

How to Have a Successful Graduate Life?

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Outline

- About graduate study
- About supervisor
- What should a graduate student do?
- How to learn effectively?
- Things ZERO Lab students ought to know
- Conclusions

This talk serves to correct some misunderstandings that you might have.

Why Graduate Study?

- Incorrect answers:
 - I want to have a diploma to hunt a job
 - I need to solve the Hukou issue
 - I think being a Master/Ph. D. is glorious
 - Most of my schoolmates are pursuing Master/Ph. D.
 - My parents hoped me to be a Ph. D.
 - ...
- Correct answer:
 - To achieve my career goal

Who Should be Responsible for Your Graduation?

- No one can care about your career more than yourself!



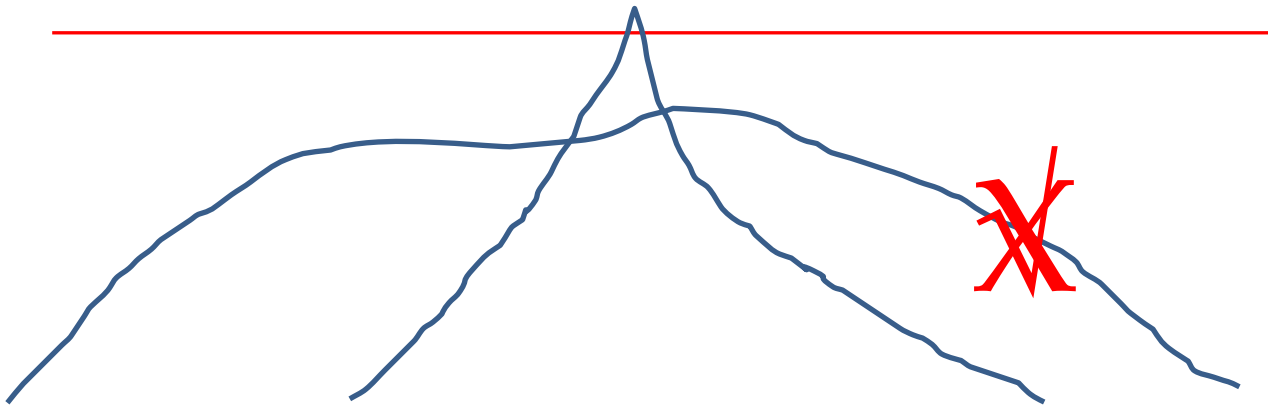
YOU!

About Graduate Study

- Undergraduate
 - Learn and master the **basic** knowledge and skills of a **major**
- Master
 - Learn and master some **advanced** knowledge and skills of a **field**
 - Learn to handle **complex** situations in reality

About Graduate Study

- Ph. D.
 - To **advance** the state of the art on a valuable **topic**
 - **New** problem, **new** theory, **better** algorithm, ...
 - It is about depth, not breadth: 博士? ? 专士!



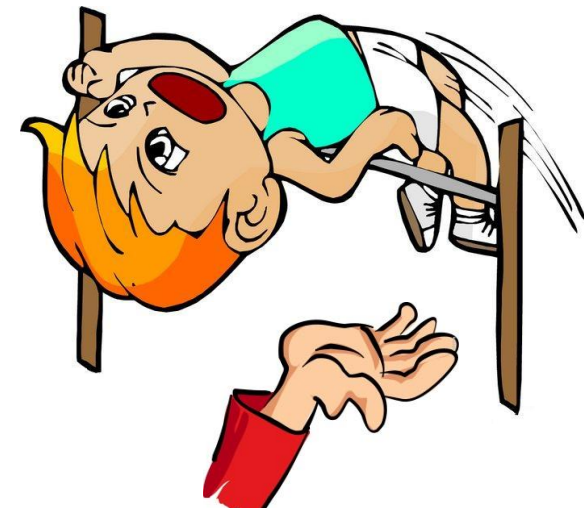
About Graduate Study

- An illustration

<http://matt.might.net/articles/phd-school-in-pictures/>

About Supervisor

- Supervisor is not your babysitter
- Supervisor is busy
 - Teaching, fund application, paper writing, academic activity, ...
- Supervisor is your career tutor
 - **Help** you achieve your career goal
 - Not do for you
 - Supporting vs. supervising



About Academic Research

- It is luxurious
- It is competitive
- It is stressful
- Happy only after truly solving a problem
 - Research \neq Publish Papers
- Enjoyable only if you can excel relatively easily
 - Rewarded by peer respect
- But a lot of freedom!

