

SIPNAYAN 2016 REFLECTIONS

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November 5, 2016



Figure 1: A very blurry picture. Foreground, from left: sir De Jesus, Jireh, Axi, me.

1 OVERVIEW

The Sipnayan is a yearly competition run by the Ateneo Mathematical Society (AMS), held at the Ateneo (de Manila University). This year is its 18th year, a fact made blatantly obvious by its theme “SCORE H18H”, themed on retro video games like Pacman, Tetris and Pong. Sipnayan is notorious for having quirky mechanics like power-ups which affect play, unlike certain other competitions which are far more stable.

Any school can send up to three teams of three students and up to one alternate. The format is an individual round followed by team rounds. The individual round is written, twenty-one questions requiring short answers,

Sipnayan is a Filipino word for math. Matematika is used more frequently, but I think sipnayan sounds nicer. The etymology is from isip (mind) and sanayan (practice), put together, “practice of the mind”.

*In practice, I always
have to prevent
myself from laughing
at "very difficult" as
a difficulty.*

eight two-point easy questions, five three-point average questions, five five-point difficult questions, three eight-point very difficult questions. The scores of each member in the team are added up and ranked.

The top twenty-four teams are split randomly into two twelve-team groups. Each group undergoes a semi-final round consisting of five two-point thirty-second easy questions, five three-point sixty-second average questions, and five five-point ninety-second difficult questions. The top three from each group make it to the finals, which has its own complex of horribly complicated mechanics. The top scorer in the individual round is awarded, as well as the top three teams in the final round.

Today, November 5, 2016, was the senior high school division, open to entry to all grade 10 and 11 students. The week after this, November 12, 2016, will be the junior high school division, open to entry to students from grades 7 to 9. The week after that, November 19, 2016, will be the grade school division, open to entry to students from grades 1 to 6.

2 PRE-COMPETITION

A month ago, ate Arz (Herrerra) came to school, visiting for the first time in several months. She is an alumna of our school, and used to compete in math. She went to visit for the sole purpose of dropping off a letter for ma'am (Marilyn) Soriano, our mathematics coordinator, inviting the school to participate once again in Sipnayan.

During GMATIC, the coordinator for Sipnayan approached me and asked me if our school had an invitation to Sipnayan. I kindly said yes, and she asked for my personal details. I looked at her quizzically, and realized – I had a tie on. "Ah, you must be looking for our trainer. She is over there. . . ." She was staring at me, a look mixed with puzzlement and shock, at the fact that I was a contestant and not a trainer.

*Php 450 registration
per team, plus food
and transportation.*

At the end of GMATIC, we drafted teams for Sipnayan. Ma'am Soriano informed us that we could only send one team to the senior division and one team to the junior division, unlike last year when we sent two teams each. This was due to constraints in budget, which was perfectly understandable because the mathematics department has lost its photocopying monopoly at school.

Jireh (Gumaro) urged ma'am Soriano to register our school at once, and he had to remind ma'am Soriano to do this several times. A reminder when ate Arz came, a reminder at GMATIC, then a reminder at PMO, and only then had ma'am Soriano pre-registered us by sending an email.

In the days leading up to the competition Jireh kept asking who would accompany us, what time we would leave, and so on. There was no formal

training once again, due to our final exams being held the two days before the competition. The day before the competition, sir (Augusto) Logronio informed us that sir (Edmundo) De Jesus would accompany us to the competition, and that ma'am Soriano could not go.

3 MORNING

We had agreed to meet at school by 6:30 AM, accounting for travel time, as registration started at 8:00 AM. I have arrived fashionably late at 6:33 AM. The guard informed me that sir De Jesus and the others were waiting in the school, and I walk in.

I was wearing my green math shirt, the one our math department released two years ago, and so was Axi (Lorenzo), by agreement. Jireh informed me the night before that he did not have such a shirt, despite being an officer of the math club for three years and having ordered the shirt two years ago. I throw him a (different) green shirt I brought for him to wear, and he wears it.

