

Career skills

How to:

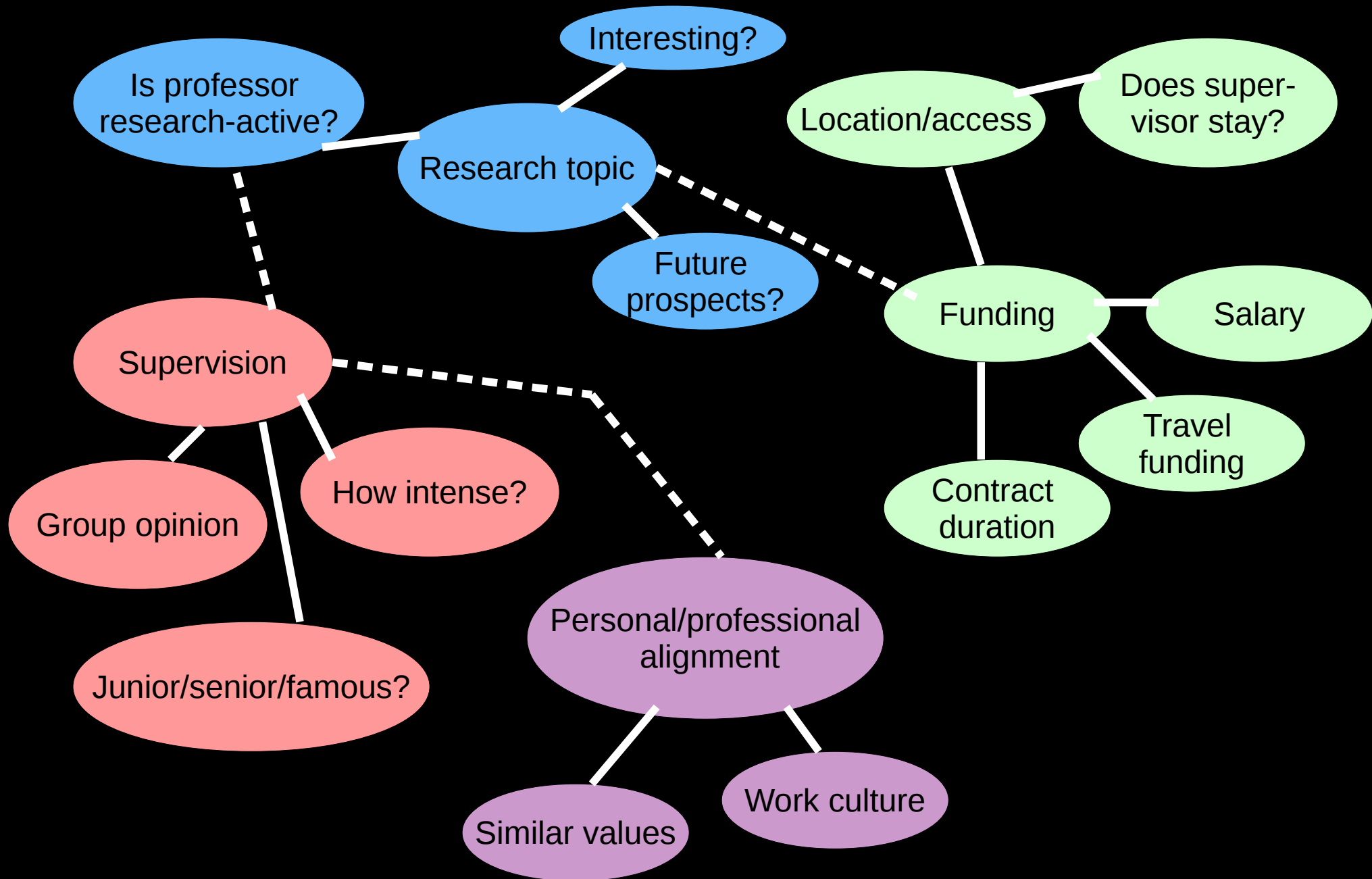
- select a supervisor
- talk to people at conferences

Career skills

How to:

- **select a supervisor**
- talk to people at conferences

Career skills: how to select a supervisor



Selecting a supervisor

Check professor's research activity on ADS
(Astrophysics Data System):

<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu>

- first / second author papers? Should be at least 1 every 2 years in astronomy.
- other author positions, papers with large collaborations?

