

MATHEMATICS LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

25th Mathematical and Statistical Salon (MASS) Talk

Case Competitions, Consulting, and Calculus – Applying Mathematical Thinking to Win Business Competitions

Speaker: Dr Ngai-Hang Zachary LEUNG

Abstract

In this talk, Dr LEUNG Ngai-Hang Zachary will share about his experience (in his prior job position at the City University of Hong Kong) of coaching business case competition teams. By applying mathematical thinking to the domain of solving business problems, he was able to coach teams to win case competitions.

Dr Leung took on the role of being the main person-in-charge of the CityU business case competition teams without prior experience in this area. Fortunately, he had extensive experience with problem-solving in mathematics, and he realized that he could apply similar principles towards case-solving in consulting.

The goal of the talk is to illustrate how a student develops skills through the study of mathematics which can help him/her to succeed in more general contexts, such as in a business case competition or consulting. In particular, Dr Leung will emphasize how mathematics teaches one how to think logically, link ideas together into a coherent storyline, and explain ideas with brevity and clarity.

The overarching message that Dr Leung wants to highlight in his talk is that learning math in the classroom will help students to become better problem-solvers in the workplace.

Biography

Dr LEUNG Ngai-Hang Zachary is currently employed as a Lecturer in the Department of Applied Mathematics at PolyU. Previously, he was employed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Management Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong (CityU). At CityU, Dr Leung was the person-in-charge of the CityU case competition teams. His responsibilities included selecting and training students for various international business case competitions. Under his leadership, the CityU team performed well in the HSBC/HKU Business Case Competition — they were the champions of the Hong Kong region in 2017, 2019, and 2022, and the champions of the combined Asia Pacific competition in 2017. Additionally, he provided training to the CityU team that won the Georgetown University McDonough Business Strategy Challenge in 2024.

Dr Leung received a PhD in Operations Research (2014) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an MSc in Applied Mathematics (2008) from the National University of Singapore, and a BSc (1st Class) in Applied Mathematics (2006) from the National University of Singapore.

Date: 20 November 2024 (Wednesday)

Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Venue: R407

All are welcome