

# Bangzheng (Benjamin) Li

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## INTRODUCTION

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I am a senior at MIT majoring in mathematics. My current interests are in algebra and number theory.

## EDUCATION

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- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** 2022 - Present  
Cambridge, MA  
*Undergraduate*  
◦ GPA: 5.0/5.0.
- **Christian Heritage School** 2018 - 2022  
Trumbull, CT  
*High School*

## AWARDS

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- **Hartley Rogers Jr. Prize** August 2024  
[link]  
*MIT*  
◦ Awarded for the best paper in the Summer Program in Undergraduate Research (SPUR).

## ACTIVITIES

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- **Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Plus (UROP+)** June 2025 - August 2025  
[link]  
*MIT*  
◦ It was conjectured that a binary sequence satisfying certain conditions is the X-ray of a permutation matrix. My mentor Yannick Yao and I proved a weaker statement: under the same constraint, the sequence is the X-ray of a doubly stochastic matrix.
- **Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)** 2025  
[link]  
*MIT*  
◦ In his paper, Professor Victor Kac showed that the quiver problem is in NP. In this UROP, Professor Victor Kac and I proved that the quiver problem is NP-complete.
- **PRIMES-USA (mentor)** 2024  
[link]  
*MIT*  
◦ Working with Felix Gotti, we mentored three students and produced a paper titled *On finitary power monoids of linearly orderable monoids*.
- **Summer Program in Undergraduate Research (SPUR)** June 2024 - August 2024  
[link]  
*MIT*  
◦ Working with Luis Modes, we generalized a result from  $K = \mathbb{Q}$  to any number field with class number 1.
- **Directed Reading Program (DRP)** January 2024  
[link]  
*MIT*  
◦ Read the book *Primes of the Form  $x^2 + ny^2$*  by David Cox and gave a presentation at the end of DRP.
- **Joint Mathematics Meetings** January 2024  
[link]  
*San Francisco*  
◦ Gave a presentation titled *Hereditarily Atomicity, Underatomicity, and ACCP*.
- **Conference on Rings and Factorizations** July 2023  
[link]  
*University of Graz*  
◦ Gave a presentation titled *Divisibility and a weak ascending chain condition on principal ideals*.
- **CrowdMath** 2022  
[link]  
*Art of Problem Solving*  
◦ Worked on additive structure of  $\mathbb{N}_0[\alpha]$  and produced a paper titled *Factorization in additive monoids of evaluation polynomial semirings*.
- **PRIMES-USA (mentee)** 2021  
[link]  
*MIT*  
◦ Mentored by Felix Gotti, we produced several papers, including *Divisibility and a weak ascending chain condition on principal ideals*, *On the primality and elasticity of algebraic valuations of cyclic free semirings*, *Atomic semigroup rings and the ascending chain condition on principal ideals*, and *Divisibility in rings of integer-valued polynomials*.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- [5] Gotti, F., Li, B. (2025). *Arithmetic properties encoded in undermonoids*. Semigr. Forum. [doi.org/10.1007/s00233-025-10578-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00233-025-10578-3)
- [4] Ajran, K., Bringas, J., Li, B., Singer, E., Tirador, M. (2023). *Factorization in additive monoids of evaluation polynomial semirings*. Commun. Algebra, 51(10), 4347–4362. [doi.org/10.1080/00927872.2023.2208672](https://doi.org/10.1080/00927872.2023.2208672)
- [3] Gotti, F., Li, B. (2023). *Atomic semigroup rings and the ascending chain condition on principal ideals*. Proc. Amer. Math. Soc., 151, 2291-2302. [doi.org/10.1090/proc/16295](https://doi.org/10.1090/proc/16295)
- [2] Jiang, N., Li, B., Zhu, S. (2023). *On the primality and elasticity of algebraic valuations of cyclic free semirings*. Int. J. Algebra Comput., 33:02, 197-210. [doi.org/10.1142/S021819672350011X](https://doi.org/10.1142/S021819672350011X)
- [1] Gotti, F., Li, B. (2021). *Divisibility in rings of integer-valued polynomials*. New York J. Math. 28, 117-139.

