

Scholar's Advanced Technological System

Chapter 3: A True Genius Would Never Waste His Time

"Mission begin!"

Lu Zhou closed his eyes and whispered the words. He did it two more times just in case it was not enough.

When he opened his eyes, he saw a line of semi-transparent words floating in front of him.

[Mission three begins. Current time: 0 hour. Timer stops when exiting the library.]

Lu Zhou was startled by the words that appeared suddenly. He looked around the area and when he saw a student walked right through the semi-transparent words, he started to relax.

It turned out that no one else could see the system's words.

Anyways, spend 24 hours reading a couple of books in the library and the mission should be completed, right?

Lu Zhou walked towards the mathematics section as it was better than nothing. He was about to browse through the books when he suddenly noticed that the books had number labels. In addition, there was a pattern in the color of these number labels. As the numbers went from large to small, the colors went from red to gray.

[Di Donne's Foundation of Modern Analysis, 10]

[Linear-Algebra (Greub), 0]

[New Mathematical Analysis Lectures, 100]

[...]

What the hell?!

Lu Zhou suddenly recalled mission three's rewards. The mission's experience points were awarded based on the value score of the books.

In other words, if all he did was to stay in the library, he would only get the lucky draw ticket.

A true genius would never waste his time at the library!

Lu Zhou gulped as he thought about it.

However, there was one thing he did not understand. Why did the advanced mathematical textbooks had such low value scores while the beginner mathematical textbooks had such high value scores?

Especially given that "Di Donne's Foundation of Modern Analysis" was heavily endorsed and recommended by his teacher as a "must read". It was very difficult for students to fully comprehend this textbook. One would need to be at least familiar with real and general functions in order to understand it.

He suddenly remembered that in his characteristic panel, his mathematical level was 0. He was mildly stunned by it.

No wonder!

Maybe the so-called value scores are based on his current knowledge level?

The so-called value scores had two sides. Take Riemann's conjecture as an example. It added significant value to the academic world with thousands of mathematical theories built on the foundations of Riemann's conjecture. Its value was therefore extremely high. However, with regards to Lu Zhou, it would be very difficult for him to understand Riemann's conjecture and it would not help him in his studies. Therefore, the value score was zero.

Lu Zhou understood the value scores and did not hesitate before picking up "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures".

Coincidentally, the exams for his Mathematical Analysis 2 were in two weeks. He did not fully understand some of the harder topics so this would count as his revision.

When he found a seat, he sat down and began to read the mathematical analysis book.

To be honest, he did not really like to dive deep into mathematics, but surprisingly, he was able to tolerate reading the book.

He did not know if it was due to the effect of the system, but he felt himself gradually entering into a state of full concentration. It was almost as if he forgot about everything around him. There were only himself and his book. Nothing else existed.

As time slowly passed by, there were fewer and fewer people in the library. Lu Zhou was unaffected by it. He was still deeply immersed in the book's ocean of knowledge.

Someone tapped his shoulder and knocked him out of the state of "immersion".

"Student, it's 10 o'clock, the library is about to close," said the librarian.

Lu Zhou quickly stood up before inserting a bookmark into the textbook. He said, "Oh, sorry. I forgot about the time. I'll clean up right now."

"Don't sweat it. I've been working here for many years and this is the first time I've seen a student this focused on a mathematics book," said the librarian.

"Can I still borrow books? I want to borrow this book," said Lu Zhou. He was still fascinated by the concentration he had earlier and he felt a sense of incompleteness.

He had never been this addicted to solving a math problem before.

It was almost as if he was reading a novel and not a textbook. A novel that contained the life of mathematics.

The librarian saw how polite he was and so, she swiftly said, "It's okay. Go and borrow it if you want to. The computer is still on and I'll help you to process it. Did you bring your library card?"

Lu Zhou sincerely said, "I brought it... Thank you!"

"No worries!"

Lu Zhou stuffed the textbook into his bag and quickly left the library.

He passed through the holographic panel and the mission timer paused.

However, Lu Zhou's attention was elsewhere. He did not want to waste even a second. He only wanted to return back to that magical reading experience.

He went back to his dorm. His other two roommates were back and they were playing League of Legends.

