Applying and Interviewing for Academic Positions

Academic Career Workshop for Underrepresented Participants

2014-03-29

Chicago, IL

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BRUTE-FORCE SOLUTION:
\[ O(n!) \]

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING ALGORITHMS:
\[ O(n^2 2^n) \]

SELLING ON EBAY:
\[ O(1) \]

STILL WORKING ON YOUR ROUTE?

SHUT THE HELL UP!
Getting Started (1/4)

- **What do you want with your life?**
  - This one you probably don’t need to be told
  - Many-body problem?
  - Do you care where?

- **There are many paths**
  - Traditional academic
  - Teaching-track faculty
  - NSF, Research scientist
  - Entrepreneurial
  - …
Getting Started (2/4)

- **Teach as much as you can** in grad school
  - Sometimes they let grads teach Fa/Sp or Su courses, or through Extension. Find out!

- **Attend SIGCSE & Teaching Faculty Birds of the Feather (BoF)**
  - Join teaching-track Piazza and Google Doc
  - Sign up for SIGCSE email
Getting Started (3/4)

- Start compiling your teaching portfolio
  - Jot thoughts down as they come to you
  - Include student quotes

- Start compiling your research portfolio
  - Include your best paper or two (not all), and give links to the others
  - Don’t need to be world’s best, unless you want top tier schools
Getting Started (4/4)

- Networking
  - Make sure important people know your name (for a good reason)
  - Have senior folks introduce you at confs
  - Join relevant mailing lists for your group

- Tell everyone you’re on the market!
  - Including your Chair who talks to Chairs
Finding Positions

- **Usual Suspects**
  - SIGCSE
  - ACM CACM
  - CRA
  - Word of Mouth

- **Exceptions are made, apply anyway**
  - If they don’t list your area
  - If they want Jr but you’re Sr

- **If you’ve put yourself out there, they find you**
DOs and DON’Ts during visit

- **DO** get rest, it’s among the most exhausting things
- **DON’T** look at clock, let them keep time
- **DO** pay attention to your body language
- **DO** show enthusiasm, ask about them too
- **DO** ask hard Qs (e.g., how to balance life)
After the interview

- Rest and recharge
- "Great to meet you" email: send to all!
- Deciding: make a list:
  - The aspects that matter
  - Their importance value
- Talk to your crew to gain perspective
- Start talking to crew about negotiation
Negotiation

- You don’t know what you don’t know
- **Lots are negotiable**
  - Starting salary
  - Startup package
  - Travel stipend
  - Machine refresh
  - Summer salary
  - Housing support
  - …
- **Extras may be one-time or limited time**