Successful Researcher

- Has a tag
- Be respected
- Not just technically strong

Successful Researcher

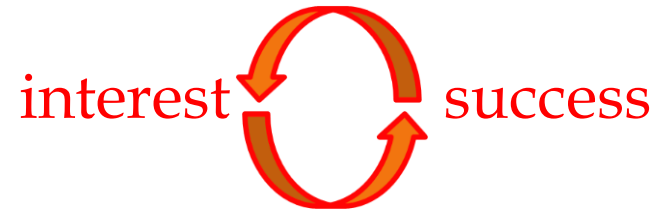
- Communication
 - Ask questions
 - Social (bring your name cards)
 - Visit
- Advertisement
 - Give talks
 - Broadcast
- Serving the community
 - General/Program/Area chairs
 - Editors
 - Heads of societies

What Should a Graduate Student Do?

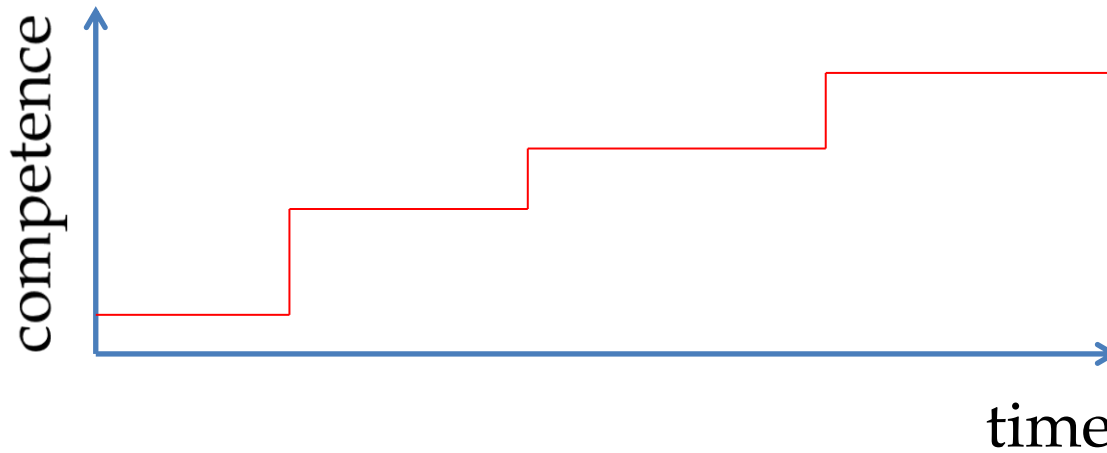
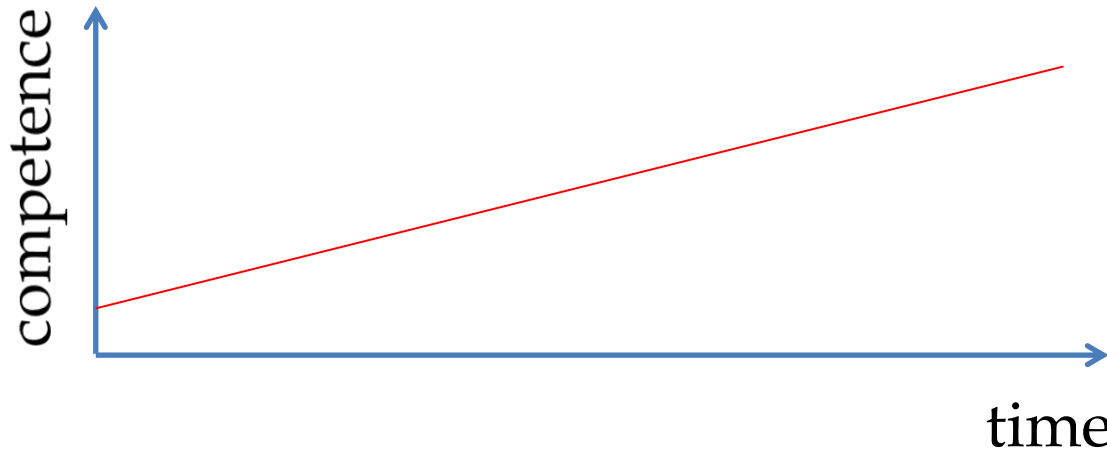
- Set up a reasonable career goal
- Be prepared for the busy graduate life
- Be proactive in your study and research
- Do physical exercises to keep you energetic
- Once having a good idea/solution, finish it ASAP
- Communicate with your supervisor **moderately**
 - Supervisor is passive [《礼记·学记》：“善待问者如撞钟，叩之以小者则小鸣，叩之以大者则大鸣”]
- Work for yourself!

