

Alternative Career Choices

Daniel A. Jiménez

The University of Texas at San Antonio

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