

Levelling Up Your Academic Career

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Who am I?

- Ph.D 2014 from Minnesota (GroupLens)
- Now teaching and researching at Texas State
- Lead developer of LensKit toolkit
- Did internship at Autodesk
- Research focus: human-algorithm interaction
 - Implication: what I care about is how the algorithm can improve its users' lives.
 - Connecting *people* and *information*
- Why? Similar reasons.

What's Next?

- Finish Ph.D research
- Write papers
- Write and defend dissertation
- Find a job

Beware...

- ... the survivorship bias.

Takeaway: find your path. Get multiple perspectives.

Learn and plan structure

- Study styles
- Work and organization styles, tools
- Hobbies and fun

Science as Conversation

- Confidence builds, but cultivate it
- No paper is the final word
 - Theirs isn't perfect
 - Yours isn't perfect
 - Science is an ongoing conversation

Good Questions

- Can be answered
- Contribute to conversation
- Ideally: 'failure' is interesting
- *Minimum Viable Research*
- Aren't needlessly compartmentalized
- Are understood in broader context
 - ... that is often unanswerable

Finishing Research

- Keep goal in mind: why do this?
- Beware of yaks
- Time-box exploration
- Write tests
- Develop complementary and constructive collaborations

Finding a Job

- Get clarity on what you want
 - But interviewing for several things is fine
- Ask questions
 - Look for clear answers
 - Look for clear expectations
 - Look for clear direction
- Tradeoffs in everything
- Involve SO, if you are so attached
- First year will not meet expectations

Have a life

- Exercise and health
- Fun and joy
- Take a break
- Have a hobby
 - The best scientists do
- *Why* are we doing what we do?

Pay it forward

- Share code, LaTeX templates, etc.