**Pythagoras First Interview Answers**

**Ziwei Jiang**

**What do you think of the job opening?**

I think this position is quite challenging because you’re trading with crypto currency – one of the most volatile assets in the world. Quantitative risk management is especially desired in this position. But it is also very attractive for those who’re looking for personal development in the early stage of their career because multiple analytical capability is required to succeed in this position.

I think I would be a good fit for this position, not only because my background and skillsets match this position perfectly. First of all, I’m a combination of solid data analytical skills and financial knowledge basis, which’s exactly the candidate you’re looking for. I also have academic experience with quantitative trading and statistical arbitrage. Despite of the ability to perform the essential function of this position, I’m really passionate about learning new things especially in the quant related field.

Except some regulatory differences, I think trading is more exciting and motivated, and need the most careful financial risk management than any other position in the financial industry. I became super interested because I believe if I can do my best in this entry-level position, this experience will benefit me a lot in my future career.

I think it is my honor to contribute to the achievement of your company. I would like to work for a cooperative and open-minded global company. I feel like I’m really motivated and confident in pursuing a career in this position.

**What do you think of the one-page summaries of the two funds offered by Pythagoras?**

I’ve read the summary of the two funds and I’ve also done some data exploration. They’re comparatively more volatile than some of the large-scale funds but give a higher return, which could be attractive to less risk averse investors. The choice of investing in crypto currency is not bad because they have large potential in the long term.

**Are you willing to work full time in HK or NYC?**

Yes, I’m currently located in NYC.

**Please describe the last quant trading model you developed.**

It was developed in the Citi cup financial innovation competition and it was a real-life statistical arbitrage product for institutional investors. The target we’ve chosen was 3-month and 6-month future contracts, whose underlying asset was metal. The reason that we’ve chosen these two products is that they significantly co-move with each other and they obviously have GARCH effect after my careful testing process. The idea was quite simple: we just simulated their future price difference movement, assuming that mean reversal effect would happen when the price difference exceeds our chosen confidence interval (usually 2-3 sigma). Statistical arbitrage idea was applied here.

**What do you think of crypto currencies?**

I happened to read a lot about crypto currencies including the very first essay by Nakamoto Satoshi. I think it is a revolutionary invention among all the financial instruments. It’s really hard to image how could a single person come up with such complicated, delicate and beautiful mechanism and data structure. I’m really fascinated by the idea and I’m convinced that you’re the first one to embrace new technologies and I believe you would give young people more chance in the early stage of their career.

**What experience do you have in real time investing or trading, personally or professionally?**

As I’ve targeted my ideal job at trading, I participated in the Citi cup financial innovation competition, and chose our topic in developing trading strategy based on statistical arbitrage. That was the first time I’ve been enjoying being a trader, although just academically. After that, I’ve earned myself several internships in the Financial industry, and I’ve discovered trading is what I’m really interested in.

**What do you like about trading?**

The decision that I want to be a proprietary trader is not made on a whim. Since I’ve decided to pursue my career in the financial industry from 6 years ago, I keep learning about trading strategies and quantitative analytical tools. I’ve worked both in Private Equity company and Security company i.e. both buy side and sell side. During my internship in the security company, I realized that the sell side job was more like storytelling, you’ll need to tell the truth but selectively. But during my experience in Private Equity company, I found that the buy side is more based on fact, data, model-based computation and solid investigation. That was really fascinating, because my skills and experience in analytics would be very valuable and helpful in this field. I really enjoy using all of my acquired knowledge to help make investment decisions. Nothing was better than seeing the investment choice of our department is a huge success. I decided to choose trading as my lifetime career after that.

**What do you think of working for a small company (of 6 people)?**

As working for a small company, I would be facing with both chances and challenges.

Work roles at small companies are often less specialized than at large firms. That means employees get to wear several hats. I can learn a lot by experiencing different roles which is good for my future development. Small firms may also have more flexibility when it comes to considering alternative work arrangements such as flextime and job sharing.

But working for a small company would also be very challenge because you need to be super self-motivated. You must feel the ownership of your own works and you’re highly responsible for every decision you’ve made. This is a desired personal quality in the job market but is really difficult to cultivate. I think working in this kind of environment would help me grow rapidly.

**What are your salary expectations?**

No less than 4000 per month.