

Study with George Styan

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Abstract

George and I met 56 years ago in 1956. He was studying Pure Mathematics, I Mathematical Physics. The first lecture of a new Professor of Mathematical Statistics at the University, Henry Daniels, was the most interesting I had received there in my previous two years. Henry Daniels, changed the direction of both George and I to Mathematical Statistics. Henry showed that the subject of Mathematical Statistics is 'the application of the scientific method to the study of any subject'. He demonstrated the logic of this assertion. To understand and develop the subject a student needs to study the topics in pure mathematics including complex variable theory, group theory, statistical distribution theory, geometry, algebra, calculus, stochastic processes, determinants and matrices. These subjects I shared in classes with George Styan between 1957 to 1959. In 1959 George moved to Oxford University to do a masters degree. I continued studying a postgraduate diploma in mathematical statistics under Henry Daniels. In 1960 George and I both worked in London where we met frequently for social discussions with other friends. We also frequently discussed our different statistical problems. George moved to on to North America whilst I continued to work in Britain. We met again around 1990 when George came to give a talk in our department.

Our friendship continues from then on.

Keywords

Algebra, Complex variables, Group theory, Determinants and matrices.