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私の本棚
My favorite books

Absorbed in historical novels

Taiheiki Sanada

Author: Shotaro Ikenami

I have fond memories of this series, which I devoured after buying all twelve volumes on the day my final results were announced. Because one may in fact succumb to the urge to rebel against the very idea that the measure of someone as a person should be evaluated by something like an exam, or in my present case, papers and grants, one needs to be cautious of timing when reading these books. It also serves as an exemplar of lighthearted prose that can inexorably draw people in.

What happens when you tell your problems to a genius

Feynman's Rainbow

Author: Leonard Mlodinow

The question of how to make ends meet is humanity's eternal predicament. The researcher meanwhile is tormented as to "What to research." This is a memoir of the author starting his postdoc in Caltech's physics department and at the same time of his travails in his research and personal life. The author then consults with Feynman. I imposed my own experience on the text and read it in constant anticipation of Feynman's advice.

The ideal research

Methods of Information Geometry

Authors: Shun'ichi Amari/Hiroshi Nagaoka

Information geometry is a system with an integrated perspective based on "information" and "geometrics" over the broad scope of mathematical engineering including statistics theory, machine learning, control theory, telecommunications, and optimization theory, which are then restructured to give an overall take on all these areas and develop new methodologies. This is the original textbook of information geometry. A book abounding in scientific sense and the kind of research I want to be doing.

The voice of the academic mindset

The Silent World of Dr. Kishima

Author: Hiroshi Mori

An aphorism-rich text which could only have been written by a member of the academy. In one passage a character who is writing a graduation thesis (the main character of the book), fretting that his research is merely for his own gratification and has no intrinsic value, is given the following advice by a doctorate student among his senior peers: "If you have managed to satisfy yourself that is truly a result worth its salt. There is no equal to writing something that you are satisfied with. It is most definitely not without value."

Think about why

Talking Physics

Author: Shigenobu Sunakawa

If you clearly delineate your motivations as to "why I am doing a particular thing," be it in your work or your studies, it will have a remarkable knock-on effect on your efficiency. This is an excellent volume which shows you how to go about this using a question-and-answer format. I referred to this constantly when I was writing my book "Basics of Complex Functions Theory" Japanese people are strong on the "how" of things but weaker when it comes to the "why." I feel this is a good recommendation at a time in which we are awash in "how to" books.