As I walk to the washroom, I ask where sir De Jesus is... and there he was in front of me. "Oh, sir. Hi." He said that we were only waiting for sir (Romeo) Miclat, then we would depart.

It is only formality that I include a listing of our names, which should be familiar to anyone who stalks me in any manner whatsoever:

Valenzuela City School of Mathematics and Science (VCSMS), Team A:

- Carl Joshua Quines (me), grade 11.
- Axirazel Lorenzo (Axi), grade 11.
- Jireh Emmanuel Gumaro (Jireh), grade 10.

Now I shall remark how much of a *wonderful* coincidence it is, bla bla bla, that four teachers of the math department had something to do at Ateneo, bla bla bla, which allowed us to all be there, and henceforth, the obligatory alphabetical list:

- Mr. Edmundo De Jesus, grade 11 mathematics teacher.
- Mrs. Regina Gomas, grade 7 mathematics teacher.
- Ms. Irene Imperial, grade 9 mathematics teacher.
- Mr. Romeo Miclat, grade 9 mathematics teacher.

Yes, it is clearly a wonderful coincidence that all four teachers have a seminar at Ateneo because they had a seminar on senior high school

mathematics in the STEM track for the whole day. It was a very convenient coincidence indeed. Ma'am (Irene) Imperial and ma'am (Regina) Gomas went to the venue themselves.

Sir Miclat came at once, we left at 6:40 AM. In the same way we went to Ateneo back in PMO qualifying stage, we rode in sir De Jesus's car to SM North.

While we were at SM North, me and Axi spot a girl wearing the Quezon City Science HS (QueSci) uniform. I ask why she would be wearing such a uniform if it was Saturday. Axi responds by saying that they perhaps had class or a make-up test, and asks what she would be doing at SM in that case. I respond by saying that QueSci was quite close to SM, and that she had probably come from transport.

We took an e-jeep from there to Ateneo. COMET once again had a very distasteful loop of BuzzFeed videos, which served only a slight nuisance as I ignored it and focused on what I was reading.



Figure 2: Out of focus. Riding the COMET.

*"I wonder what COMET stands for."
"Hm, C-O-M-Electric Transport, I think."
"But what does C-O-M mean?"
"Uh, it's just, COMET, it's comet! That's what it means!"*

Axi asked, *"ano kaya ibig sabihin ng COMET?"* I responded, *"hm, C-O-M-Electric Transport yata."* Axi asked again, *"eh ano ang ibig sabihin ng C-O-M?"* To this I merely said *"basta COMET, bulalakaw ibig sabihin noon!"*

We arrive at the venue quite early, at 7:30 AM. Making our way down the overpass, I spot the QueSci team. I recognized Aeram (Albo) and their trainer, but that was the extent of my recognition. Since I only knew them by face and by name, I gave a polite smile and nod... and then recognition

clicked. The girl we saw at SM earlier was Genesis (Tan), making her way to the venue. Ah, well.

We went to the lobby of Leong Hall and registered. Sir De Jesus did not seem to know whether we pre-registered, and none of us were quite sure. Jireh was sort of sure, but he couldn't recall whether or not ma'am Soriano pre-registered. It turns out she did, and we were pre-registered; we paid our registration fees and got our seat numbers for the individual round. Tayan (Gelera) was already there.

I went to look at the t-shirts. The t-shirts sold at Sipnayan are always something to wait for, as they are filled of witty romanticisms. This year's was *"Polygon ka ba? Kasi I'm poly-n love with you."* and *"Sum ka ba ng sequence? 'Cause I'm series-ly in love with you."* or something along those lines.

*"Are you a polygon?
Because I'm poly-n
love with you."
"Are you the sum of a
sequence? Cause I'm
series-ly in love with
you."*

We went inside the auditorium and found seats; several people were there already. As we sat down, I had realized that the person in front of me was... Vince (Torres), and that Sta. Rosa (Science and Technology HS) was here! This is of great shock to me, and I release all of this shock to Vince. We talk about why their school didn't join the past years, and why all of a sudden they decided to show up without warning.

