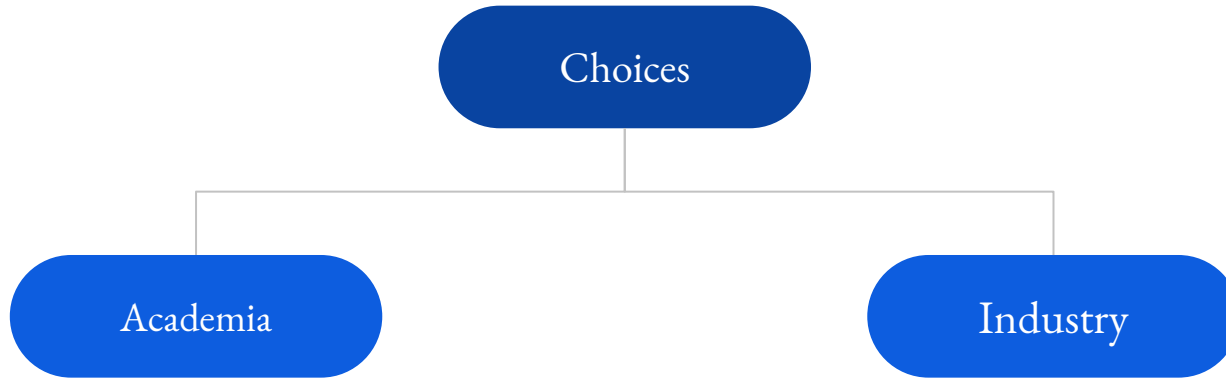


Life after your PhD

Finding a job, academic careers versus industry and research
labs



Start off:

- Which one do you prefer and why? Or are you undecided?

Academia: What to Expect

Pros

- Independence: Work on what you like
- Learn constantly
- Surrounded by interesting/young people

Cons

- Hard to land a job
- Long time from postdoc to tenure
- Comparatively low base salary
- Time spent on teaching/writing proposals/serving on committees rather than research

Why do you (not) want to pursue a career in academia?

Academia: Hiring Process

- Submit application
- Presentation & Interview at institution
- Admission as assistant professor
- Tenure-track:
 - Secure grants
 - Publish
 - Graduate PhDs

Academia: Increasing Your Chances

- Doing good research
- Aligning your research with sought-after areas
- Doing postdocs

Are you planning ahead to land a job in academia?

Industry:

A historical trip:

- The big four:
 - Microsoft Labs
 - IBM Labs
 - Sun Labs
 - HP Labs.
- These labs acted as their own entities (much like CS departments).
- They Had a positive impact on the company bottom line. The research did not have to exactly align.
- IBM and Microsoft Labs are the only survivors.
- A fun read: [link](#)



Industry:

The new model (led by [google](#)):

- A hybrid model where a research division is not a separate entity.
- The work blended seamlessly into the regular operation of the company.
- There are people with the title of “researcher” and those with the title of “software engineer”, and a continuous gradation in between.
- with researchers expected to focus on more ambiguous and blue sky problems, and engineers expected to focus on more immediate implementation and design issues.
- This is a marked departure from the “labs” model

Testimonies from someone who worked in both academia and industry (link):

- In industry, having straightforward solutions is critical: simplicity is king. Your research ideally would reflect that.
- Research in industry is driven by quarterly objectives and stakeholders
- Quoting: “When I was in industry, I missed the academic freedom and the ability to create and implement my own vision for research. I also missed working on projects that focused on long-term outcomes (measured in years, not months) and a far-reaching, personal vision.”

Questions:

- Do you have a relevant real life experience? What was it like?
- Any more concerns or questions about industry jobs?