

Dines Bjørner  
Dinner Speech  
Friday, October 20, 2017  
The ZCC Fest, Changsha, China

1. It was in 1981, in Beijing, 36 years ago.  
At the Institute of Computing Technology.  
On my first day of a three week visit.  
30 lectures, 30 degrees Celsius. I liked it.  
I was being received.  
All sat in soft cushioned armchairs along the walls.  
I sat to the right of this wonderful man, Xu KongShi.  
During our conversation I queried about a young researcher, Zhou ChaoChen.  
Tony Hoare had told me to watch out for him.  
So I did, with an invitation letter, right in my pocket, for him to visit my dept.  
Asked Xu KongShi as to the whereabouts of Zhou?  
And he smiled: right next to the right of you !

2. That became the first day of a 36 year acquaintance.

Almost half of our life-times !

Zhou came to visit us, 3 months every other winter.

It was during the 1980s.

What a wonderful time, for me, for my colleagues and for our students.

One time I asked him to tutor a young MSc student.

She performed brilliantly.

It was something about “the meeting calendar problem” .

Even Zhou was impressed.

Perhaps he has forgotten it now.

When I took him to the airport, some weeks later.

I told him that Ulla, that was her name,  
was a great granddaughter of Niels Bohr,  
the physicist Nobel prize winner.

Zhou appreciated then that I only told him then.

3. For the 1989 visit I had “stipulated” that Zhou bring his family.  
Three months to Lyngby, three months to Oxford.  
And Zhou kindly agreed.  
All was set to go.  
But a certain incident early that June caused us all concern.  
Yet, on July 1st that year the whole family arrived.

4. Zhou wasn't keen to return to China.  
I speed-dialled Tony's Oxford number.  
“Tony on the line” was the reply  
“Tony: Zhou is with me here, in my office in Lyngby.”  
“Hello Zhou” – “Hello Tony” .  
“Tony, I have just offered Zhou a three year appointment.”  
Well I hadn't, but there it was, and Zhou got listening.  
“8 months a year here at Lyngby. 4 with you at Oxford.”  
Tony's reply: “Well, I had got it wrong, the other way around” .  
“Let Zhou decide” , I replied, and Zhou said:  
“It is as Dines proposes.”

5. Those became three great years, at Lyngby and at Oxford.  
Zhang Yi Ping and children lodged in Oxford - Zhou commuting.  
Science progressing.  
It was at a ProCoS meeting in Viborg.  
E.V.Sørensen had given a talk on signal transitions of electric circuits.  
The concept of 'duration' was mentioned.  
Afterwards I saw Zhou, A.P. and Tony, in an adjacent room.  
Discussing, standing at the white board, scribbling.  
And "The Duration Calculus" was born.

6. The following year I was asked to become Director of UNU-IIST.  
On the flight home, in May 1991, from Japan, via a visit to Macau  
I decided to ask Zhou to join me in Macau.  
And a year later, things take time in international affairs, we began.  
With Zhou in charge of theory and I of engineering, an institute was built.  
After my five years followed Zhou's five years.  
Some of you, in this room, can look back at defining years at UNU-IIST.  
I returned to Lyngby and eventually Zhou to Beijing.

7. The Duration Calculus took root.

Painstakingly a theory was cemented and applications realized.

The ProCoS project and UNU-IIST played an important rôle in this.

And at the core of all this was Zhou ChaoChen.

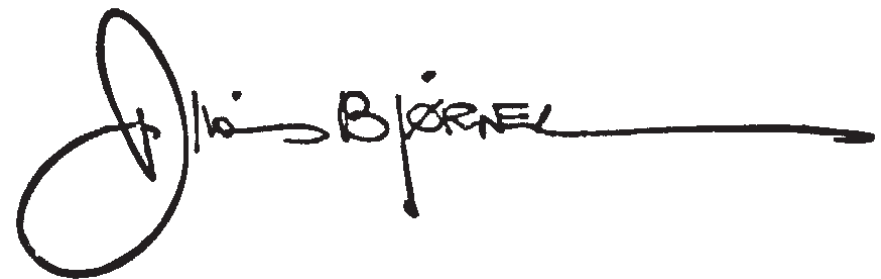
8. Dear Zhou:

Thank you for your tremendous contributions to science.

Thank you for inspiring generations of scientists.

Thank you for hosting our daughter, Charlotte, the fall of 1986 – 31 years ago!

Thank you for putting our son, Nikolaj, on the road to science – also 31 years ago!

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature starts with a large, stylized 'D' that loops around. To the right of the 'D', the name 'Bjørner' is written in a cursive, slightly slanted font. The final letter 'r' has a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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October 13, 2017