Around this time sir De Jesus and sir Miclat left us for their seminar. They handed some money for food to Jireh, and told him that we were not to go outside Ateneo for lunch. This was not before sir Miclat took a picture of us, which can be seen on the cover page of this document.

There was plenty more of bumping-into-people, which I am an expert at. After all, math competitions are wonderful socialization events for me. In roughly chronological order:

- Jayson (Catindig). I actually managed to strike some non-awkward conversation with him. We talked about where the other people from his school were. We talked about age and grade level, and he was shocked to find out that I was older than him by merely one month; he expected most people in grade 11 to be older than him by a year or two.

He asked me why I kept staring at him "like that", to which I responded "I can neither confirm nor deny that I am staring as a form of psychological torture." Sweet. He asks whether he should call me "Carl" or "Joshua", and I say that "if you call me either, *I will cast you into the outer darkness.*" I ask him to call me CJ instead.

- Kelly (Guardiano). For context, Kelly was a former schoolmate who now studies at Ateneo. We talked about plenty of things. She was, in fact, my teammate in Sipnayan last year. She reminded me at how I

shouted at her a lot last year, which I denied. She seems to be a little shocked at why VCSMS sent only one team, given that we sent two teams last year and both made it to the semi-finals. I said, budget cuts. She understood immediately.

- Jayson, again. This time I saw him with Aeram, which he always seemed to be around with; they seemed to be very good friends. There were these certain *groups* that people had in math, and some people just tended to stick to certain other people a lot. Like, how you can notice that I keep mentioning the same people in my reports. MOSC does that to a person.
- Joseph (Rodelas). This is a kind of a funny story actually. Lhiana (Bañares) was talking to me about him a week ago or so, and out of a whim I added him on Facebook. Then I talked to him, out of a whim. Before that we had only known each other by name, so it was quite a surprise for him. But we talked anyway, and we soon talked about plenty of things. He asked me if I was going to Sipnayan, and I said yes, I asked him and he said yes.

“Joseph? Is that you?”

In our last conversation before Sipnayan, he asked if he should just approach me. I said yes, because I might not recognize his face immediately. And well, at Sipnayan, he didn't have to approach me... the way he looked at me gave it off. *“Joseph? Ikaw ba 'yan?”* Well, it's not *my* fault I didn't recognize him at first! His profile picture looked so different!

It's weird, in the sense that a week before we didn't know each other, and then suddenly we were talking in real life as if we've known each other for some time. We talked about several things, but really most of the conversation was me saying that he looked so different in real life.

- Kyle (Dulay). I bumped into Kyle some time. I don't exactly remember how or when, but I just... bumped into him while he was solving. He does that. I still cannot comprehend exactly what... *condition*... he has that makes him walk around aimlessly while solving math problems.

In either case, we strike a conversation with one another and talk about various things, like how I was shocked at Vince being here and he said, “oh, aren't you happy that Vince is here?” and then suddenly *Vince was behind us* like what happened seriously.

We remarked at the absence of Farrell (Wu) despite MGC (New Life Christian Academy) being there and how Shaq (Que) wasn't there



Figure 3: Kyle, if you're reading this, please forgive me.

with the Grace Christian College (GCC) team. Albert told me he would come to Sipnayan. If Clyde would come, that meant four out of six of the IMO team would be there at Sipnayan.

I asked what he was solving, he was solving AIME problems again, just like back at PMO qualifying. One thing about Kyle that never ceases to amaze me is his diligence in problem solving, which really is no joke. On top of that, he's a genuinely interesting person to talk to, and he strikes wonderful conversation.

- Matthew (Isidro). Me and Kyle bump into Matthew. He was wearing long sleeves and a necktie, his school's uniform which I think looks pretty snazzy, if not for the fact that he was the only one in St. Jude's (Catholic School) wearing it. That kinda makes him look out of place, especially when his schoolmates were wearing their PE uniforms. We talk about pleasantries.
- Clyde (Ang). We nod at each other.
- Luke (Bernardo) and Albert (Patupat). Luke and Albert arrive along with the rest of the De La Salle University – Integrated School (DLSU-1S) team. We talked about a few things, the noted absence of Farrell and Shaq, the SATS today, and so on.