How to Learn Effectively?

- Have interest in your topic
- Devote yourself to the topic
- Learn from whatever sources
 - Supervisor, classmates, senior schoolmates, papers, paper authors, seminar, talks, conferences, internet, social network, ...
- **Critical thinking** [《论语·为政》：“学而不思则罔，思而不学则殆。”]
- Practice, get your hands dirty
- Collaborate
- Manage your time



Development of Skills

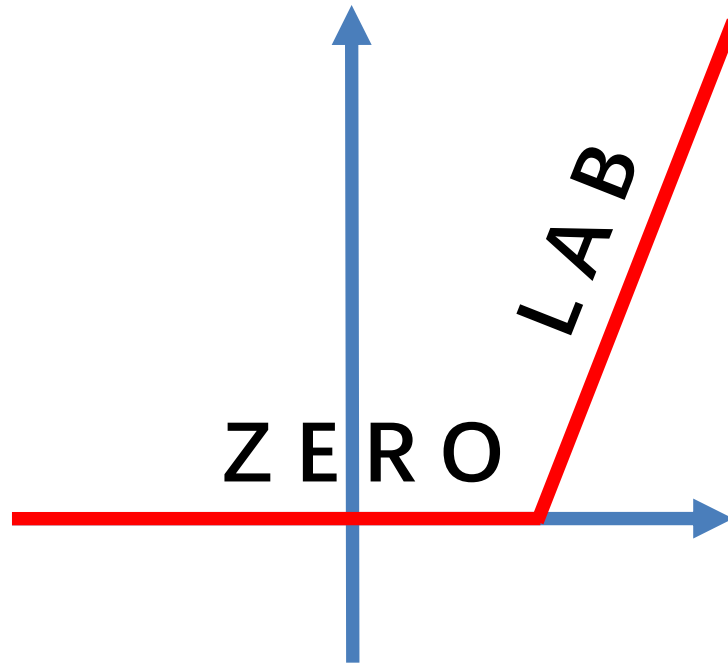


Secret of Success

- Believe that I can succeed

Logo of ZERO Lab

- Math
- Coding
- English
- *Attitude*



- ZERO
 - Zhouchen's Extraordinary Research Oasis
 - Zeal, Excellence, Reliability, Openness

