

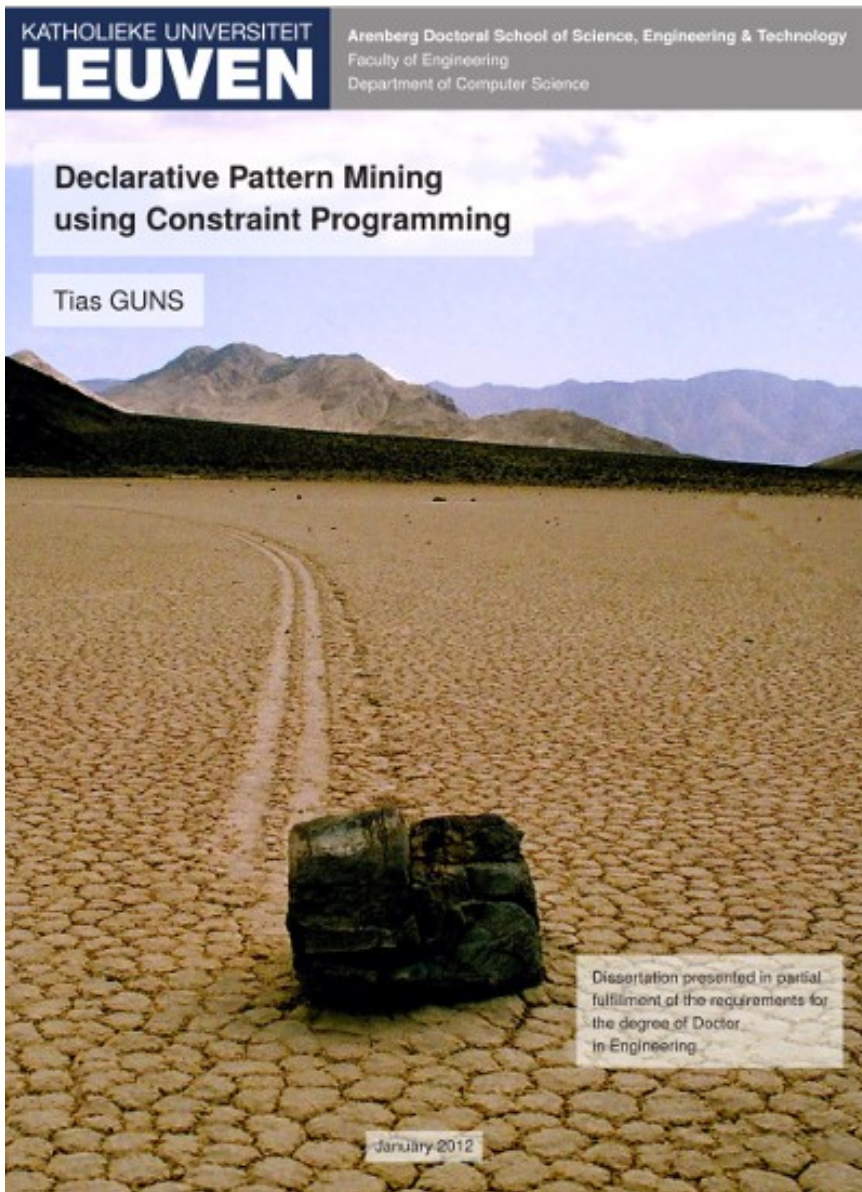
# Tips for a successful PhD, and how to win an award with it!



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ECMLPKDD17 PhD Forum

# My background



- 4 years PhD  
@ AI lab KU Leuven
- 4 years PostDoc
- 1 year Assist. Prof.
- 3 awards (2 thesis, 1 sw)
- chairman of CP thesis  
award committee

# WEAR THE PROPER HEAD PROTECTION



[ Most advice has little meaning,  
until you've experienced it ]

# Pieces

- Working with your promotor
- Writing a paper
- Conference participation
- Writing an (award winning) PhD
- After the PhD