4 INDIVIDUALS

After much conversation, someone announced that we would go to the testing rooms. At about 9:00 AM we lined up outside the hall, with the large printed letters corresponding to each room. All three of us in our team were assigned to room F. In consecutively-numbered seats: F9, F10, F11. Apparently the staff just assigned people from the same team in the same room.



Figure 4: Kelly, when we lined up outside the hall.

So we went to the testing rooms. I recognized no one else in room F except by face. Jireh was having a bit of a fiasco regarding his pen, which was *just like what happened last time* at PMO with his pencil, and this was frustrating. Thankfully, he solved it, somehow.

Scratch paper and the questionnaires were distributed. As a sane decision, more scratch paper can be requested when needed. A bell rang at about 9:20 AM, a rather loud and long one. The national anthem played at 9:25 AM, and we stood to face the direction of the music. Then the exam began at 9:30 AM to the sound of several softer bells.

The exam itself does not deserve much remark. It can be seen in a separate document available at my website, once I find the time to type it up. The examiner collected the questionnaires afterward, and distributed bags of chips, compliments of the sponsors.



Figure 5: Right before the individual round.

5 A DIGRESSION

Let me digress for a moment and talk about how *notorious* the sponsors were for the whole competition. Before the competition begun, the sponsors' commercials were playing overhead. There were slides which had the logo of each sponsor.

There were about eight sponsors in all, and they all had their own logo and cute commercial. One company gave out chips to all the competitors. The other company had tarpaulins hung at the registration table that were just *off* when you looked at it.

Even in the *questions* you could feel the influence of the sponsors. When there was a slightest break in the competition, the emcees thanked the sponsors. The sponsors were thanked *many* different times.

Kyle even suggested that it was totally within the realm of possibility that even *teams* could be assigned a sponsor, *correct answers* could be assigned a sponsor, a short commercial would play before each question in the oral round, *et cetera*.

It was good that it did not happen. The sanctity of the competition needs to be respected, and I am grateful that AMS did that. I will avoid trying to judge whether the notoriety of the sponsors was beneficial or not; but I recognize it is a necessity if Sipnayan must continue.

6 LUNCH



Figure 6: Jireh eating chips.

We make our way to Gonzaga and eat lunch at about noon. We briefly considering eating outside Ateneo against the will of our teachers, but decided not to because of logistic problems. And financial problems. I compare answers with Axi and he tells me I made a mistake in $\epsilon 7$ – I forgot to consider the middle term. Which was stupid of me.

As we eat lunch, the canteen started to populate with people coming out from the testing rooms. I intercept Albert and I saw the magnitude of my folly laid bare, I've made way more mistakes that I initially thought I made. Luke shared my sentiments in being disappointed with his performance.

I talk to Jireh about Catalan numbers, which, if you knew them, was a dead giveaway for the last problem, $\nu D 3$. Unfortunately I made an arithmetic error and did not get $\nu D 3$. Clyde comes in the canteen as well, right as we finish eating lunch at about 12:20 PM.

We try to go back to Leong Hall, but they were doing sound checks and they told us to come back, to our collective gasps of horror and dismay. We decided to spend our time in front of the Rizal Library, taking in the fresh air and listening to the sound of the fountain.

Sir De Jesus called and send a text message to Axi, asking where we were and if we've eaten lunch. I decided to get sir De Jesus' number and

call him. I reassure him we've eaten lunch, and he asks where we are, and I say that "we're near the centroid of Ateneo." He gave me the verbal form of a look of bewilderment, and I said that we were in front of Rizal Library.

After a few minutes of taking in the fresh air and talking about deep subjects we decided to go back to Leong Hall. And they were still doing sound checks.

We were staying outside the hall when Clyde and Chiang Kai Shek (CKS) attempted to go in. After seeing them not being pushed out immediately, we tried going in as well. After which this guy says, "friends, we're still doing sound checks. Maybe you can come back at 12:50?"

