Alternative Career Choices

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About Me

• Grew up in San Antonio, Texas
• B.S. at UTSA, 1992, M.S. at UTSA, 1994
• Started Ph.D. program at UT Austin 1995
• Moved back to San Antonio in 1996, non-tenure-track faculty
• Back to UT Austin in 1999, Ph.D. in Computer Sciences 2002
• Moved to New Jersey in 2002, New York 2003
  – Assistant Professor, Rutgers
• Sabbatical in Barcelona, Spain in 2005
• Back to San Antonio in 2007
  – Associate Professor, UTSA
  – Mostly for the Mexican food
  – Meanwhile tenured (associate) at Rutgers
• Spain again in 2010, back to San Antonio 2011
My Career Path

• I’ve always been good with computers 😊
• I’ve always been interested in the low-level
  – My second language was MC6809 assembler
  – Fascinated by circuit complexity (theory)
• Came up with good ideas in graduate school
  – Computer architecture
  – Novel branch prediction techniques
• I always wanted to pursue an academic career
  – Offered a job in industry and academia
  – Took the best academic position I was offered
Narrowing the Choices

• Focus was academia
• Applied to 24 schools
  – Mostly warm regions
  – A mix of top and minority schools
  – Took the offer from Rutgers
• Also considered Intel Barcelona
• Never seriously considered “working” i.e. non-research industry
• Choosing the best offer was very difficult
Assistance

- Advisors and other mentors very supportive
  - List is far too long
  - It’s important to find good mentors at every point
- I still talk to mentors about career options
- I ignored some advice from my advisor in 2002
  - “Apply to more schools”
  - I wish I had
  - He never steered me wrong