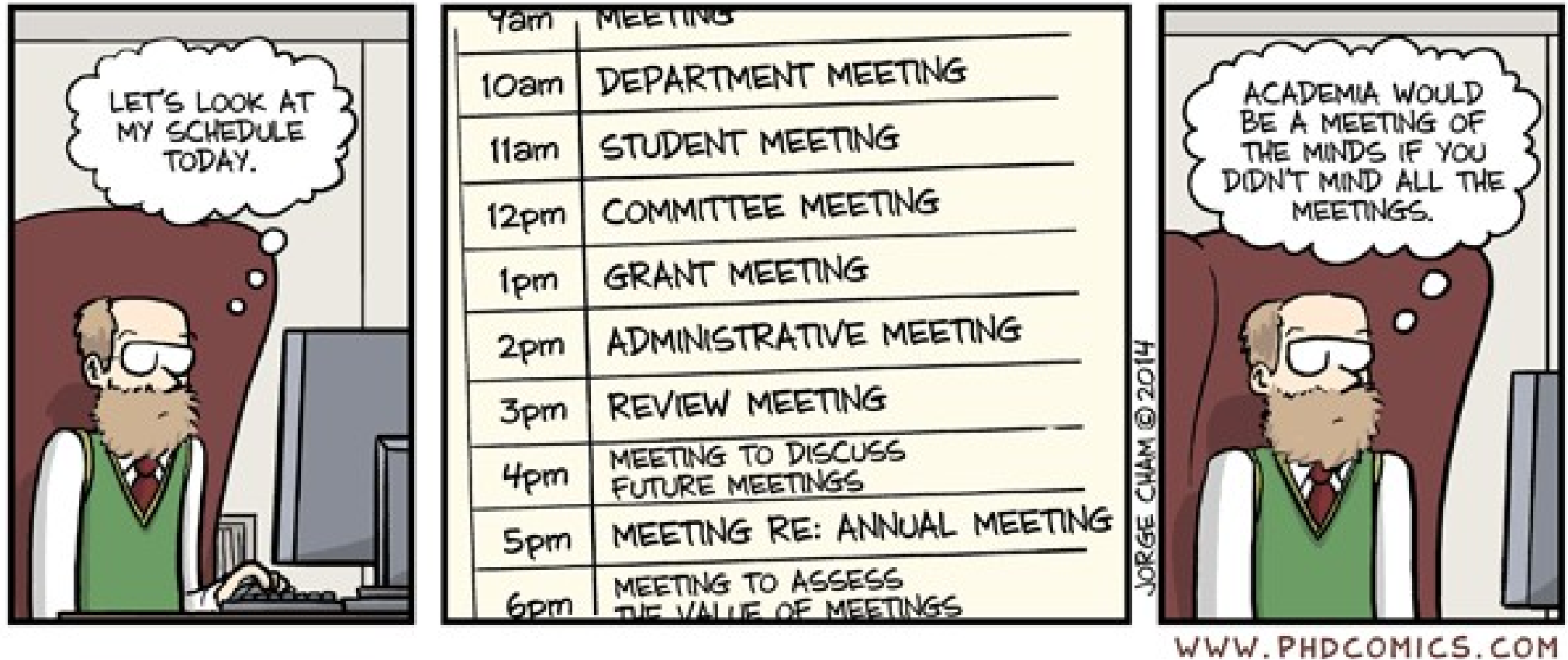


# Working with your promotor



[ You will feel stupid ]

