
Careers panel

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Notes:

- Very broad range of experiences
 - I answer emails → people ask you to do things and you do them
 - Integration of systems is really interesting
 - I am not the expert, ever
 - But I know how to put things together
 - This helps in many areas
 - Be willing to cut your losses and move on
- Learned later in life
 - Cover letters are important
 - Applying for jobs is not fun
 - Applying for funding is also not so fun
 - If your department has students on search committees, do one to see how it works.

Physics advice column



About



<https://onequestionaweek.org>

Writing

Making a plot of your data for fun and profit

Evil genius tips: More socially constructive tips: Consider how your plots may appear to others. Next the formal rules: Physical Review Guidelines for Authors has some useful hints on all aspects of publication. with specific PRL Figures rules on sizes

March 9, 2023 / Leave a comment

Etiquette

Setting up a meeting

You and some colleagues want to have a meeting about some subject – how do you make this work? Of course you know how to set up a meeting, that's why everyone always shows up at the right place, on

June 5, 2022 / Leave a comment

Etiquette

Physics Attire

A student recently asked me what to wear to a Sigma Pi Sigma initiation. I suggested Physics Formal, which is, a shirt with nothing written on it, long pants or a skirt and shoes. Physics Attire generally does not depend

June 5, 2022 / Leave a comment

Writing

Semi-mindless cheats for scientific writing

Computers may be evil but they can help you find common flaws. Here are some things to do when you have writer's block but still want to improve your text. Checking your text Plots and tables: Other Hints

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Etiquette

Messaging etiquette

This started out as email advice but also applies to other social media so I'm using message to refer to your posts/emails. Never write anything in a message that you don't want the person you are talking about, your boss,

April 13, 2022 / Leave a comment

Etiquette

You're asked to serve on a committee – what do you do?

Your university or an outside organization has send an email asking you to serve on a committee. What should you do? First, find out what is involved – how much time will this take? You can ask the person who

November 5, 2020 / Leave a comment

computing, Uncategorized

Unix Command summary in Unix style

###Unix commands### # Unix is somewhat abrupt in its phrasing files and directories cp x y # copy file x to y, leaves x mv x y # move file x to y, x is gone! mkdir x # makes

January 14, 2012 / One comment

Etiquette

Can you write me a letter of recommendation?

As a young scientist, you often need a letter of recommendation for a school application or new job. Here is some of the advice I've given over the years. (I use the word job in the following but applications for

January 6, 2012 / One comment

computing, Uncategorized

How do I learn python and why?

Python is an interpreted programming language. It is very good at string manipulation and interactions with the operating system. Because it is interpreted on the fly, it is much slower than higher level languages like C++. Most particle physicists find

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Me

- 1970's
 - Learned to program for molecular biology
 - Graphics for DNA binding at Oregon and Cambridge
 - Controls/machine optimization programming at SLAC
 - 1980's
 - Then grad school at Berkeley
 - – my advisor liked hiring someone who could code already
 - MarkII tracking → b-lifetime!
 - MarkII production → gluon confirmation
 - Then Uchicago postdoc – code manager and run coordinator for CCFR neutrino expt.
 - Fermilab Wilson Fellow – develop and build a vertex tracking detector for a muon scattering expt (and all the code for it)
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1990-2010

- Northwestern assistant prof
 - Spokesperson for E665 muon scattering expt
 - Design of D0 silicon detectors → disks for forward physics
 - Redesign of D0 production systems → top quark
- Get tenure!
 - Design of D0 computing for Run II → sam data catalog
 - D0 QCD/Electroweak/Luminosity convener → W_{mass}
 - Introduce computational physics course in C++ → successful students
 - Try CMS – decide to go to neutrinos instead
- Lots of committees
 - DPF exec, HEPAP, LHCC, FNAL PAC, FRA board
- Associate Dean for Research and Grad studies → Summer support for humanities students

2010's to now

- Become Northwestern dept chair.
- Switch to neutrinos
- MINERvA
 - Computing design → Gaudi, sam integration for first FNAL IF expt.
 - CCQE anti-neutrinos → papers, 2 spokespeople
- g-2 → tracker design
- Move to Oregon State as Dept Head and join DUNE
 - MINERvA
 - DUNE computing coordinator
 - Modern physics teaching methods.
- No longer Dept Head as of 2021 → teaching is hard work!