What can you do with a PhD in mathematics anyway?

A career panel for graduate students in mathematics

Li Chen
Li obtained his PhD from UofT in mathematical physics in 2019. After graduation, he worked as a postdoc/instructor at MIT for 2 years with Simons collaboration on wave localization. Hoping to transition into quantitative finance, Li joined Teza Technologies in NYC as a quantitative researcher in 2021. He has since worked in both US and Chinese equity markets.

Jonathan Fisher
Jonathan completed his PhD in mathematics at the University of Toronto in 2014. He then took a postdoctoral position at the University of Hamburg where he worked on mathematics inspired by theoretical physics, followed by a postdoctoral position in scientific computing at the Juelich Center for Neutron Science in Munich. He then transitioned to industry where he has worked on computer vision, reinforcement learning, and optimizing neural networks for novel hardware architectures.

Rosemonde Lareau-Dussault
Rosemonde completed her PhD at UofT supervised by Professor Robert McCann in 2018. Her thesis was in optimal transportation (infinite dimensional linear optimization) applied to economics and was titled “Coupled Education and Labour Markets”. After she graduated, she changed research topics again! She moved to Ottawa to work for the Canadian Center for Cyber Security (cyber.gc.ca), where she advises Canadians on cryptographic algorithms. A large part of her work is research, and she works with an amazing team :).

Benjamin Schachter
Ben is a Principal at Boston Consulting Group, where he is a core member of the Principal Investor and Private Equity (PIPE) practice area. Ben’s work focuses on commercial due diligence support for private equity investors, where he has led 20+ diligence projects, driving investment of over $10B. Ben first joined BCG as a summer consultant (intern) during his PhD and returned full-time in 2018, after graduating. Ben earned his PhD in Mathematics at U of T, supervised by Almut Burchard and Wilfrid Gangbo (UCLA). His thesis focused on optimal transport.

Andrew Stewart
After he finished his PhD in probability theory, he began working as a software engineer at a San Francisco startup called Zesty. He worked on some optimization problems (eg. scheduling), some data science problems, as well as general software engineering. Following that, he joined his previous boss to work on blockchain scaling protocols, and have been working in the blockchain domain for nearly 4 years. The work has been a mix of software engineering and research-like thinking!