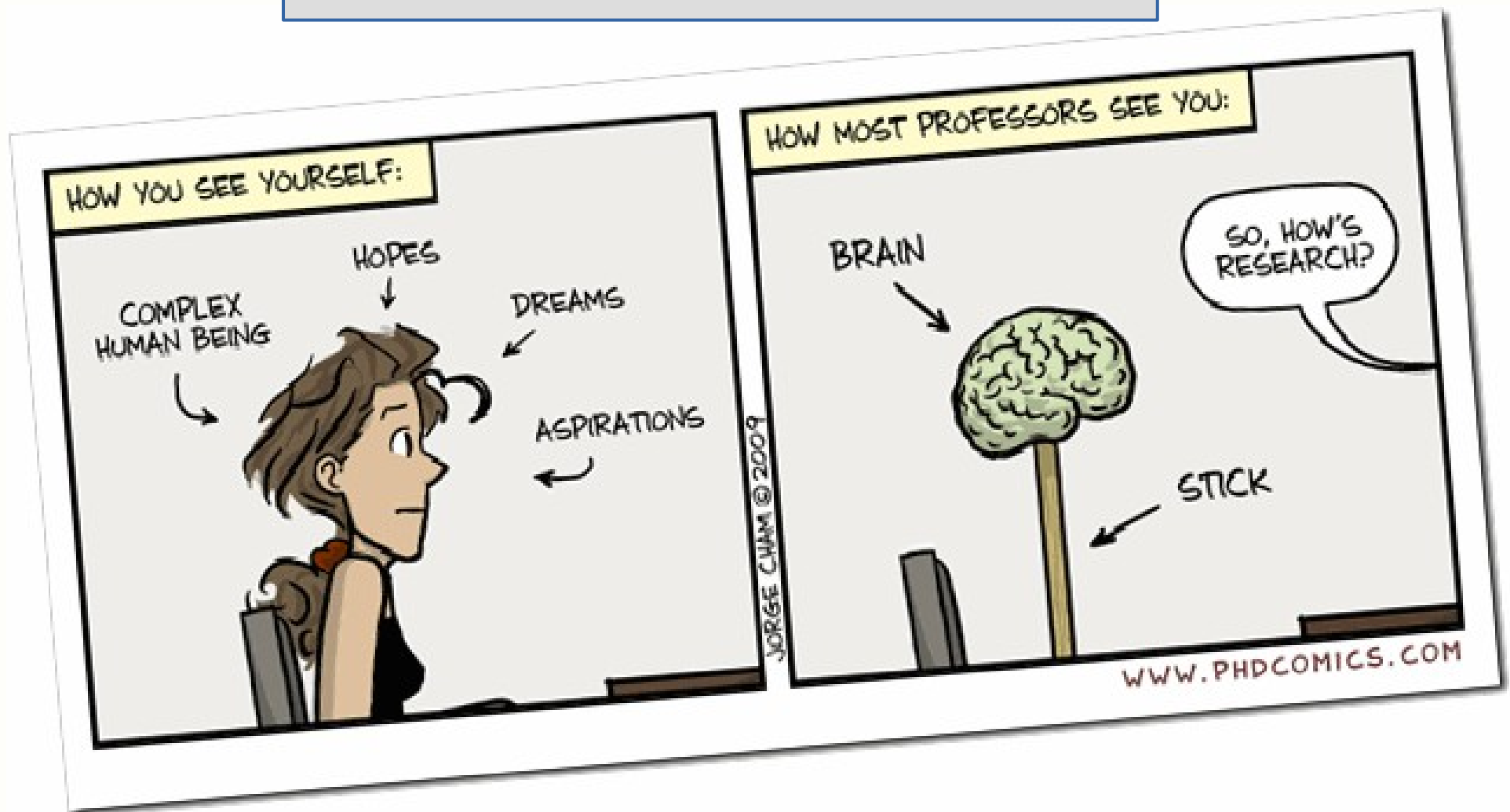
# Working with your promotor



[ Structure your own meetings ]

# Working with your promotor

[ Guard your own interests ]



