

How to: make the most of your Conference

Welcome to share/modify
Don't use it for profitable purposes

Dr.

Haoyang Ye

Email: haoyang.ye@cantab.net

Website: haoyangye.com/Home

Slides: <https://github.com/zoeye859/Workshop>



Before the workshop

1

You are not allowed to be silent. Share your ideas and talk to people around you (**even if you don't know them very well**)

2

Ask relevant questions whenever you like - **without standing up, simply raise your hand**

3

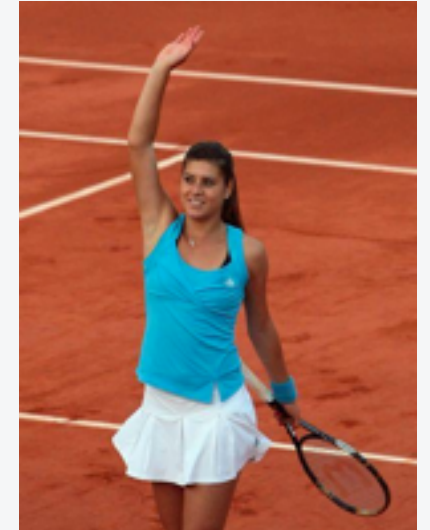
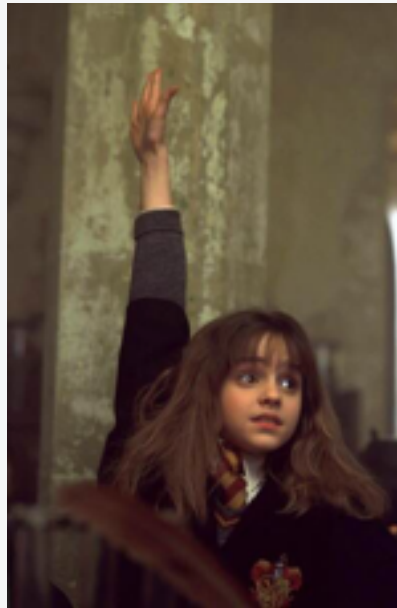
Phone: volume down to **minimum** please

4

Leave **anytime** you like (don't need to tell me that you need to go to the toilet, just go!)

Practice 1: Raise your hand

Practice at least **3 styles** of raising your hand, and find your favourite style!



Practice 1: Raise your hand



Now please raise your hand!

Practice 1: Raise your hand



Now please raise your hand!

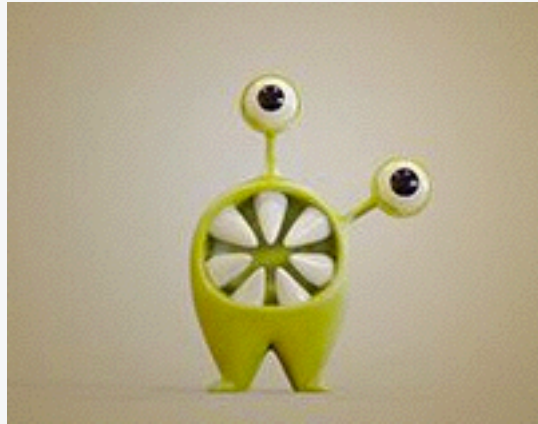
Remember this feeling!!!

(Practice at home until you feel comfortable raising up your hand!!)

Practice 2: Brainstorming



Motivation: what do you want to get from this workshop?



Brainstorming:

Voice your ideas without consequences -
no one should judge your idea during brainstorming, including yourself!

Practice 2: Brainstorming



Motivation: what do you want to get from this workshop?





Your thoughts & notes ...



- 1 Prepare for the conference
- 2 Your conference mindset
- 3 Social social social - how?
- 4 What's next?

Discussion 1: Conference preparation



How did/will you prepare for your conference?

Discussion 1: Conference preparation



How did/will you prepare for your conference?



Tip 1: read the program

[Home](#)

[Welcome Letter](#)

[Announcement](#)

[Organizers](#)

[Registration](#)

[Participants](#)

[Accommodations](#)

[Program](#)

[Proceedings](#)

[Prizes](#)

[Photos](#)

[Contact](#)

Scientific Program of FAST/Future Pulsar Symposium 9

August 28-30, 2020, Xiamen University, Xiamen

===== Thursday (pm), August 27 =====

4:00 -- 6:00 Registration (Xiamen Aqua Resort 厦门五缘水乡3号楼酒店前台)

===== Friday (pm), August 28 =====

1:50 Opening (LI Ang; Fang Taotao)

Chair: Dai, Zigao (20min = 15+5)

2:00-2:20 Huang, Yongfeng: [Energy injection from the central magnetar and its effect on the GRB afterglow](#)

2:20-2:40 Zhang, Binbin: [GRB 200415A: A Short Gamma-Ray Burst from a Magnetar Giant Flare?](#)

2:40-3:00 Lai, Xiaoyu: [Merging strangeon stars: the ejecta and light curve](#)

