Pursuing a PhD and Choosing an Advisor

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Why a PhD?

4 A.M. - Homework set #4...
Why are we doing this?

You mean, why are we submitting ourselves to grad school instead of working out there, getting rich, getting enough sleep and actually enjoying life?

I don't know, my friend. I don't know...

No, I mean why are we doing the problems from the wrong chapter.
Why a PhD?

• Afraid of the real world? Why, When, and How
• Research career?
• Can’t get a job?
• Trendy?
• Parental expectations?
• Make lots of money?
• What should you NOT expect from a PhD?
The PhD Process

• Similar to undergrad?

• Similar to a job environment?

• In an ivory tower?
A successful PhD Student

• What characteristics do you need to succeed?
  – Initiative
  – Tenacity
  – Flexibility
  – Interpersonal Skills, Communication
  – Organization
  – Creativity
  – Curiosity
  – Balance
Choosing an Adviser

- Overlapping research interests
- Tenure vs. non-tenure faculty
Managing your relationship?
Managing your relationship?

• What do you expect from your relationship?
• Expectation of an adviser?
  – master/apprentice, friendship, colleague
• Communication?
  – How much is too much or too little?
• Switching Advisers: Why, When, and How?