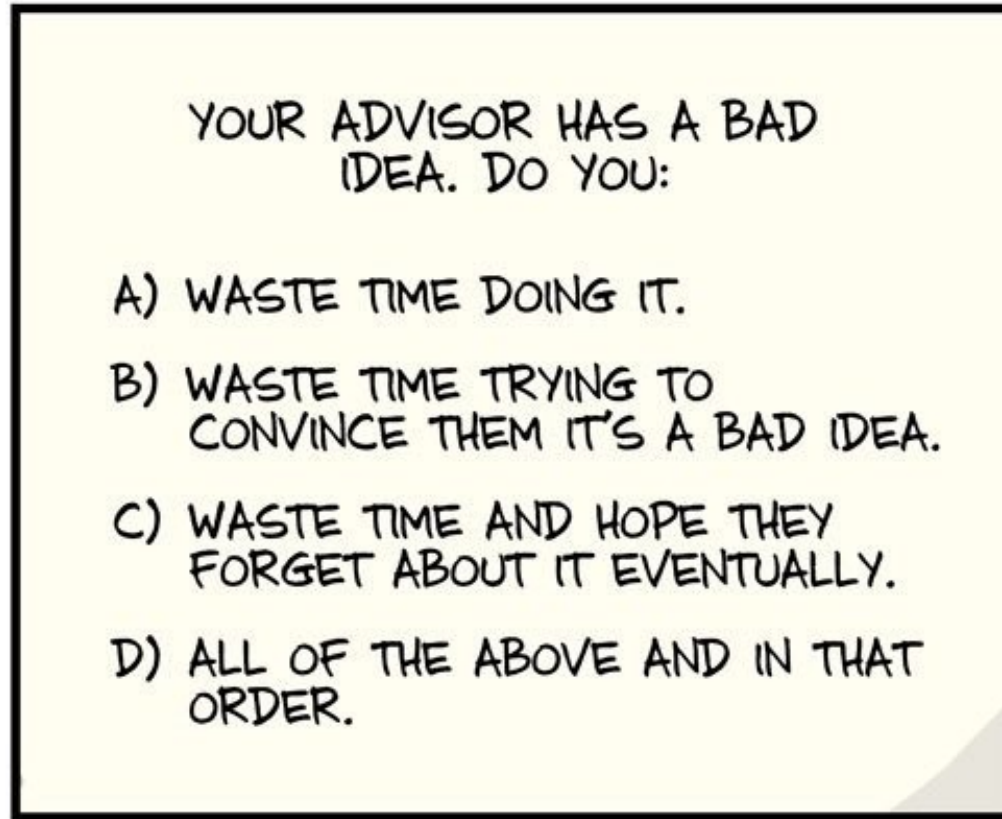
# Working with your promotor



[ Embrace feedback ]

This is often difficult...