## PREPRINTS

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- [6] Kac, V., Li, B. (2025). *The Quiver Problem is NP Complete*. [arXiv:2508.02975](https://arxiv.org/abs/2508.02975)
- [5] Li, B., Xiao, Y. (2025). *Commutative Quantale and Localization*. [arXiv:2508.02991](https://arxiv.org/abs/2508.02991)
- [4] Dani, J., Gotti, F., Hong, L., Li, B., Schlessinger, S. (2025). *On finitary power monoids of linearly orderable monoids*. [arXiv:2501.03407](https://arxiv.org/abs/2501.03407)
- [3] Li, B., Modes, L. (2024). *The spherical Hall algebra of  $\overline{\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_K)}$* . [arXiv:2411.17055](https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.17055)
- [2] Bu, A., Gotti, F., Li, B., Zhao, A. (2024). *One-dimensional monoid algebras and ascending chains of principal ideals*. [arXiv:2409.00580](https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.00580)
- [1] Gotti, F., Li, B. (2022). *Divisibility and a weak ascending chain condition on principal ideals*. [arXiv:2212.06213](https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.06213)

## MATH COURSES TAKEN

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F=FALL TERM, S=SPRING TERM

All courses taken after 2022 Fall (inclusive) are at MIT.

- 2025 F: 18.155 Differential Analysis I
- 2025 F: 18.965 Geometry of Manifolds I
- 2025 S: 18.102 Intro to Functional Analysis
- 2025 S: 18.737 Algebraic Groups
- 2025 S: 18.821 Project Lab in Mathematics
- 2024 F: 18.745 Lie Groups and Lie Algebras I
- 2024 F: 18.785 Number Theory I
- 2024 S: 18.786 Number Theory II
- 2024 S: 18.906 Algebraic Topology II
- 2023 F: 18.101 Analysis and Manifold
- 2023 F: 18.783 Elliptic Curves
- 2023 F: 18.905 Algebraic Topology I
- 2023 S: 18.152 Intro: Partial Differential Equations
- 2023 S: 18.726 Algebraic Geometry II
- 2023 S: 18.901 Introduction to Topology
- 2022 F: 18.112 Functions of Complex Variable
- 2022 F: 18.725 Algebraic Geometry I
- 2022 S: MATH603 Introductory Topics in Representation Theory, Professor Ivan Loseu, at Yale
- 2021 F: Reading Group, *Commutative Algebra with a View Toward Algebraic Geometry* by David Eisenbud, at Yale
- 2021 S: MATH353 Introduction to Representation Theory, Professor Congling Qiu, at Yale
- 2020 F: MATH380 Modern Algebra I, Professor Ivan Loseu, at Yale

## BOOKS READ (FULLY OR PARTIALLY)

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- *Basic Topology*, M.A. Armstrong
- *Algebra*, Michael Artin
- *Linear Algebra Done Right*, Sheldon Axler
- *The Calculus Lifesaver*, Adrian Banner
- *Primes of the Form  $x^2 + ny^2$* , David A. Cox
- *Commutative Algebra with a View Toward Algebraic Geometry*, David Eisenbud
- *Algebraic Curves*, William Fulton
- *Surreal Numbers*, Donald Knuth
- *Thirty-three Miniatures: Mathematical and Algorithmic Applications of Linear Algebra*, Jiri Matousek

- (Note) *Algebraic Geometry*, J.S. Milne
- (Note) *Algebraic Number Theory*, J.S. Milne
- (Note) *Field and Galois Theory*, J.S. Milne
- (Note) *Group Theory*, J.S. Milne
- *Algebraic Curves and Riemann Surfaces*, Rick Miranda
- *Visual Complex Analysis*, Tristan Needham
- *Lie Groups and Algebraic Groups*, A.L. Onishchik and E.B. Vinberg
- *A Course in Arithmetic*, J-P. Serre
- *A Friendly Introduction to Number Theory*, Joseph H. Silverman
- *Complex Analysis*, E. Stein
- *Fourier Analysis*, E. Stein
- *Real Analysis*, E. Stein
- *A Course in Algebra*, E.B. Vinberg