

# Conduct Research in a Hard Way

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This essay summarizes my bad habits when doing research. I keep reminding myself of these traps to avoid inefficient time use. My experience validates this finding: **people forget things so quickly and so often**. Sometimes, I completely forget them. In other cases, I forget the correct details and have the wrong copies in my mind. If you don't have these habits, you are on the right track.

## I. Learn New Skills

I need to learn new models and techniques all the time, not only when I was a student. However, it can be very time-consuming either because the notation is complex or the logic is unfamiliar to me. To sum it up, I cannot use them immediately. This happens a lot when I try to build a new model.

- When learning new materials, simple and **replicable** examples are the best starting point.

## II. How to get research ideas?

Until now, joining seminars and having conversations with my colleagues are still the two most important sources of my research ideas. I find myself thinking actively in these two events. Interaction is a catalyst for research ideas.

## III. Decent and informative conversation

- Conversations can easily become abstract. Many of the questions, once down to the ground, are solved automatically. Make sure to talk about concrete examples and simple concepts.
- Don't expect to give perfect answers. But give concise and intuitive answers. Don't give abstract comments. Make the logic accurate.
- Use neutral and accurate terminologies. Emphasizing is not exaggerating.

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