

Statement of Purpose

Johu Yang

In a today's flood of countless information, decision making is becoming harder and harder than ever, for people who make every single decision with great care. Thus, I, one of such **types** of people, am highly interested in how to make the best choice based on 'rational' reasons, which could be a philosophy of statistics. Studying statistics with a strong mathematical background, I am motivated to go to graduate school, investigate statistics deeper, and finally find my own statistical method which would contribute to both **learning** and public welfare. On this regard, the Department of Statistics of the Harvard University, offering opportunity to research statistical theories and affiliate with other subjects including economics and health care policy under the supervision of the perfect faculty, definitely suits me best. Thus, I **believe** that I am academically and mentally well-prepared to be a graduate student of the Department of Statistics of the Harvard University, for the reasons stated below.

First of all, my mathematical ability is high enough to do statistics research at the Harvard graduate school. From an early age, I was fascinated with numbers and mathematical concepts, and began to delve into interesting fields of mathematics such as inequality and sequence. As a result, I achieved **outstanding** results in numerous mathematical competitions including two **International Mathematical Olympiads (IMO)** and two Korean undergraduate Mathematical Olympiads, developed mathematical creativity, and became an expert of algebraic manipulation. With such strengths, I also **learned** and solidified the basis of higher mathematics during the first two years at the Seoul National University(SNU). Studying **subjects** of applied mathematics and statistics **in last one year** during last year's, I did programming with languages such as matlab, fortran, and C, and reconfirmed that my cumulative academic experience and mathematical skills are the firm foundation of future statistics research work.

Furthermore, through extra experience, I **have gained** confidence in teamwork, English and self-discipline, which are essential for graduate school life in the United States. Participation in **Korea Mathematical Olympiads** summer/winter schools as a TR and IMO as an observer **taught me** how to share and discuss ideas with junior/senior colleagues, and even professors. Working with U.S. soldiers in a military hospital enabled me to overcome the language barrier, cooperate with others in a real social life, and eventually have a dream of studying abroad. **At that time**, my lumber disc disease, caused by nuclear marches at an army recruit training center, did afflict me for a while, but soon I started doing my best to take care of my health. From then on health care became one of my concerns, and after being discharged from military service, I have trained myself by joining private Pilates sessions and an Alexander technique class at the SNU. In conclusion, the dream made me have a good habit of self-management, a driving force of consistent work in graduate school. **(The highlighted part does not tell much about you... I would rather not use this example. Moreover, this part does not belong to this paragraph.)**

Not only am I ready for entering the Department of Statistics of the Harvard University, but I also have a wide range of scholarly interests in statistics through classes instructed by outstanding professors. Prof. Byung Ik Park and Prof. Woo Chul Kim taught me mathematical statistics thoroughly and clearly, dealing with various kinds of distributions and sample distributions, limit distributions, MLE, ..., etc. far simply covering introduction to Mathematical Statistics (Shojae Mokeyn, Craig A. and, Practice Hall). **What I also learned from their lectures is that researching mathematical statistics (theoretical)** (such as nonparametric inference method) is a creative work of finding useful methods with knowledge at high level of linear algebra and analysis; **this attracts my attention a lot because I have a profound understanding of these two subjects and have always wanted to be more imaginative.** Prof. Gerald Tsiatis induced me into the new world of probability theory and stochastic processes, by introducing a variety of new concepts of those subjects such as different types of convergence, independency, conditional probabilities, Brownian motion, and martingales. Moreover, using **these concepts** to develop theory, I was captivated by combining abstract objects and analytic skills, reviewing such arguments was a good exercise of constructing logically and mathematically rigorous arguments **necessary for going deeper** into statistics. Data mining is my another field of interest, as I have **learned a lot of data mining methodologies** in Prof. Wonchul Jang's lecture. While learning topics covering from linear regression to correlation,