

It is difficult to accept that Louis Nirenberg has passed away almost three weeks ago—he has been in our thoughts and conversations daily since then.

Our relation with Louis started early in our careers—we learned of his work and lectures from the very beginning. He was a mentor and collaborator to both of us. He always made the ideas of mathematics so natural and easy to understand, in this way he has heavily influenced our view and love of the subject—geometric analysis and analysis in general.

We later had frequent contacts with him, at Courant, at various meetings (in particular in Italy, his favorite country), and later at his home. Each time he was eager to know what are the mathematical problems we were working on, and we felt it an honor to be able to present to him the ideas we had and the stumbling blocks in our approach. His view is always global, his mind so sharp, we really benefited from these discussions. Our meetings usually continued to dinners at local restaurants.

Time spent with Louis is like the Chinese saying, you feel that you are "blessed in the gentle breeze of the Spring". (如沐春風) He is such a grand mathematician, an inspiring teacher and a great human being. We are privileged to have come under his influence and we truly miss him.

Alice Chang and Paul Yang