CHOOSING and MANAGING a relationship with your advisor

Siqi Wang and Nathan Dang
CS 697: Graduate Initiation
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Choosing: Why do we need the advisor?

What is the role of an advisor?
Choosing: Why do we need the advisor?

What is the role of an advisor?

What are you looking for from the advisor?
Choosing: Why do we need the advisor?

What is the role of an advisor?

- Mentor
- "Parent"
- "Friend"
- Colleague

What are you looking for from the advisor?
Choosing: Why do we need the advisor?

What is the role of an advisor?

- Mentor
- “Parent”
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What are you looking for from the advisor?

- Experience & Method
- Passion
- Support
- Network
- Reputation
Choosing: How to choose wisely?
Choosing: How to choose wisely?

- Search
- Ask
- Experience
Managing the relationship with your advisor

What are the important aspects of maintaining a good relationships with your advisor? Why?
Managing the relationship with your advisor

What are the important aspects of maintaining a good relationship with your advisor? Why?

- Communication
  - Establish trust
  - Understand and learn each other styles, references, etc.
- Keep your advisor(s) updated
- Meet regularly (rule of thumb: at least once every two weeks)
Managing the relationship with your advisor

How would you define a productive meeting with your advisor(s)?

How to prepare for one?

- What are different kinds of specific meeting structures that you and your advisors can set up?
- How to utilize communication channels (i.e. email, slack, git commits, in person meetings, etc.) to make the collaboration more effective?
Managing the relationship with your advisor

What if you’re unhappy about something that affects your progress, like...

- Conflicts in research ideas (or a tension in general) with your advisor(s)?
- Personal reasons?
Managing the relationship with your advisor

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- Conflicts in research ideas (or a tension in general) with your advisor(s)?
- Personal reasons?

Again, communication!!!

Worst case scenario: you can leave the program (possibly with a master)....
Managing the relationship with your advisor

(For Adam and Marco) - How would you react when you know or notice that your advisees are unhappy/uncomfortable about something related to their progress?
Managing the relationship with your advisor

Key take-away:

- Communication is IMPORTANT.
Managing the relationship with your advisor

Key take-away:

- Communication is IMPORTANT.
- Make every meeting with your advisor(s) count.
References and useful links

1. Choosing an Advisor - Caltech Counseling Center
2. Take Your Advisor’s Perspective
3. Graduate Student Advice and Research Survival Guide
Thank you for joining us today!

Special Thanks to Marco and Adam for very constructive feedback!!!