

The afterlife: a short guide

Where do mathematicians end up when they leave academia?

Almost all (I know) end up doing something in

- Machine learning, data science, AI
- Finance/Actuarial: risk, investment, liability modeling
- Software development: large complex enterprise software

How to make the switch?

- First job is the hardest
- Don't worry about finding the perfect job the first time.
- **Use your network!**
- Build up some technical or domain-specific knowledge
- Transforming your academic CV into a professional CV
- Sell yourself

What do you bring to the table?

- In principle it's
 - processing new requirements, constraints, and deriving consequences
 - problem solving
 - separating the core matter from the unimportant specifics
 - navigating large and complex domains
 - communicating complex results
- But **LITERALLY EVERYONE** writes this on their CV. Of course for you it's actually true, but how do you prove this?

What you actually bring (that most others can't)

- You worked for two years on one problem without knowing if it was solvable, and you didn't quit.
- You can read a 30p original paper written in a completely new notation and apply its results within a week.
- You can hold an entire abstract structure in your head and reason about it
- You notice when an argument is wrong, including your own
- You were able to teach monkeys linear algebra

(this is not what you actually write on your CV)

Academia vs. real world: myths, half-truths and provocations

Academia	Real world
interesting and fun	trivial and boring
single career path	many career paths
static, slow feedback	dynamic, fast feedback
community	dog-eat-dog
opaque and subjective success criteria	transparent and objective success criteria
individual	collaborative
more freedom, ownership	corporate stooge
less money	more money

Any questions ?