Things ZERO Lab Students Ought to Know

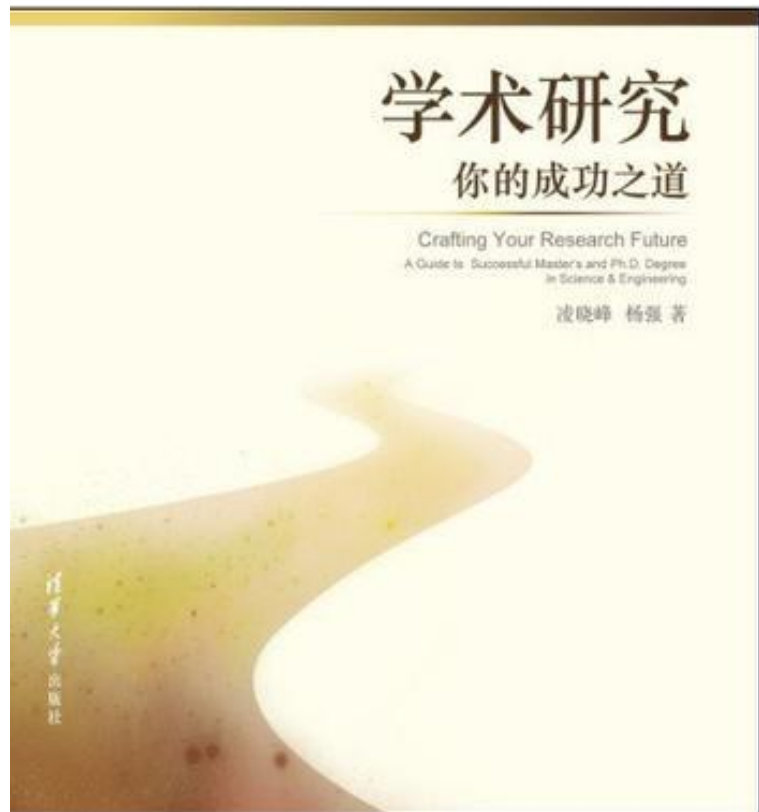
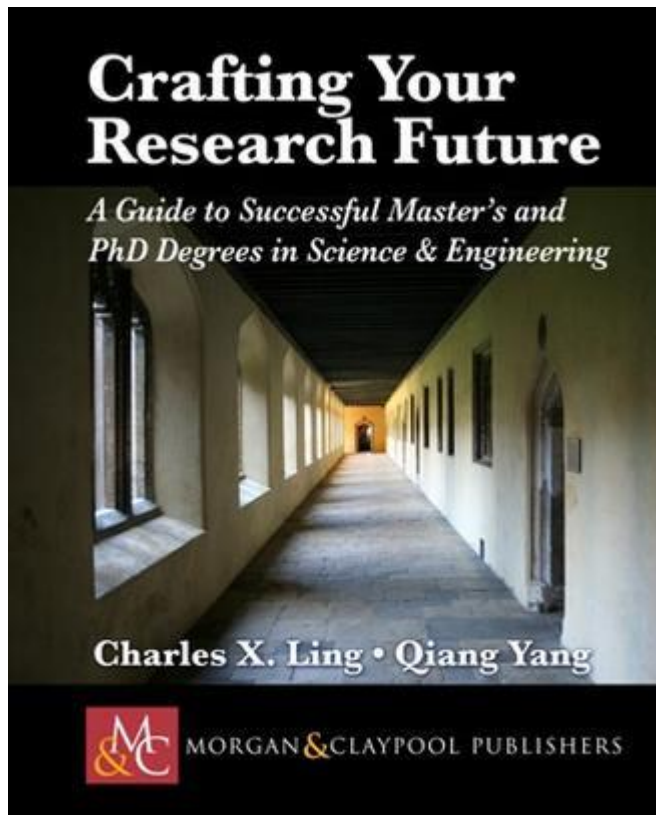
- Keep the secrets of the on-going research at ZERO Lab.
- You can work anywhere.
- Keep yourself in good conditions so that you can work hard if needed.
- You may ask me for anything except the answers to research problems and the certificate of your degree.
- You must not misuse the freedom for stuffs unrelated to your assigned work. Especially, you **must not** work for a company without my consent.
- Don't give me presents before graduation!

Conclusions

- It is **YOU** who should be responsible for your career
- Excellence builds on hard work and correct ways
- Work for yourself with all your passion!

Ask Yourself

- What is your career goal?



Charles Ling and Qiang Yang, *Crafting Your Research Future*.