

# 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?
- 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!



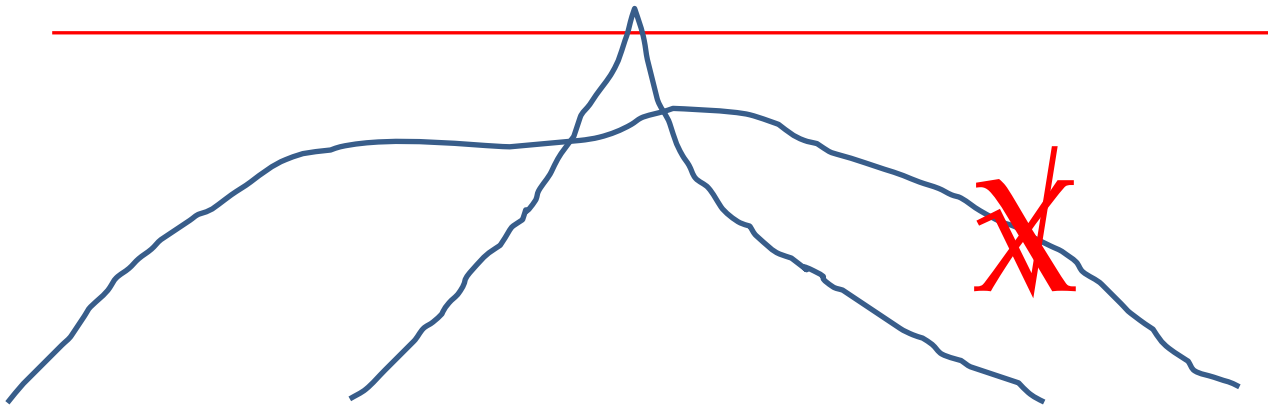
You!

# 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!



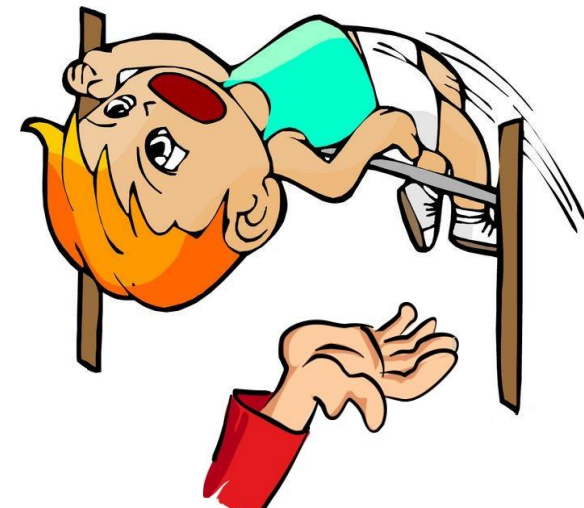
# About Graduate Study

- 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

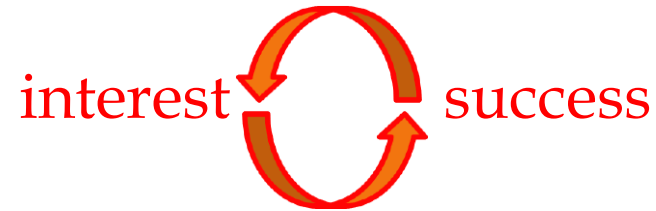
- Communication
  - Ask questions
  - Social (bring your name cards)
  - Visit
- Advertisement
  - Give talks
  - Broadcast
- Serving the community
  - General/Program/Area chairs
  - Editors
  - Heads of societies