Since we were not going to walk all the way back to Rizal Library, we just stayed in front of the auditorium doors. I roamed around the lobby, trying to bump into people. And I did, I suppose:

- Reggie (Dela Cruz). Reggie was an alumnus from our school, and a notorious one at that. He excelled in mathematics competitions, but he was more known for his... unusual personality. In either case we were elated to see each other and make small talk.

He gives me another rousing reminder to uphold the Filipino blood. This refers to the fact that the stereotype for math competitors seems to be mostly male, mostly private school students, mostly wearing glasses, more than half Chinese. I calmly remind him that stereotype wasn't even accurate any more.

- Jack (Christopher Banzon) and Matthew. I bump into Jack and Matthew outside the hall, and Matthew's arm was around Jack's shoulder. They apparently go way, way back. "*Tropa ko ito,*" Matthew told me. I bump into Jack several times more and we merely nod at each other.
- Reggie, again. We talk about the mechanics that he knew, and he didn't know anything. We discuss his college choice, and I remarked that I didn't want Ateneo because the cost of living was so high. He agreed, and said that he really wanted to study at UP, and gave a rousing "U! Nibersidad! Ng Pilipinas!" cheer. I said in jest that he was a shame to Ignacio de Loyola. He wanted to study at UP but his mom wanted him to study at Ateneo. Ah well.
- Joseph. He was outside the hall with some other people from Manila Science HS (MaSci). I made the mistake of showing them my scratch paper, which prompted them to discuss the questions vigorously. I wanted my scratch paper back, but they seemed to be having a rather intense discussion of the problems, so I decided to just get it back later.

Pro-tip: it's easier to make deep conversations when there's visible, softly audible running water nearby.

*"We're close friends."
Tropa does not have an easy translation.*

At this point the auditorium doors were opened and we went in. We took a seat as near to the front as we could, near the right side of the auditorium, so that we were near the scoreboard. Overhead, thankfully, was not the commercials of the sponsors but merely slides looping through their logos. And then more talking:

- Kelly. She informs me with some gossip that she knew because she was a student at Ateneo; “supposedly” she said, “someone heard” she said, that “a certain someone” scored a perfect score in the individual round. I was not doubtful for this was certainly within the realm of possibility. But she not only said that someone got a perfect score, but that two people got a perfect score. This was slightly more doubtful.
- Joseph. I got back my scratch paper and we also discussed the problems. He pointed out my mistakes, and I was like “yes I know I made a mistake I was stupid”. Well. He was quite worried of not making it into the semi-finals, I comforted him and gave him some slight assurance.
- Kyle. I made the mistake of showing him my scratch paper and he proceeded to point out my mistakes. For the nth time. What *is* it with people pointing out my blatantly stupid mistakes whenever I try to discuss problems? In either case, I have learned my lesson. We talk about various other things as well while walking around aimlessly.
- Kelly, again. Kyle and I bumped into her while walking. The conversation switched to Nikki (Dizon), and Kelly asked if Kyle knew who Nikki was. I tried to remind Kyle by recounting the time, two weeks ago, when Nikki approached him and told him that Lhiana was my girlfriend. He still does not recall. Kelly was happy at this, for some reason or another.

While I was walking with Kyle, a staffer announced that the program was about to start, so Kyle and I walked in different directions, back to our seats. I observe sir (Richard) Eden sitting in one of the judge’s seats. Sir (Christian) Chan Shio was also there, watching.

7 SEMI-FINALS

The program opened with a prayer and the national anthem; prayer first, as is tradition in Ateneo. There was an introductory speech given by the AMS president, followed by the introduction of the judges. I was sitting next to Luke and Albert, and when sir Eden was introduced we clapped

loudly. The top scorers were awarded, Kyle, Vince and Albert, all having perfect scores, so Kelly's gossip was partially correct.

This was followed by the event everyone has been waiting for, the announcement of the top twenty-four teams. All three Philippine Science HS (Pisay) teams made it. St. Jude made it, so did DLSU-IS A, and MaSci and QueSci and Makati Science HS (MakSci). They were in semi-finals A. Then GCC A made it, and so did CKS and Sta. Rosa, and Uno (HS), and us. We were in semi-finals B.

