

My memories of Shengmen are all happy ones.

He took my Foundations of Logic course at Tsinghua in 2021, but it was online, and I didn't really get to know him until a year later, when he was rereading my textbook, prompting several questions by him. And in the context of the certificate ceremony in the spring of 2023, he described how that book had made him appreciate the mathematical aspects of logic, and how they were relevant to his main interests at that time, which were semantics and philosophy of language. As you can understand, such words are what makes a textbook author very happy.

In the summer of 2023 it was decided that I should supervise his Bachelor's Thesis, which from an initial "something to do with natural language semantics" morphed into a deep study of aspects of the notion of compositionality. I was repeatedly struck by Shengmen's ability to find something interesting hidden in papers where I had not seen it, and, even more importantly, to be able to express those insights in a precise formal setting. It was an altogether enjoyable period of supervision, for me and for him, as he wrote in the Preface of this Thesis.

I wasn't at Tsinghua at the time of his thesis defense, but we had an intense email communication about possible last minute revisions, and Shengmen's excitement about the occasion was evident, and contagious. He was equally excited about his first piano recital, which took place at about the same time. Afterwards he sent me the recording, apologizing for "all the mistakes". I certainly didn't notice any mistakes, but his playing was beautiful.

Working with a brilliant student, the supervisor gets a lot in return. I learned much from Shengmen. It is strange to recall the happy memories of our interaction at this sad occasion, but the memories have stayed with me, reinforced by the Memorial event. I am grateful for having known Shengmen, as a brilliant student, and as the kind, serious, and warm person that he was.