# What Should a Graduate Student Do?

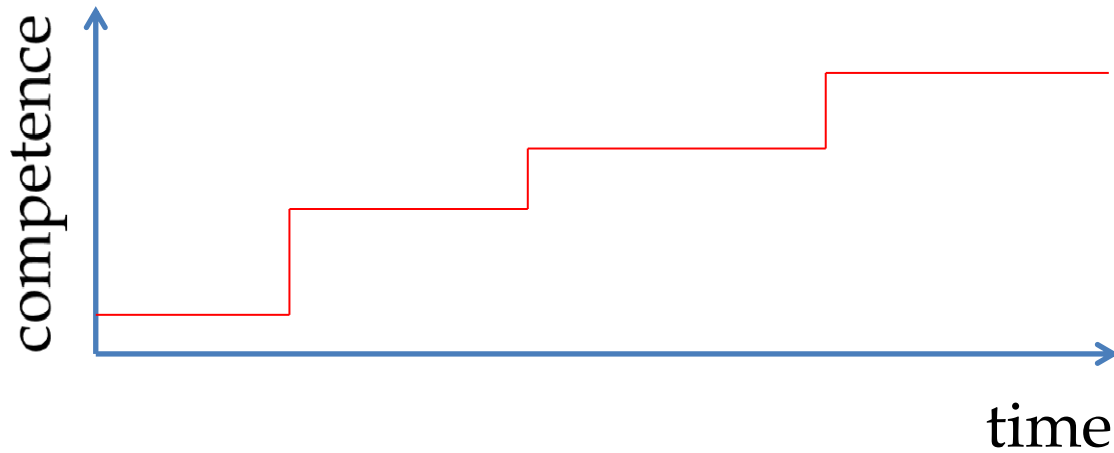
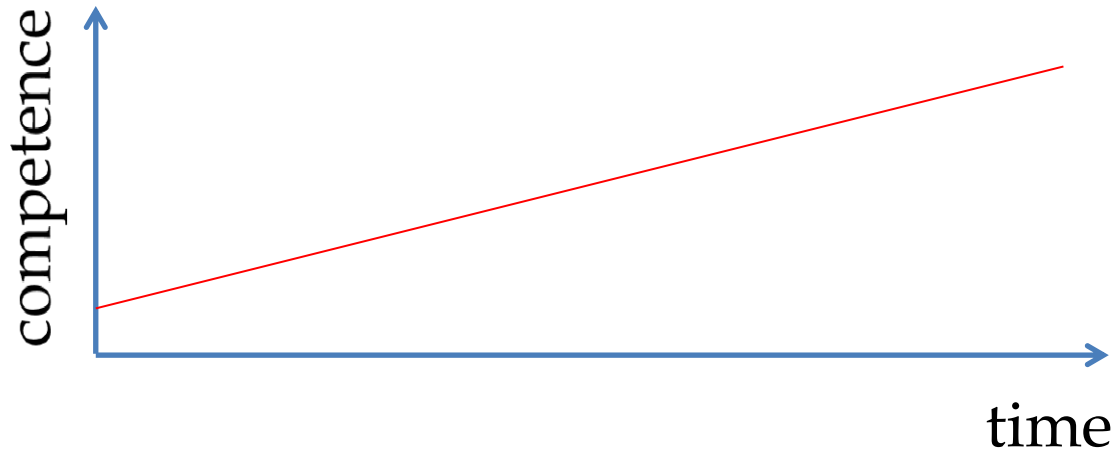
- Set up a reasonable career goal
- Be prepared for the busy graduate life
- Be proactive in your study and research
- Do physical exercises to keep you energetic
- Communicate with your supervisor  
*moderately*
  - Supervisor is passive [ 《礼记·学记》：“善待问者如撞钟，叩之以小者则小鸣，叩之以大者则大鸣” ]
- Work for yourself!