# Working with your promotor

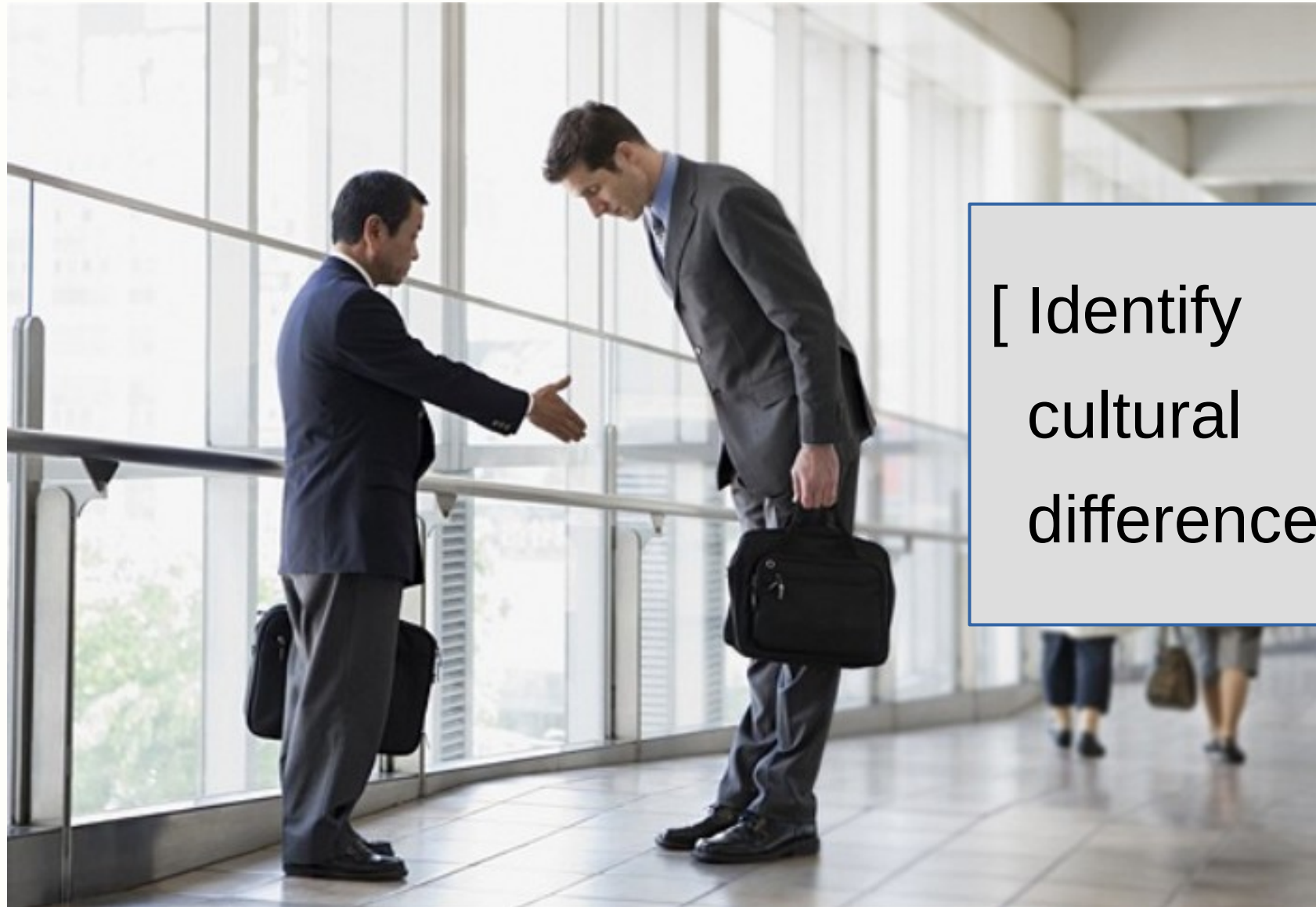


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[ Learn how to disagree ]

# Working with your promotor



[ Identify  
cultural  
differences ]

( e.g. asking for help, admitting failure, steering a discussion )

# Writing a paper



[ Tell a story ]

# Writing a paper

common in spreadsheets, with semantically related items stored in rows or columns and formula's usually ranging over contiguous ranges – as formulas parallel to a table are often *dragged* over its entire span. Our contributions are as follows:

- we define the tabular constraint learning problem, where the goal is to find constraints that range over entire rows or columns in an unsupervised way;
- we propose an effective two-stage generate-and-test method where the first stage reasons only over properties of contiguous blocks of rows/columns, and the second stage continues to investigate individual rows and columns and their content;
- furthermore, in the first stage we use a constraint solver to efficiently enumerate all combinations of maximally contiguous blocks compatible with the arguments of the candidate constraints
- experiments on different publicly available spreadsheets show that the system is able to extract constraints with high precision and recall.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses related work. Section 3 introduces the relevant concepts and defines the problem formally while Sect. 4 presents our approach. This is evaluated in Sect. 5 after which we show how to realize two of the motivating applications using our system in Sect. 6, and we conclude in Sect. 7.

# Writing a paper



[ Align section content, iteratively ]

# Conference participation



[ Do a try-out presentation ]

# Conference participation



[ Talk to other people ]

speaker: “Hi, I saw your presentation and liked ...”

non-prof: “Hi, are you presenting at the conference?”

prof: “Hi, I've been reading a bit about your work on ... and like the direction of ...”

pro-tip: keep a list of people you want to talk to, and about what

# Community participation



[ Have a website ]

Papers, software, data  
Github...  
Twitter, research gate?