Selecting a supervisor

If possible, talk to people (other students) who are in the professor's research group.

- supervision style?
- work culture (work hours, holidays, ...?)

Career skills

How to:

- select a supervisor
- **talk to people at conferences**

Academic conferences



Cool Stars 20 workshop, Boston 2018, image source: Ondřej Pejcha

Academic conferences



American Astronomical Society Winter meeting, Seattle 2019, image source: Yvette Cendes

Academic conferences



image source: Carnegie Geophysical Laboratory

Academic conferences

Situations:

- 1) Want to talk to a specific person about a specific thing (job? collaboration?)
- 2) Poster session: you visiting someone's poster, or you talking to someone visiting your poster
- 3) Want to ask someone something after they gave a talk
- 4) Small talk - coffee breaks etc.

Academic conferences

Situations:

1) Want to talk to a specific person about a specific thing (job? collaboration?)

2) Poster session: you visiting or you talking to someone visiting

3) Want to ask someone something
gave a talk

4) Small talk - coffee breaks etc.

**There's several options
what y can do in each
situation; the next slides
give you one option each
that is never wrong.**

Academic conferences

1) Want to talk to a specific person about a specific thing (job? collaboration?)

Academic conferences

1) Want to talk to a specific person about a specific thing (job? collaboration?)

- this is something to talk to your supervisor about beforehand
- email the person before the conference, set up a meeting in a coffee break or at a poster session
- introduce yourself, talk about the thing

Academic conferences

2a) Poster session: you visiting someone's poster

Academic conferences

2a) Poster session: you visiting someone's poster

“Hi! Would you mind walking me through your poster?”

Then listen & ask any follow-up questions you may have.

Academic conferences

2b) Poster session: you talking to someone visiting your poster

Academic conferences

2b) Poster session: you talking to someone visiting your poster

“Hi! Would you like me to walk you through my project, or would you first like to read it by yourself?”

Academic conferences

3) Want to ask someone something after they gave a talk (but you didn't get to ask your question in the Q&A session)

Academic conferences

3) Want to ask someone something after they gave a talk

- can try to catch person for a chat at coffee break, but can be difficult if they always have lots of people around.
- if not last day of conference: can email person and ask for a quick chat on one of the other conference days (like situation 1)

Academic conferences

4) Small talk - coffee breaks etc.

Academic conferences

4) Small talk - coffee breaks etc.

Goal: spent 5 minutes chatting to pass the time. Nobody likes coffee breaks if they don't know many people, so if you make small talk easy for the other person, this will leave a positive impression about you.

Academic conferences

4) Small talk - coffee breaks etc.

Starting point:

“Hi! I think we haven’t met. I’m XYZ from ABC university. How about you?”

Academic conferences

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Starting point:

“Hi! I think we haven’t met. I’m XYZ from ABC university. How about you?”

If your conversation partner is good, they will ask questions back.

If not, you follow up with mildly related, harmless things.

Academic conferences

4) Small talk - coffee breaks etc.

Possible topics:

- What do you work on? (Elevator pitch!)

If you don't know anything about their topic, you can always say:

“Oh, I don't know much about XYZ. What are the new exciting things people work on at the moment?”

Academic conferences

4) Small talk - coffee breaks etc.

Possible topics:

- The city they live in (are they from there? what is it like there?)
- Their institute (large, small, many students or few)
- Freetime things at the conference location

Academic conferences

4) Small talk - coffee breaks etc.

Now: test run!



Contact me:

If you have any questions, you can reach me via email at:

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