

Yehong Jiang

11th grade

Hobbies

Fencing, bel canto opera singing, billiards

Clubs

physics research club, mathematical modeling club, OPhO team member, Silicon Valley Fencing Club

Contest/Competition Experience or Honors

IPHO Alternate (2021), US Physics Team (2023, 2024), USAAAO Bronze medal(2023), Physics Brawl 5th place(2023), USA Young Physicist Tournament champion (2023), International Mathematical Modeling Competition Finalist (2023), International Science Engineering Fair finalist (2023), National STEM Challenge Semifinalist(2024), AIME qualifier(2021-2023), American Protégé International Vocal Competition winner; The International Music Competition "Grand Prize Virtuoso" Winner(October, 2023 Germany)

Ever since I was a child, physical phenomena came naturally to me. At the age of four, I was already trying to understand the mysterious forces that kept the Moon from crashing into the Earth. This fascination with both intuitive and counter-intuitive physical phenomena has stayed with me throughout my life. From the back spin of a billiard ball to the sonic boom from a jet plane, I find immense joy in uncovering the underlying physics principles.

After mastering middle-school physics, I eagerly advanced to algebra-based high school physics, beginning with AP Physics 1 in 5th grade. Despite initial challenges, I quickly became proficient in concepts like free-body diagrams, vectors, and trigonometric functions. I then took AP Physics 2 the following year. By 7th grade, I scored a 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam and soon tackled advanced math courses to support my advanced physics studies. Olympiad physics presented new challenges, and though I initially struggled with the $F=ma$ exam in 6th grade, I passed it in 7th and made the US Physics team in 8th grade and 10th grade.

I owe a debt of gratitude to several mentors who have supported my journey. Dr. Hurwitz, for running our school's USAYPT(USA Young Physicist Tournament) program, the countless hours you've spent helping me troubleshoot High Voltage Power Supplies and fitting magnets through copper tubes. For the entire physics department, Dr. Hurwitz, Mr. Cinko, Mr. Yedidia, and Dr. Pon, for always being there to talk physics, consult for YPT, step in when my experiments go awry, and puzzle through problems all while treating me like a peer. I'm so fortunate to call the physics pods and labs my second home, and I don't think I'll ever find a more experienced, supportive physics community anywhere else.

I also want to thank my OPhO(Online Physics Olympiad) teammates for their heart-warming discussions and support, which have fueled my passion for physics Olympiads. My YPT project teammates have taught me a great deal about building apparatus and engineering perspectives. Lastly, I am grateful to my fellow 2023 campers, who have become my 19 best friends. Their camaraderie and shared enthusiasm for physics have made this journey all the more rewarding.