Luke seemed to be quite worried at the match-up, he thought that his competitors were all quite good. Jireh was too, at our match-up. I was, too. The match-up was quite even, even if it was randomly assigned, and this made me worried.



Figure 7: Semi-finals round A.

Soon enough, the teams for semi-finals A were called to the front. The mechanics were read, as explained above. The round begun and I was sitting next to Axi and Jireh, typing the questions on my phone.

The questions do not deserve much remark. There was this one funny thing that happened though. At the end of D4, the emcee was about to say, "and that concludes—" until she was stopped by her partner. This was met to some muffled laughter. Her partner emcee was quick-witted: "and that concludes the fourth question of the difficult round." This was met to applause, because that was indeed an excellent save.

The questions were read and the problems were answered; the top three teams were Pisay A, DLSU-IS A, and St. Jude. Pisay had distance with the

team in second place, which I cannot recall now. Then it was our turn to play, and that gave me a sick feeling in my stomach.

We sat down in our assigned seats, and Reggie was our proctor. There was a short break between the two semi-final rounds, so there was a few moments of silence as we sat there waiting for the round to start.

The easy questions came, and we lost much hope, because they were not “easy” in the slightest sense of the word. The average round was far more bearable, and we felt that should’ve been called the easy round instead. At this point, we were in fourth place. We needed to answer one question in the difficult round that Pisay B did not to make it to third.

The first question came. Then the second, then the third, and we still haven’t had our break. Then came the fourth question, which was about the Sierpinski triangle. We didn’t get it. Then came the fifth question, and the difficult round was done, and we were fifth place.

Our hearts sank when we realized that we were only one difficult question away from being third place. If only we had gotten D_4 , which was not that difficult in hindsight, which we’ve gotten the correct answer algebraically but refused to write it down because it was counter-intuitive. It was tough having to deal with that, having to deal with being so close but not close enough.

The top three teams were CKS A, Sta. Rosa and GCC. We returned to our seats for a short break before the final round begun. During the break, certificates were given out to those who made it to the semi-finals.

8 FINALS

The tendency with these types of competitions was that circles inevitably formed. And this time, a circle had once again formed, along a row near the front, on the right side. Kyle, Luke, Albert and Tayan were there, and so was... (Nathanael) Balete-sempai. Balete-sempai came out of nowhere, like a ninja, he was fast and swift.

In either case we talked about several things. Balete-sempai said he had a test the next day, on a Sunday. And he said that, in UP, if you have a test on Sunday, everyone knows that it’s an economics test. Because only the economics department gives out tests on Sundays. He showed me the math he was studying and I nodded, because it looked horrifying.

Finally the teams who made it to the final round were called to the front. For the final round, I was sitting next to Axi, Jireh, and Shannon (Ho). The mechanics were explained by the guy who said “friends” earlier. He addressed everyone as “friends”. That was kinda neat, actually, it made me want to address everyone as “friends”.

Then he began explaining the mechanics. Apparently Shannon was new to this, I explained that Sipnayan had its own gimmick with the mechanics every year. Jireh preferred the term *kabalbalan*.

The final round would consist of five “games”, sub-rounds in a sense, and each game has four questions, one easy, average, difficult and very difficult question. The teams, starting from the first, pick a game and a difficulty, and that question is asked. There were five games:

1. Tetris operated on a streak. Answering consecutive correct questions netted you more points than usual.
2. For Sonic questions teams that answered before half the time was up could choose to double the points if they were right, but they couldn't change their answer after declaring so.
3. In Pong, teams were matched up. If one team got the question but their matched team did not they get double the points. Otherwise they got the normal number of points.
4. Pacman was an unsealed horror when explained. If the team got the question wrong, one randomly selected team member would get off the stage and sit out the next question.
5. Finally, teams had two options to pick before answering a Space Invaders question. They were informed of what category the question was in (algebra, geometry, combinatorics, number theory, trigonometry) and they could decide to either “shoot” or “shield”. If they choose “shoot”, they get double points if they're correct, but get a deduction equal to the number of points if they're wrong. “Shield” was answering the question as normal.