# 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

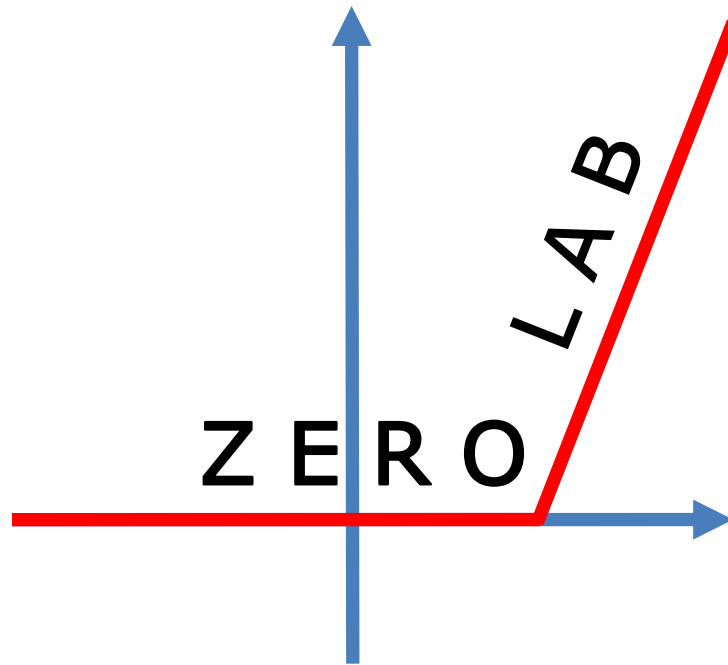


# Secret of Success

- Believe that I can succeed

# Logo of ZERO Lab

- Math
- Coding
- English
- *Attitude*



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

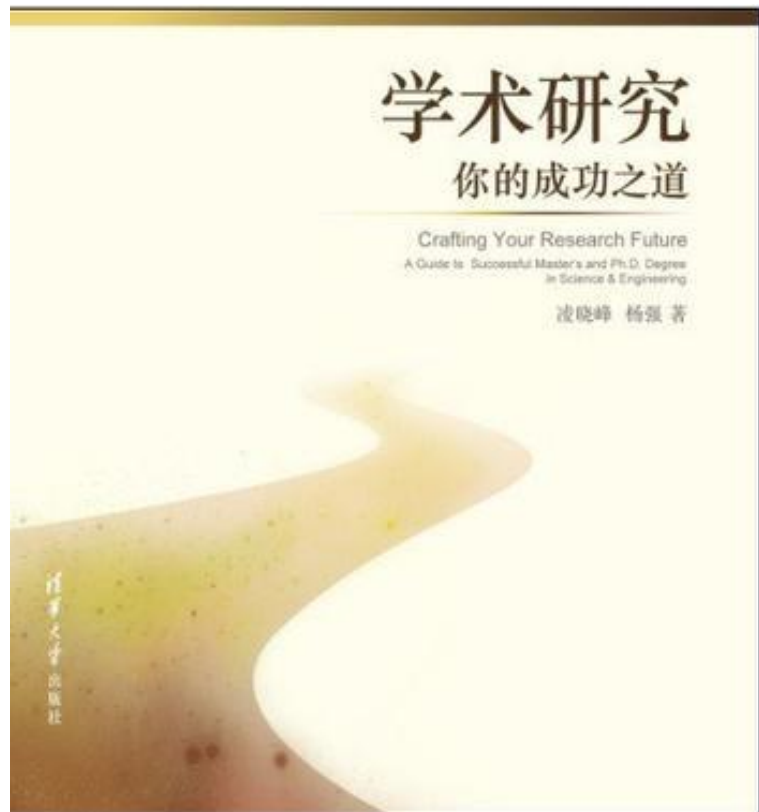
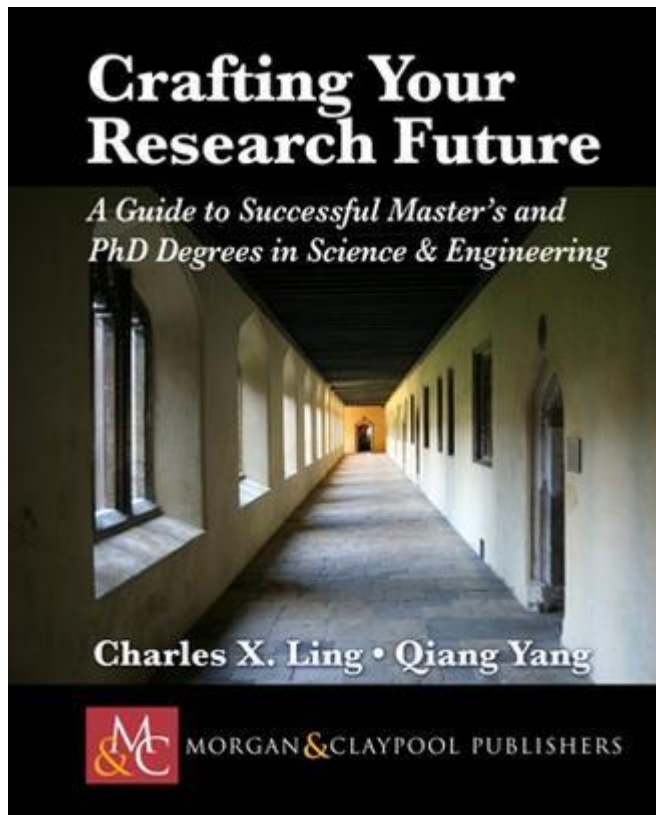


# Conclusions

- It is you who should be responsible for your career
- Excellence builds on hard work and correct ways
- Work for yourself at your full passion!

# Ask Yourself

- What is your career goal?



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