Huang Guangming heard the door being opened. He was fighting intensely with his teammates and did not even turn his head to say, "Buddy Zhou, league?"

He exaggeratedly pronounced the word "league" as it was their phrase to invite someone to fight on the summoner's rift.

"Not today. I still have some stuff to do. You guys can play, right?"

Shi Shangteng pushed the opponents back and had a moment to spare. He looked back and saw Lu Zhou sitting down and reading a textbook that he pulled from his backpack. He suddenly shouted, "What the f*ck! Lu Zhou, when did you love studying so much?"

Liu Rui heard Lu Zhou was reading so he forced himself to look over at Lu Zhou's table.

Lu Zhou laughed. It was too difficult to explain so he made up an excuse, "Isn't it exam period soon? I still don't understand a lot of the topics. If I don't revise now, it'll be too late. I'll league with you guys after the exams."

"F*ck trying! Just pass the exam!" said Huang Guangming as he fiercely clicked the mouse to attack the enemy's nexus towers.

If Lu Zhou recalled correctly, Huang Guangming said the same thing last semester. Although Huang Guangming's "Mathematics 1" exam score was 89, it was only 1 mark lower than the genius, Liu Rui's.

Everybody was secretly working hard.

Lu Zhou laughed and did not say much. He flipped to the bookmarked page and focused on the textbook.

10 seconds passed.

10 seconds passed.

5 minutes passed.

He heard the sound of victory coming from behind him. Lu Zhou did not even finish reading two pages before going back to where he started. The words were not entering his head.

"Haha! Silver 4! I ranked up!" said Huang Guangming arrogantly while he leaned back on his chair.

"I carried you, you trash," said Shi Shang while leaning back on his chair and stretching his back.

"You didn't carry me. I killed the marksman instantly with my amazing Leblanc."

"Amazing, my ass. Stop talking sh*t when you just got lucky. I carried you from elo hell ¹. I had to smurf to bring your ass up to silver. You even forgot to get the first win of the day yesterday!"

There was no way for Lu Zhou to concentrate.

It was not because his roommates were talking. He just could not focus his attention on the textbook. His state of mind now was akin to his usual state of studying. The slightest distraction would disrupt his thought process.

Back at the library, there were people talking and moving, but he could still fully immerse himself in the world of the textbook.

Lu Zhou took a deep breath and put down the "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures" book.

Maybe, it was the power of the system?

Chapter 4: Everyone Study Questions, I Study Books

It was six o'clock in the morning when he felt his bed shaking softly. Liu Rui squinted his tired eyes and tried to figure out where the shaking was coming from. When he saw Lu Zhou climbing down the ladder, he asked dramatically, "Zhou, you're awake this early?"

Lu Zhou replied quietly as he was afraid of waking up his two other roommates.

"Yeah."

Liu Rui persisted and asked again.

"Working again?"

Lu Zhou hesitated before shaking his head and replied, "Not going. I'm resting for a few days."

"It's so early. Where are you going then?"

"The library."

Suddenly Liu Rui was no longer sleepy.

Lu Zhou went to the toilet to brush his teeth. When he came back and saw Liu Rui climbing down from his bed, he asked curiously, "Are you not sleeping anymore?"

"Study," said Liu Rui as he took his toiletries and swiftly walked towards the toilet.

Lu Zhou did not know whether to laugh or cry at his overly competitive roommate. In the end, he shook his head and did not say anything. He put on his shoes and took his backpack before leaving the room.

Normally, Jin Ling was like a busy stove in June, but the mornings were an exception.

The morning air was filled with a mist that brought with it a pleasant aroma. The breeze blew across everyone's face softly. It felt cool and refreshing and not hot at all. The school in the early morning was like a polite woman who slowly approached. Compared to night time, it was almost like another place.

Lu Zhou bought two buns and a cup of soy milk from the school cafeteria. After eating, he walked relaxingly towards the library.

It was no wonder that Jin Ling was a famous and renowned university. There was no staff at the library yet but the students still read outside at the library's entrance.

Lu Zhou also began to read his level four vocabulary book. Although studying outside was a lot worse than studying in the library, it was better than expected due to the influence of the studious students around him. Lu Zhou waited outside the library till half past seven. Finally, the librarian arrived and unlocked the doors.