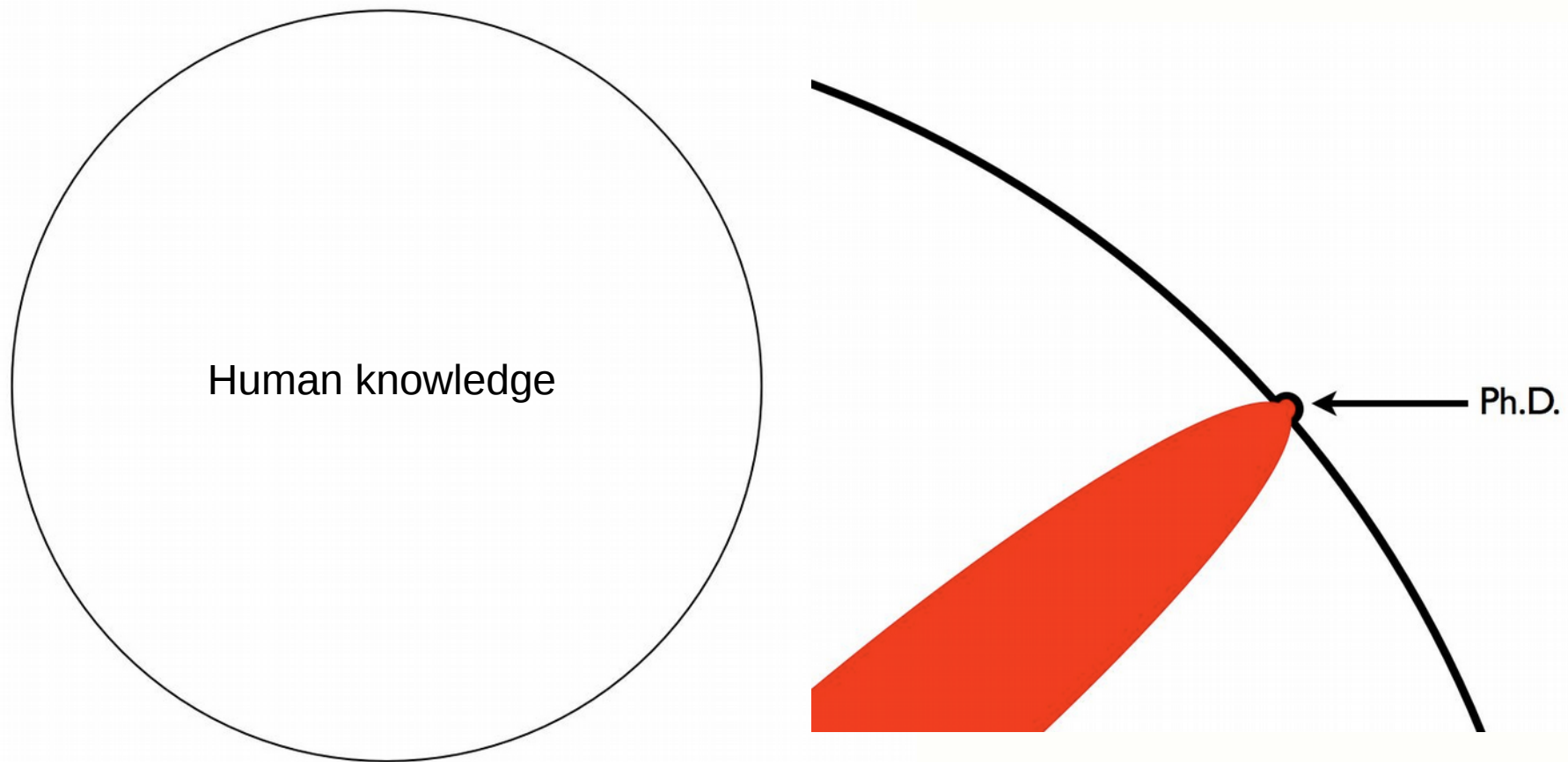
# Writing an (award winning) PhD



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[ Focus on intro & conclusion, iteratively ]

# Writing an (award winning) PhD



[ Write about your impact ]

Read and mention papers that cite you  
Organized workshops? Won awards?

