

# Learning Report

As quoted from HKU strategic planning, research is one of the three pillars of the university and plays a core and irreplaceable role in the university development. In my opinion, so it is for undergraduate students. Undoubtedly, Hong Kong and HKU have already provided us with a high-quality platform for knowledge exchange, where we can attend seminars and talks given by globally renowned scholars and meet distinguished professors from universities in the worldwide. On the other hand, however, it should also be admitted that in many fields of study, Hong Kong is not the center of academic researches and consequently, is not as exposed to the research frontier as some other regions like the United States. For example, it is widely acknowledged that United States is the center of economics study and research: over half of Economics Nobel Prize Laureates are from the United States and top economics departments/schools are almost all from US universities. Therefore, as an undergraduate who has an interest in economics and intends to pursue a Ph.D. degree in this subject, such a research opportunity in worldwide top economics department is excessively valuable and precious.

Located at the metropolis, Economics Department, NYU, is one of the most prestigious schools, which assembles many big names in many fields of economics, including three Nobel Prize winners. Therefore, to some extent, it represents the highest standard and leading frontier of economic research.

First I want to briefly introduce my internship supervisor, Dilip Abreu: he is a senior professor at New York University and he is a very big name in the field of economic theory (especially Dynamic Repeated Games and Reputation). He is a fellow of Econometric Society (the society of the best economists), Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory (SAET) (the society of the best economic theorists) and American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Before moving to NYU, he has been teaching and researching in top institutions, like Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and his research has already been supported by National Science Foundation and other globally renowned foundations. His rich experience in research and communication with students help me get adapted to the new environment here very quickly. I do appreciate a lot for that.

During my internship, my main duties include proofreading working papers, implementing the algorithm developed in the paper and detecting bugs of the program, providing high-quality summaries of related literature

and helping re-design and improve relevant course structure and materials. These experiences make me familiar with the topics and form deep and insightful thoughts towards these. Moreover, my supervisor also recommends me to study with other Ph.D. students in the department and approach other faculties. With his encouragement and support, I actively interact with another big name, Prof. Efe A. Ok, who is very influential in the field of Decision Theory. During the interaction with him, I systematically went through the development of the subject, from Michael Richter and Kenneth Arrow in 1950s to Itzhak Gilboa and David Schmedler in 1980s, from Leonard Savage and Anscombe-Aumann in 1960s to Faruk Gul and Wolfgang Pesendorfer in 21<sup>st</sup> century. In this process, I have enjoyed the beauty of economic theory and the intelligence of those founding-fathers of modern economics. More importantly, this encourages me to do work in economic theory, which I think is the most exciting field of the subject.

I'm very grateful for this three-month experience. My supervisor and other professors indeed broaden my eyes towards the subject and deepen my understanding towards the philosophy behind it. My career in research has just started, and this experience indeed encourages me and teaches me the lesson: difficulties along the path will only increase the beauty and insight of the terminal.