The library doors were opened and students flooded through the gates like tides of waves. Within minutes, the crowd outside the library disappeared.

Lu Zhou followed the crowd inside and did not bother browsing any of the books. Instead, he instantly picked up "Advanced Algebra" and sat down in a quiet corner.

Lu Zhou estimated that in his state of full concentration, he could finish reading one chapter in around one to two hours. This included memorizing topic points, doing calculations, question analysis, and other aspects.

It would take maybe until noon before Lu Zhou finished the remaining topics in "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures". He decided to utilize the afternoon to revise some advanced algebra.

Lu Zhou took a deep breath and flipped to the bookmarked page from "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures". He began to focus his attention on the textbook.

Soon after, he began to enter into the state of immersion and forgot everything around him. It was just him and his textbook...

Time passed by slowly and it was soon half past eleven. Lu Zhou relaxed and closed the textbook.

He finally finished "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures". The textbook's value score had decreased to only five.

This observation confirmed his hypothesis. The system scored books not based on it's value to the academic world, but on it's value to Lu Zhou.

As for why the value score was five and not zero, it could be because there were parts of the textbook that Lu Zhou did not fully understand. He would have to read it again to fully comprehend it.

Obviously, Lu Zhou was not doing it. Why would he waste his precious time on merely 5 points? It was an unfavorable deal.

When it was time to eat lunch, Lu Zhou closed the textbook and started to walk out of the library.

He passed the main entrance of the library and glanced at the information panel. The remaining mission time decreased to 18 hours.

Suddenly Lu Zhou did not want the mission to finish so quickly. He had learned more in the past six hours than he had in the past year.

Lu Zhou thought about that unopened "Advanced Algebra" textbook and hesitated.

He still had a C programming language exam. Maybe he should have found a textbook for C instead?

There was English as well.

He did not know if English books had a value score but the English newspapers near the entrance had none. The high tech system had a strange bias towards quantitative subjects and it was not good.

Lu Zhou got a meal set with his food card and quickly returned back to the library. First, he returned the book that he had read. Then, he went over to the shelves and picked up "C Language Fifth Edition" before sitting back down in his seat.

When the lunch break ended, the library became crowded again.

Lu Zhou was completely focused on "Advanced Algebra". He was about to move onto the next chapter when he felt someone tapping his arm. He looked over and saw a beautiful girl with a ponytail and round glasses. She was holding a pen and looked apologetic.

"Classmate, sorry to bother you... Can I ask you a question?"

Lu Zhou nodded his head quickly. "Sure, ask away."

Even though his studying was interrupted, he was not annoyed at all.

What is it that she wants to ask?

Regardless, humans are aesthetic creatures. Beauty is very important in social interactions.

But, out of everyone, why did this girl ask me?

Must be because I'm so handsome!

Lu Zhou loved people who had good taste and asked questions humbly.

He did not have any other motives and he just wanted to help.

"Thanks," said the girl quietly. She swiftly moved her chair next to Lu Zhou and thoughtfully brought a pen and paper.

Lu Zhou took the pen and began to look at the question.

"Let me see... Finding limits, right?"

Find positive numbers a and b . Equation: $(X \rightarrow 0) \lim \frac{1}{(x-b\sin(x))} \int_0^x \frac{2}{\sqrt{a+2t}} dt = 1$
(integral limits are x and 0)

He had never done this type of question before but he recalled that he saw a similar one in the textbook he just read.

Perfect. He was just learning about algebra. It was time to put his skills to the test.

Lu Zhou began spinning the pen as he started to think. He took less than a minute before saying, "I solved it."

"You... You solved it just like that?" asked Chen Yushan suspiciously. She wondered how the hell did he solve it without writing anything down.

Lu Zhou looked at the girl and thought that this was why they said breast size was inversely proportional to IQ.

However, honestly speaking, he was shocked by how fast he solved the question. He had solved this type of questions before but it was never this easy. He did not even use the paper. The steps to solve the question just came into his head.

