



# Bio Sketch for Brendan McKay

## What area of maths do you mostly work in?

Discrete Mathematics

## Tell us a bit more...

Mostly I'm interested in the nature of networks, which are sets of things with connections between them. This is a very general concept that can include molecules (atoms joined by bonds), nations (cities joined by roads), computer networks, groups of people, and many other examples.

## What areas of maths do you follow from a purely interest standpoint?

Probability theory, matrix theory, computational complexity.

## What were your best and worst subjects at school?

I was best at maths but pretty good at physics too. I got my worst marks in English, mostly because I didn't like writing essays.

## When you decided you wanted to be a mathematician and why

I guess it was clear from my early teens that I was more interested in maths than anything else. I had periods of strong interest in chemistry, physics and astronomy but always came back to maths.

## What training (degrees and subjects) you've done

I did a PhD in Melbourne Uni. It was in the maths department but my work was partly maths and partly computer science.

## Most interesting place you've travelled with your research

I've been to Iran a few times recently. It is a very interesting country with warm and friendly people. And very safe, contrary to current western stereotypes. The standard of mathematics there is exceptional.

## If you follow sport, what sport, and which team - if not, why not???

When I was a student I did aikido. But I never had much interest in other sports either as participant or spectator.