding. She then opened her mouth and said, "Then… I have a job for you. It's easier than sorting packages. Do you want it?"  
  
Lu Zhou was typing when he suddenly stopped and looked at her strangely, "It's not teaching you mathematics, is it?"  
  
"My mathematics… isn't that bad!" said Chen Yushan. She was about to raise her voice when she remembered that she was in the library. She held back and said softly, "It is teaching mathematics, but not for me. I have a cousin who is still in high school. She's from the City of Jin Ling. She lives near our school. She's about to enter Grade 11, but her results are horrible. Especially mathematics. My auntie is worried to death about her studies, so she asked me to find a tutor. Preferably a tutor who is good at mathematics…"  
  
Chen Yushan looked at Lu Zhou apologetically, "Originally, I was planning on asking my roommate, but she has to prepare for the graduate entrance exam so she has no time. Also, it's been so long since she did high school stuff that she has completely forgotten about it. I thought… Anyway, you seem to be pretty harmless. So, I just want to ask if you have time during the summer holidays…"  
  
Lu Zhou: ? ? ?  
  
What the hell is harmless? Is she calling me handsome?  
  
For a long time, Lu Zhou did not anything. Chen Yushan said softly, "No time? I can ask someone else…"  
  
"What's the pay?" asked Lu Zhou. He wanted to know the salary before giving her a response.  
  
He had originally planned to work throughout the holidays. It was either working for Fat Wu or this girl.  
  
Chen Yushan thought for a bit and said, "200 yuan an hour with the transport fees covered. From July onwards, go there every Saturday."  
  
"How much???"  
  
"200 an hour… What?"  
  
Lu Zhou heard her. He placed his hands down on the keyboard and became silent.  
  
"Is it too little?" asked Chen Yushan. When she saw that he was silent for so long, she thought it was too little. She said tentatively, "Maybe I can ask my auntie…"  
  
"No need," said Lu Zhou. He shook her hand, "Deal."  
  
"Then why was your expression so serious? I thought it was too little," said Chen Yushan. She relaxed and rolled her eyes at Lu Zhou.  
  
"Nothing, I just felt that…" said Lu Zhou. He looked at the ceiling and sighed softly, "I'm so angry."  
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# 26 Who Am I? Where Am I? What Am I writing?

"… Mom, I'm not coming back for the summer this year."  
  
"Yeah… the thing is, the professor recommended me to join the National Mathematical Modeling Competition. The school organized training during the summer… No need, there's no application fee. The school already paid for it! It'll be New Year before I come home. Stay healthy. I'm very healthy right now, don't you worry!"  
  
"… You don't have to give me money. I still have some money from last semester's scholarship, plus I work some odd jobs when I'm not busy. You guys should save your money for Tong Tong. You'll have to spend quite a lot when she goes to university."  
  
"… Ok, that's it."  
  
Lu Zhou took a deep breath. He leaned against the railing at the balcony in his dorm and hung up the call.  
  
Every Sunday night he would call home.  
  
Speaking of which, time was flying by so fast.  
  
Lu Zhou lamented as he looked at the stars outside his window.  
  
He was nearly done with his first year at university. His sister was about to enter 11th grade, one of the most important grades for high school students.  
  
Unlike him, his little sister studied liberal arts.  
  
He could maybe help her with mathematics but he could not help with her other subjects.  
  
Next to the balcony was the bathroom. Huang Guangming was bathing inside when he suddenly said with a mean attitude, "Big boy, calling home?"  
  
Lu Zhou was shocked for a second. He then said, "Do you want to come out or not? Just wait, I'll block the door with the mop."  
  
"Fuck me. Fuck me. Brother Zhou, have mercy. I was wrong. Ahhhhhh~ If you don't let me out, I'll start singing in the bathroom."  
  
Huang Guangming already opened his mouth wide and started to sing like an animal.  
  
"Ahhhhh, five rings, you're one ring more than four rings~~"  
  
Goddamn it!  
  
That voice was like a chicken being killed. Lu Zhou had goosebumps all over his body. He turned around and closed the door to the balcony before heading back inside the dorm.  
  
However, the sound insulation of the bathroom was bad. A wall could not block it.  
  
The two people inside the dorm heard the singing and were instantly mad. Especially Liu Rui who loved to overexaggerate. He laid his body on the table, held his jaw and yelled, "Fuck me! Why are you singing, my teeth, it's hurting!"  
  
In a time of panic and crisis, Shi Shang pulled out his chair and stood up abruptly. He yelled, "Don't panic brother! I'll clean up this mess!"  
  
"Fuck off!"  
  
As expected, he had nothing much to say.  
  
