Debology

1. “Never show Todd your dirty underwear.”

Moral: Never give your code to your collaborators.

2. When your program is not working, there are three things that could be the cause:

1. Derivation is broken

2. Derivation right, program wrong

3. Derivation right, program right, simulation wrong

3. Always use a praise sandwich when communicating. For example, “John, nice work. Fix this. Great work.” (credit to Molly)

4. Never say you’re sorry in an email.

5. Just write it poorly.

6. The reviewers are always right.

7. When debugging, there are three things to remember:

1. Do one thing at a time

2. Put your code on one page so you can see it

3. You’re stupider than you think

7a. Build modular code – don’t go more than one screen length without a self-check

8. “You’re brain is like a tiny axe. It can only chop little pieces of wood at one time.”

Moral: Break the problem down into completable tasks (ie, get simple stupid)

9. There are always three reasons, three parts, three possibilities

10. Always send a thank you letter (credit to Deb’s mom)

11. Never be wrong in writing (credit to Anise)

12. Don’t piss off the reviewers.

13. Don’t forget the Jacobian!

14. Always spellcheck before you send.

15. What is our goal? To shovel papers out the door and amass rejection letters.

16. Glueck Idiot Index: If you’re not failing you’re not learning.

17. Hoffman Negative One Factor: If the math isn’t working out, try multiplying by -1.

18. You must establish dominance in the initial meeting with investigators

Some things to do to establish dominance:

1. Dress nice
2. Folders with papers
3. Notepad
4. Cool graphics (drill-down, animated)

19. From Toledano: Publication is a binomial process. You can’t control the p but you can control the n

20. Grandpa Keith: something about successive approximations

21. Gary Grunwald: To stall for time, stroke your mustache

Research is a nonlinear process

22. Always back up. In fact, back up right now because your computer is about to die.

23. Always do documentation and archiving. Documentation and archiving will save you.

24. It takes three mistakes to learn something.

25. You can’t do it all. Hire someone to do it. Delegate. (credit to Etta)

26. Always say no. You should pick the yes’s with as much care as you pick your husband. (Grandpa Keith)

27. Take the time to celebrate your successes.

28. To solve any problem it helps to have more office supplies.

29. You don't have to impress me anymore. It's like we're married, not dating. -concerning how polished my writing should be before I show it to her. She really just wanted my power analysis done already!

30. The best unbiased estimator is big and takes up the most space on the page.

31. In regards to googling the cc: “You have to know who the players are.”

32. no reason not to cite terrifying statistics in the first paragraph

(deb on writing a manuscript)

33. no one cares about the pile of dead Jews; they care about the porcupine in the red jacket (deb on how to hook the reader)

34. “We are done with the dom / sub portion of our relationship.” (during one of our final meetings in Colorado around when I graduated)

35. The coauthor conversation is like the condom talk with the strange guy you’re about to have sex with. You have to get it out of the way first to protect all interested parties. (paraphrase from Deb)

36. Honorable mention: When asked what to do about John’s end-stage dissertation depression, Sarah Kreidler responded, “I’m going to buy him an arepa.”