Lu Zhou did not waste his time and began writing down the working to the question. While writing he began to explain, "Typical $0/0$ undefined equation. Just use L'Hopital's rule. The first step is to separate the integral. That's easy, right? From $(X \rightarrow 0) \lim (1 - b\cos x) = 0$, b equals 1 . Plug this back into the equation and you would get $a = 4$. Check the answer and see if I'm right."

Chen Yushan stared blankly at the paper. She thought that this guy's explanation speed was faster than her listening speed.

When he wrote down the two answers, she was still thinking about solving the integral.

She doubted him as she flipped to the answers page. Her eyes widened.

This really is the answer!?

Lu Zhou noticed the girl's facial expression and could not help himself but laughed. He said while spinning the pen, "It's a very easy application of L'Hopital's rule. The calculation part is easy. Are you a freshman? What major?"

Chen Yushan blushed and said quietly, "I'm a master's student..."

Her face was even redder after the words came out of her mouth.

She was not ashamed but she was angry!

She was pissed off!

*It's just solving a math question. Nothing to brag about! I haven't touched high school math in years! Who cares if you're better than me? Not a shred of class, f*cking single dude. What a loner!*

Chen Yushan's anger died down slightly.

As for why she was also alone, it was because she was ignored by her crush.

"Ok," said Lu Zhou with an awkward expression. He thought she was in his year. He did not realize that he was dealing with a master's girl.

He was about to apologize when a loud coughing noise suddenly came from the seats in front of them.

Chen Yushan realized her conversation was disturbing other people. She blushed and playfully stuck her tongue out. She took the papers and question sheet before sitting back down in her seat.

Lu Zhou did not even get the chance to apologize, not to mention getting her name or WeChat number...

He sat down and contemplated for a while. Then he shook his head and began reading "Advanced Algebra" again.

Studying is more important than girls.

Networking and relationships?

Sorry, but a true genius student doesn't play with that stuff.

Rank up mathematics to level 1 means I'd have conquered the world!

Quickly, Lu Zhou was back into the state of concentration. He completely forgot about what had happened as that was just a small obstacle.

Chapter 5: Wash Your Face Before the Lucky Draw

The library closed at 10 o'clock. Lu Zhou had just enough time to finish "Advanced Algebra" and "C Language Fifth Edition".

On the way out of the library, Lu Zhou glanced at the mission panel and saw that there were only nine hours left. He felt a little disappointed.

He barely felt that fifteen hours had passed by. He had never felt time passed by like this while reading textbooks before.

After a full day of studying, he discovered an issue. When he finished reading a book, that book's value score would decrease to a single digit. Not just this, but other similar books' value scores would also decrease to different amounts. On the other hand, books that were previously at a very low or even zero value scores started to increase to various amounts.

For example, the "Di Donne Foundation of Modern Analysis" book only had a value score of 10 in the beginning, but now it had more than doubled to a value score of 30.

As he walked home, Lu Zhou could not help but think of what would happen to his body if his mathematics level went from zero to one.

Omniscient?

Able to solve questions instantly?

Or would his brain be filled with the knowledge that he did not even know existed?
Would he become a legendary mathematician, similar to the likes of Chen Jingrun?

Lu Zhou thought about this and did not feel excited at all. Rather, he felt nervous.

The human brain was limited. It was akin to how one could not store 2TB of information into a 1TB hard drive. He was scared that the system would force his brain to store the extra information and it might destroy his brain.

Of course, Lu Zhou knew that worrying about it was pointless.

Only the system knew what would happen exactly.

Anyway, the answer would be revealed tomorrow. He just had to get a good sleep tonight and relaxed his overheated brain.

...

[User, congratulations on completing the mission. First mission prize bonus: Additional lucky draw ticket.]

[Mission completion details: Books read in the library: "New Mathematical Analysis Lectures": 100 value score, "Higher Mathematics Tu Boyun Edition" : 100 value score, "C Language Fifth Edition": 100 value score, "Nickelsky Mathematical Analysis Translated Version": 57 value score, "Level Four English Detail Explanations": 0 value score. Total value score earned: 357. Grade: B+.]

[Mission reward: 500 mathematics experience points, 100 information science points, 100 general points, one lucky draw ticket (90% garbage, 9% samples, 1% blueprints)]

After another day of painstakingly reading books, Lu Zhou finally finished the mission.