The first team, Pisay, picked Pacman easy as the first question. Several teams got it wrong, so the left member of those teams had to sit out the next question. The second question was chosen to be Pacman very difficult. The person who would sit out next question, if they were wrong, was the middle person, marked by an ominous M on the overhead.

Only two teams got the correct answer. That meant four people sat out the next question, which was Pacman difficult, the right person would sit out if wrong. Well, it was the teams who chose to inflict this pain on themselves: no one got the question correct and the right members all sat out the next question, which was Pacman average (of course), and an M was flashed on the overhead. . .

The question had said b, c were positive integers, and was asking for the least value of $b + c$ with some condition. cks and St. Jude's had a negative



Figure 8: Uh oh.

answer. When the boards were raised, Clyde was frustrated. He stood up from his seat and began walking to the seats in front.

None of the teams got the correct answer. In response to this, Kyle stood up and *stormed* out of the auditorium, tearing down the stairs as he walked upward, making it past the door as he disappeared outside. This caused quite the commotion in the hall.

The next question was being answered when Kyle entered from the fire exit next to the stage, and sat in the front, at the far left. I didn't notice him at first, but Jireh pointed out that "Kyle was crying!" and I looked. I saw Kyle holding his head in his hands, looking down, frustrated. "No, he's not" said me, and Axi, and Shannon. That was just Kyle being frustrated, not crying, I thought. But he raised his face momentarily and wiped his eyes, and well...

The teams bounced around from game to game after that. We were midway through the finals when sir De Jesus texted me, saying, "get your certificates." Then he called, and he said that they were waiting at the lobby. We grabbed our bags, and I said my goodbyes to Shannon and Joseph, who were there, and we went up to the lobby, at about 4:45 PM.

9 POST-FINALS

We took a final picture, this time with certificates. Jireh and Axi told to the teachers what happened, and how we narrowly missed making the finals by a single question. Jireh seemed to be quite dismayed.



Figure 9: Certificates!

We went to SM North to eat some dinner then go home. We walked outside Ateneo and went on a taxi, me, Jireh, Axi, and sir De Jesus. During the car ride, we talked about many different things.

I told plenty of humorous stories about what happened during MOSC. I talked about some of the people I knew because of math. Jireh talked about how much he wanted to actually make progress in contests this year. I shared that I did contests because of the social experience and not because of winning, he did not seem to share the same sentiment.

Axi sung along to the songs on the radio, which surprised me and Jireh. Sir De Jesus called the three other teachers, and found out that they were already nearly there, while we were still stuck in traffic. This was surprising given that we rode a taxi first.

We talked about the people who were in the competition, and we had to admit that we had hard times placing names to some of the faces, despite seeing them a lot. We talked about the next competition, the PMO areas, which was still an uncertainty; the results were not released yet.

Jireh told me that the field trip would be on November 18, 2016, a Friday. This was the day before November 19, 2016, the day of the PMO areas. He

commented, saying that would be worrying; you'd ride the bus and you would do math along the bus ride instead of enjoying the field trip.

We finally made it to SM North and ate out at Burger King. We talked about future plans. I talked about how I wanted to do pure math, Axi wanted to do applied math, finance in fact. Jireh joked that he wanted to do bookkeeping; in reality he was still undecided. Sir De Jesus gives career advice.



Figure 10: Jireh, eating again.

We eventually part ways and go home. Sir De Jesus goes home alone, as he would go home to Bocaue, while the rest of us lived in Valenzuela. We take a bus home, and me and Axi talk about inertia and centers of gravity on the bus. I alight at my stop, and go home.

10 CONCLUSION

I had a fun time at Sipnayan, a really really fun time. As I've said before, socialization is one of the main reasons I join contests, and Sipnayan fulfilled that. Even though we did not go as far as we wanted to, we still went home happy and satisfied.

Thanks to AMS for smoothly conducting the event. Thanks to the mathematics department for, really, doing pretty much everything for us. Finally, we would like to thank our co-presenters, Cream Silk, Pantene. . .