



I am a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Geneva (Geneva, Switzerland)

Growing up, my family was quite nomadic and I suppose my education has been as well. I began undergrad at the University of Regina in the petroleum engineering program, switched to electrical engineering and dabbled in writing apps for iPhones, switched to a math and physics double major, then switched to honours math. I had work terms at a fertilizer plant in Saskatchewan, a particle accelerator in Vancouver, and two summer research projects in pure math.

I completed my PhD at the University of Toronto, which really required me to settle down and focus on one thing, but I am still a nomad when it comes to research.

Why Mathematics?

Back in engineering, I remember being struck in linear algebra class by how powerful and elegant mathematics could be: with the right rules in hand (e.g. associativity), one could prove very general facts about matrices with only a couple symbols. Abstraction felt natural and really appealed to me.

My Calculus II professor Bruce Gilligan told me, the Summer after the class had ended, that I should consider pursuing a PhD in math. It was several years until I decided to abandon engineering, but that encouragement really stuck with me.

What do you do when you are not doing math?

Right now I am working on baking bread and machine learning/ai. There are a lot of similarities: for each you have a general recipe, but simply following the recipe is not enough to get a really good result. There is an art that can only be learned through experience. It's very intuitive.