Advice from Early PhD to Early career

Xin Luna Dong @ Amazon

A.K.A. What Would I say to the Luna of ~10 Years Ago

Xin Luna Dong @ Amazon





1. You are valuable only if you bring values to others.





Let me help!!

Yes, I'm a doctor, an expert on data integration!

No. But I can integrate data, resolve conflicts, blah blah blah

Are you sure? I even speak at the New Researcher Symposium??



Are you a doctor?

Uh? You know how to do surgery?

But I need a doctor!! Get out!!

GET OUT!!!!!!

1. You are valuable only if you bring values to others.

- Good intention is not enough. We got to know what others really need.
- "The heart of Amazon's renowned innovation prowess is called 'working backwards'."
  -- Forbs
- "Major Fear #2: We Have Been Abandoned by our Customer."
  -- Mike Stonebraker
- Understand other people's pain points. Find Solutions.
  And, I bet you it can still bring you tons of papers.

2. You make more achievements not by adding things to your TO-DO list, but by removing things.

Chinese Art: Leaving blank







Here is What We'd Like to Paint



And Here is Our Ideal Life



2. You make more achievements not by adding things to your TO-DO list, but by removing things.

- “To write a good doc, it's more important to decide what to pull out of the doc than what to cram in.”
- Same wisdom applies to life and career.
- Leave some blank so
  - you can focus
  - you have time to think
- And, whatever you do, simplify.

3. You earn trust not by showing you are right all the time, but by admitting you are wrong sometimes

Why Do I Respect My Advisor?

Containment of Nested XML Queries

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Abstract

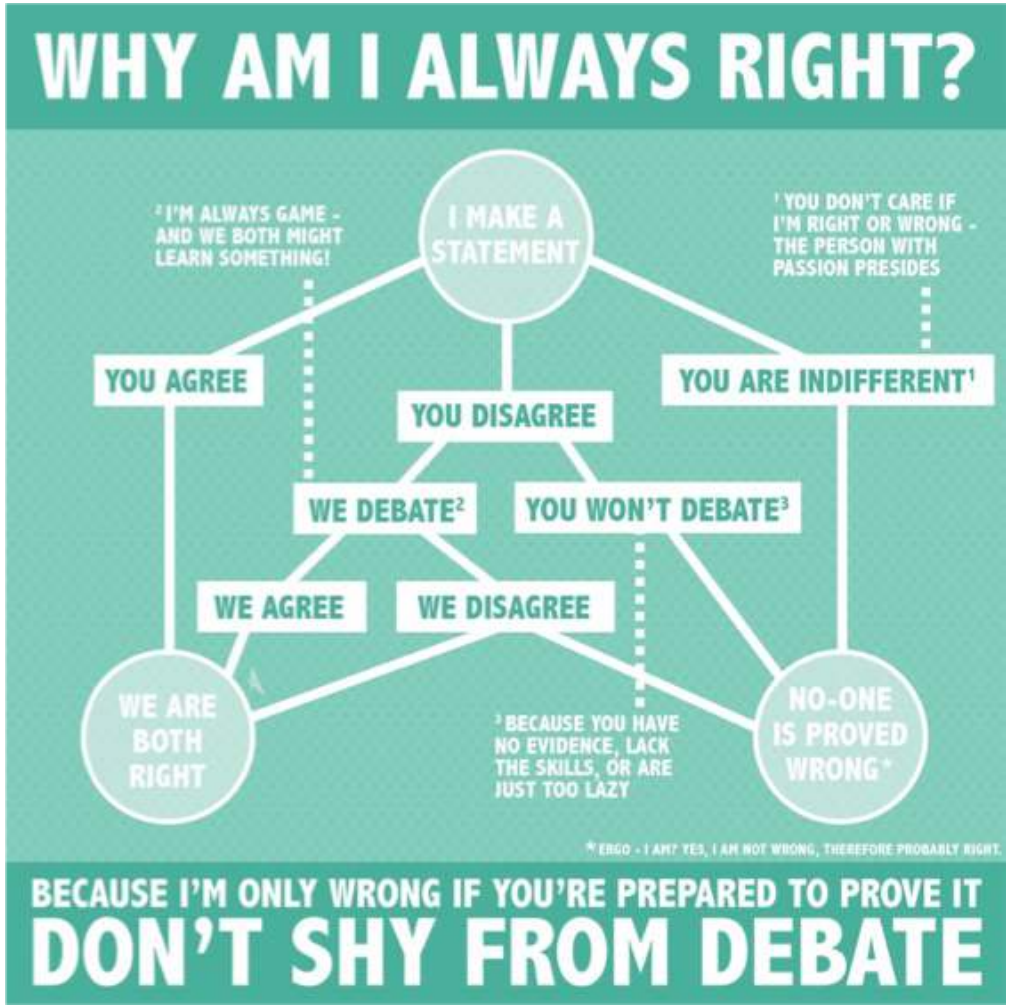
Query containment is the most fundamental relationship between a pair of database queries: a query Q is said to be contained in a query Q' if the answer for Q is always a subset of the answer for Q', independent of the current state of the database. Query containment is an important problem in a wide variety of data management applications, including verification of integrity constraints, reasoning about contents of data sources in data integration, semantic caching, verification of knowledge bases, determining queries independent of updates, and most recently, in query reformulation for peer data management systems. Query containment has been studied extensively in the relational context and for XPath queries, but not for XML queries with nesting.

tice by exploiting properties of the queries and the underlying schema.

1 Introduction

Query containment is a fundamental relationship between a pair of database queries: in the relational context, a query Q is said to be contained in a query Q' if the answer for Q is always a subset of the answer for Q', independent of the current state of the database. In the context of XML queries with nesting (or more generally, queries over complex objects), where answers are trees, we require the answer of Q be embedded in the answer of Q'. This paper considers the formal aspects of determining query containment for XML queries with nesting. We begin by describing the many motivations for

But When It Comes To Myself



3. You earn trust not by showing you are right all the time, but by admitting you are wrong sometimes

- It is much easier to defend yourself when you are wrong, than to admit it.
- "The turning point of your life is the moment you realize you are wrong."
- Keep open-minded to
  - new opinions
  - new ideas
  - new suggestions
- And, learn a lot!!

What Would I Say ~10 years Ago to the Advice?



Thanks a lot for the advice! That's exactly what I'm doing and I've tried my best.



When did I realize I'm old?

- When I started realizing I'm often wrong
- When I realized I'm not good at everything and I cannot do everything
- When I got hungry for putting things into production and for real impact
- When I got the big desire to help young people succeed!

THANK YOU!