# Writing an (award winning) PhD

Submit →

[ You only win if you apply ]

# After the PhD



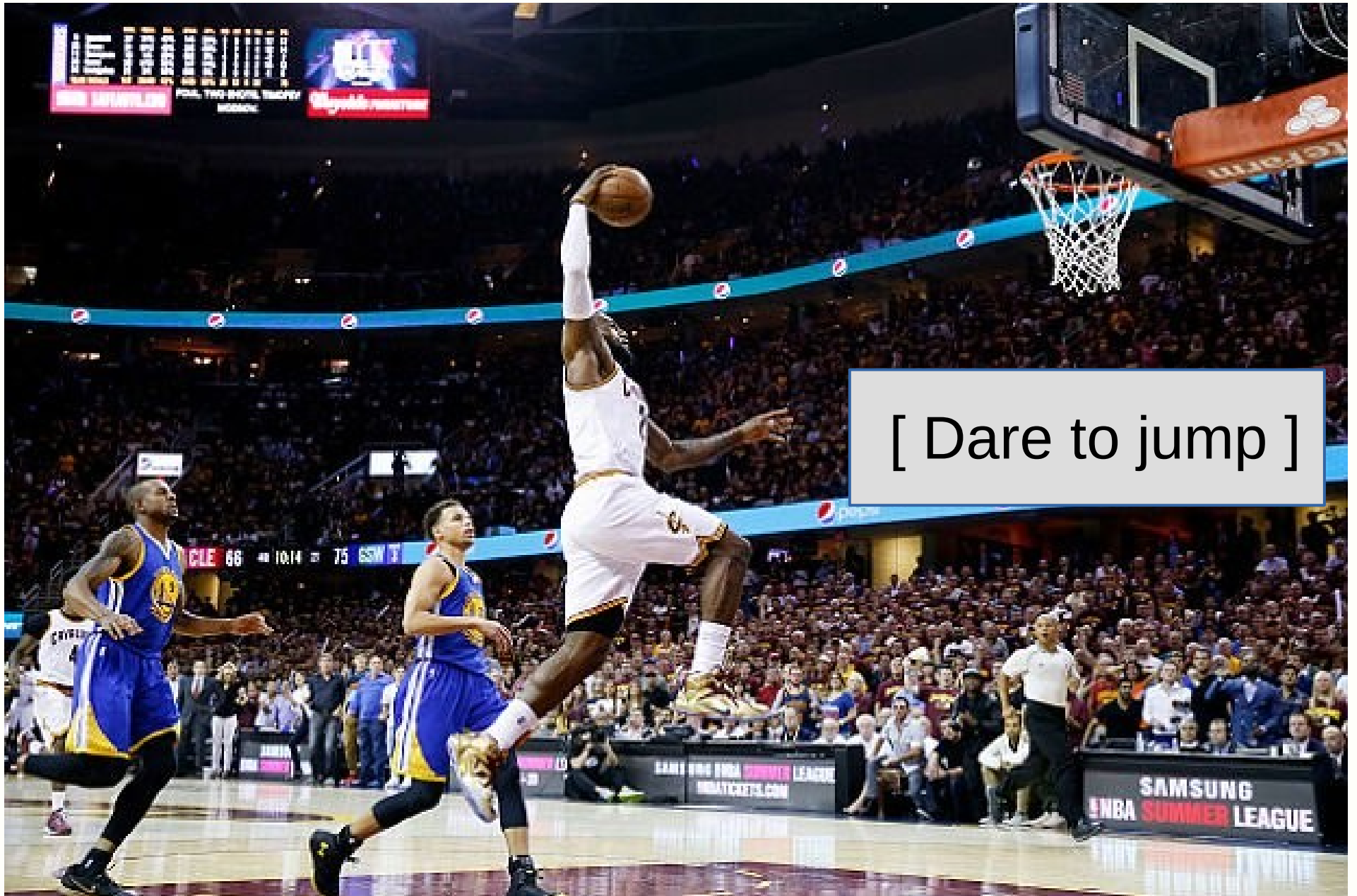
[ PostDoc @ jury member? ]

# After the PhD



[ PostDoc? Industry?  
Ask and mail anybody ]

# After the PhD



[ Dare to jump ]



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Good luck!!

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