Lu Zhou was extremely annoyed. He was about to stuff this guy into the bathroom as well and beat him up together with Huang Guangming.  
  
Why am I the only normal person inside the dorm?  
  
Ah, how uncomfortable!  
  
…  
  
In the following two weeks, Lu Zhou was either at the library writing his theses, on the way to the library, or sitting in the exam room.  
  
During the last week of his exam, no one was as confident as him.  
  
Unlike them, he had the ability to back up his confidence.  
  
Just like he estimated, he passed English without any effort.  
  
C language was the same. Other than a rather creative question, there was barely any difficulty. It was like the knowledge gained from the mission was engraved in his brain and he could never forget it.  
  
However, during the modern history exam, Lu Zhou was completely frozen.  
  
He opened the exam paper and stared at the first question.  
  
Who am I?  
  
Where am I?  
  
What am I writing?  
  
He tried to ask the system, but the system gave no response. No matter how much general points he gave, this type of social science question was unavailable in the system's knowledge base.  
  
Fortunately, Lu Zhou knew a little bit on modern history. He only needed to find out the general direction. It did not matter if he believed what he wrote was right. It was fine as long as he filled in the questions.  
  
As for how correct his answers were, it would be up to the exam marker.  
  
After all, he tried his best!  
  
Three days after the modern history exam, Lu Zhou finally submitted his final thesis.  
  
He had worked insanely hard over the past three weeks to the point of getting skinnier. Yet, when he looked at what he had achieved, he felt quite accomplished.  
  
Three SCI theses in a week. 10 SCI theses would not even take a month!  
  
I want to ask who else could do this?  
  
What?  
  
After three days of mindless waiting, the last paper had successfully passed the review stage.  
  
When Lu Zhou received the acceptance email, he could not help but think whether there was really no problem in submitting so many substandard theses. Also, all of the theses had the same name on it. Did no one find out about this?  
  
Maybe the system helped him distribute the manuscript to different reviewers.  
  
Either way, there were no issues. It would be an issue in a few months when the official publication comes out.  
  
Lu Zhou carried a feeling of excitement as he went into the pure white system space. He quickly walked to the semi-transparent information screen.  
  
[Congratulations, user, for completing the mission.]  
  
[Mission completion details: The user successfully submitted 1 mathematics thesis, 9 information science thesis. 39 days left. Evaluation: S+. Additional "reward mission" given.]  
  
He actually got an S+ grade!  
  
The additional reward… Was actually a reward mission!  
  
Lu Zhou looked at the S+ and the extra reward on the information screen with excitement. He was so excited that he had forgotten about everything else.  
  
Although he did not know what a reward mission was, he knew that it would have cost 1000 general points to buy!  
  
[Mission reward: 100 mathematics experience points, 900 information science points, 800 general points, one lucky draw ticket (90% garbage, 9% samples, 1% blueprints)]  
  
[Reminder: Mathematics level 0 → level 1, Information science level 0 → level 1]  
  
He finally leveled up the goddamn mathematics subject!  
  
Lu Zhou's heart was full of excitement. Not only because he leveled up, but because he finally pierced through the ceiling of mathematics. This meant that he was finally out of the novice village and the upper limit of other subjects would be unlocked to level 1.  
  
Just what…  
  
He did not feel any substantial changes when he leveled up. He thought that it would be similar to exchanging general points for thesis knowledge, where the system would pour the knowledge into his brain. However, it was different.  
  
He failed to realize that his own brain was filled with the knowledge that he had never even heard of.  
  
"It seems that the subject level of the system does not mean that I have the ability to master the subject, but only the authority to open some kind of knowledge database? And I still need to consume general points to access this "database"? I wonder if there's a discount for lower level problems."  
  
Lu Zhou touched his chin and silently recalled the details of Riemann's conjecture in his heart as he ordered the system to estimate the price.  
  
However, as usual, the system did not respond.  
  
"I guess level 1 mathematics is still not high enough to solve Riemann's conjecture."  
  
Lu Zhou thought for a second and said, "What about Beal's conjecture?  
  
Beal's conjecture was a generalized theorem of Fermat's last theorem. It was believed that the reward for solving Beal's conjecture was at a million USD. Last time, he tried to solve this problem with the power of the system, but the system did not give him a response.  
  
[Required general points: 5000, the mathematical level required: Level 2]  
  
Lu Zhou saw this number and laughed. He immediately gave up on the idea.  
  
Why is this so expensive!  
  
At least, this time the system gave a price. It seemed that his guess was indeed correct. Raising the subject level was really just to unlock the high tech system database. However, if you wanted to look in the database, you would still need to consume general points.  
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