

I want to take a moment to list a few people who have shaped my pursuit of math. First, thank you Dr. Chun-Kit Lai. I remember my first class in analysis with you. I have learned so much from you and have grown from working with you. You have been a true teacher, mentor, and friend.

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To my siblings, this is all your fault. I have learned from you all that math is the joy of confusion and surprise. Now when I explain math I can ask you, "Do you get it?"

Patrick O'Melveney, I am so glad we have become friends through such unlikely circumstances. You have helped me better understand math and myself.

Finally, thank you to my wife. Kim, you tell it like it is. You help me see things as they are. You gave me the courage to go to graduate school and the support to stay in graduate school. For that I am more grounded and supported.