*All is number*. —Pythagoras.

Consider the function: y = a^x.

Assume “a” is greater than 1.

This simple mathematical function has become a metaphor for life that interpret the world.

**1. “a” is who I was**

“a” is a constant. It is my identity and background that I may never alter.

I was brought up in a backward town in the very edge of Suzhou city. Living there day by day, I believed that was how the world worked.

Until I left: one month, two months. When I came back, everything was gone. Then I realized: I have to go away again, for a longer time, from where I was born.

**2. “x” is what I see, I do, and I feel**

I travelled a lot.

For ten years my parents cut our daily expenses just to show me what the world is really like. With little English, sleeping in tents and not even knowing when the next meal shall be, I have seen the freedom of New Zealand, the solitude of Iceland, the plainness of Sri Lanka, and the fervency of Kenya.

I was attracted by those novelties.

In different summer programs as well as United World College, I met people from all over the world: Ukraine, Guatemala, Iran, Costa Rica, —places I have never been to or even heard of.

I learned from my Afghan roommate how their country is suffering from insecurities, how she saw her friends dying, and how fortunate she is to study here; I learned the disciplines of different religions; I found how many vegetarians there are around me; I can now not only hear the voice from LGBTQs, but also live and exchange ideas with them.

We advocate idealism and are never afraid of expressing ideas and exposing our own identities.

For nine years, I was only a foreigner, but I was, immediately a UWCer.

**3. “y” is who I become.**

Now I have friends from all over the world, I know how the rest of the world is like, not restricted to where I am: it has ragged edges. It is exotic and novel, existing in many different forms.

Mathematics is a such language that connects and interpret, with beautiful languages, not only my life, but also everything in the world: sports (‘getting hot’ is actually related to regression), medicine (Bayes’ formula can be used for testing the effectiveness of certain treatment), military (the famous story of Abraham Wald and the missing bullet holes), lottery (to make wise decision based on the expectation), or politics (to find the optimized electoral system). If I want to figure out what Quantum mechanics is, the most direct way is to look at uncertainty, wave function collapse, Schrodinger equation, or Quantum Bayesian model that links mathematics to quantum physics. Both are beautiful subjects, and mathematics never fails to show me those hidden correspondences.

That is also what I am doing. By employing mathematical tools, I investigated on the efficiency of different studying approaches; I am also doing a project that combines mathematics to environmental management.

Mathcamp is such an opportunity that can offer me infinite opportunities and enable me to explore the beauty of mathematics—both pure mathematics and its application. I am particularly interested in doing our projects, as I always wish to go further from the math projects I am currently doing, and combine math with more potential fields in social sciences. For instance, use mathematics to achieve the aim of democracy, to improve the distribution of education resources, and to eliminate sexual discrimination and toxic muscularity.

Besides that, by attending math contests and intensive training sessions, I believe I can get access to more advanced topics and enhance my problem-solving skills; by choosing my own courses and attending workshops, I would be able to explore what my passion lies and how I should accomplish my goals; by discussing with math lovers from all over the world, I can exchange different ideas among the vibrant community—under an atmosphere of creativity and exploration.