Congratulations.

Lu Zhou came out of the library feeling excited. He found a spot near the dull basketball courts where the security cameras could not see him. He looked around to see if anyone was near, exhaled a deep breath and opened up his characteristic panel.

[

High tech system:

Host: Lu Zhou

Core science:

A. Mathematics: Level 0 (500/1000)

B. Physics: Level 0 (0/1000)

C. Biology: Level 0 (0/1000)

D. Engineering: Level 0 (0/1000)

E. Materials science: Level 0 (0/1000)

F. Energy science: Level 0 (0/1000)

G. Information science: Level 0 (100/1000)

Technology branch: None

Technical blueprints: None

General points: 100 (two lucky draw tickets)

Mission: None

]

Lu Zhou was a bit disappointed that he did not level up but he still had the two prize draw tickets. His disappointment vanished immediately.

What prize could the high tech system give?

He was eagerly looking forward to it!

The two tickets had different odds. The first mission bonus had an odds of 75% garbage, 19% samples, and 5% blueprints.

As for what the samples were for? Lu Zhou did not know either. However, given the type of system, it was definitely not something like a toy car or a water gun. It had to be related to high tech and different from “garbage”.

Of course, a little tech was enough. Even if he got a starship, he would not have the space to park it. Not to mention, he would have no idea what to do with it.

He would not get something like a bug spray, right?

Anyway, he began the lucky draw.

He started with the inferior lucky draw – the mission reward!

“Let’s go!”

A spinning wheel appeared in front of him. Lu Zhou could not read the words written on it. He could only see the blurry colors.

He held his breath. Looking straight at the wheel, he focused on the path of the spinning arrow.

Suddenly, his brain lit up. He immediately followed his instincts and shouted, “Stop!”

The arrow continued to spin for a few more seconds before gradually slowing down.

[Congratulations, you won the garbage prize.]

[You won a can of coke. Don't be discouraged. Keep trying.]

F*ck you!

Blaming the system was of no use. There was more important stuff to do!

He saw next to the general points was [coke (garbage)]. The impetuous Lu Zhou quickly left the system space. He checked again to see if anyone was around him. He then looked at his hand and began to think.

coke coke coke coke...

Ding!

Without any warning, a can of coke appeared in Lu Zhou's hand when he opened his eyes.

The next moment, his facial expression was indescribably strange.

*The F*ck?*

He sensed that the universe had a contradiction. The law of conservation of mass faced an unprecedented challenge.

How would he use modern physics principles to explain this can of coke?

Lu Zhou did not know.

Maybe he had to be above level 10 in "high tech" to understand.

Anyway, after seeing the can of coke, he was finally convinced. This system was not part of his imagination. It was real. He could affect the physical world with his own brain.

He should not think about the nonsense for the time being.

Lu Zhou cracked open the can, took a big sip and exhaled after.

"Ah!"

Even though the system classified this as a garbage prize, the flavor of the coke rendered him speechless. Lu Zhou usually did not like to drink sodas but he still licked his lips from it.

"Future? There's a brand of coke called Future? Whatever, who cares..."

Lu Zhou shook his head and threw the can into the trash.

He had repeatedly examined the can but it was just a normal aluminum can. Other than the fact that it could satisfy people, there was nothing high tech about it. Even the design and packaging had a "vintage and retro" feel.

The only destination for the can was the recycling plant.

Lu Zhou went to wash his face at the water taps near the basketball courts. He sat back down in the shade and entered the system space again.

This was his last lucky draw ticket and he took a deep breath. Like a gambler, his eyes were red as he pressed the button without any hesitation.

"Let's go!"

"Stop!"

The arrow started to slow down and Lu Zhou's heart was pounding in his throat.

When the arrow stopped, so did Lu Zhou's heartbeat.

[Congratulations, you won the blueprint!]

Lu Zhou was ecstatic. It was all because he washed his face!

Even with only a 5% chance, he managed to get lucky and won!

[Blueprint awarded – Formula and proof for Mersenne prime number distributions.]

Lu Zhou was stunned.

WTF?