*3:00-3:20 Liu, Liangduan: [Constraining the Long-lived Magnetar Remnants in Short Gamma-Ray Bursts from Late-time Radio Observations](#)

What to look for in
a program

Tip 1: read the program

[Home](#)

[Welcome Letter](#)

[Announcement](#)

[Organizers](#)

[Registration](#)

[Participants](#)

[Accommodations](#)

[Program](#)

[Proceedings](#)

[Prizes](#)

[Photos](#)

[Contact](#)

Scientific Program of FAST/Future Pulsar Symposium 9

August 28-30, 2020, Xiamen University, Xiamen

===== Thursday (pm), August 27 =====

4:00 -- 6:00 Registration (Xiamen Aqua Resort 厦门五缘水乡3号楼酒店前台)

===== Friday (pm), August 28 =====

1:50 Opening (LI Ang; Fang Taotao)

Chair: Dai, Zigao (20min = 15+5)

2:00-2:20 Huang, Yongfeng: [Energy injection from the central magnetar and its effect on the GRB afterglow](#)

2:20-2:40 Zhang, Binbin: [GRB 200415A: A Short Gamma-Ray Burst from a Magnetar Giant Flare?](#)

2:40-3:00 Lai, Xiaoyu: [Merging strangeon stars: the ejecta and light curve](#)

*3:00-3:20 Liu, Liangduan: [Constraining the Long-lived Magnetar Remnants in Short Gamma-Ray Bursts from Late-time Radio Observations](#)

Topic coverage?

Any coffee break session?

Any panel discussion?

Newest results?

Many/few students?

Tip 1: read the program

[Home](#)[Welcome Letter](#)[Announcement](#)[Organizers](#)[Registration](#)[Participants](#)[Accommodations](#)[Program](#)[Proceedings](#)[Prizes](#)[Photos](#)[Contact](#)

Scientific rational

Pulsars are not only interesting objects for us to understand various astronomical phenomena, but also testbeds for fundamental laws as well as tools for detecting nHz gravitational waves. The Annual FPS series aims to promote pulsar research, gathering pulsar astronomers to exchange ideas on recent developments, provoke discussion, and foster collaboration.

From the year 2017, FPS Prizes would be announced during meeting. Winners (one Crab Prize and Two Vela Prizes) are selected from the FPS speakers of students and postdoc fellows, by an ad hoc committee.

Previous meetings

FPS1 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS1.html>) in Xinjiang

FPS2 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS2.html>) in Kunming

FPS3 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS3.html>) in Shanghai

FPS4 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS4.html>) in Inner Mongolia

FPS5 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS5.html>) in Zunyi Guizhou

FPS6 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS6/FPS6.html>) in Wuhan Hubei

FPS7 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS7/FPS7.html>) in Guangzhou Guang

FPS8 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS8/FPS8.html>) in Xi'an Shaanxi

What can you get from this Welcome page?

Tip 1: read the program

[Home](#)[Welcome Letter](#)[Announcement](#)[Organizers](#)[Registration](#)[Participants](#)[Accommodations](#)[Program](#)[Proceedings](#)[Prizes](#)[Photos](#)[Contact](#)

Scientific rational

Pulsars are not only interesting objects for us to understand various astronomical phenomena, but also testbeds for fundamental laws as well as tools for detecting nHz gravitational waves. The Annual [FPS](#) series aims to promote pulsar research, gathering pulsar astronomers to exchange ideas on recent developments, provoke discussion, and foster collaboration.

From the year 2017, [FPS](#) Prizes would be announced during meeting. Winners (one Crab Prize and Two Vela Prizes) are selected from the [FPS](#) speakers of students and postdoc fellows, by an ad hoc committee.

Previous meetings

FPS1 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS1.html>) in Xinjiang
FPS2 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS2.html>) in Kunming
FPS3 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS3.html>) in Shanghai
FPS4 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS4.html>) in Inner Mongolia
FPS5 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS5.html>) in Zunyi Guizhou
FPS6 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS6/FPS6.html>) in Wuhan Hubei
FPS7 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS7/FPS7.html>) in Guangzhou Guang
FPS8 (<http://www.phy.pku.edu.cn/~FPS/FPS8/FPS8.html>) in Xi'an Shaanxi

You can also check
past conference details

Tip 1: read the program

[Home](#)[Welcome Letter](#)[Announcement](#)[Organizers](#)[Registration](#)[Participants](#)[Accommodations](#)[Program](#)[Proceedings](#)[Prizes](#)[Photos](#)[Contact](#)

Registered Participants

This list will be updated everyday.

Name	Affiliation	Abstract submitted
Bai, Juntao	Guizhou Normal University	
Cao, Shunshun	Peking University	
Chen, Jianling	Yuncheng University	
Chen, Liang	Shanghai Astronomical Observatory	
Chen, Shichuan	Peking University	
Dai, Shun	National Time Service Center	
Dai, Zigao	Nanjing University	快速射电暴的起源研究
Deng, Furen	National Astronomical Observatories of China	Tianlai Dish Array Multi-Beam Forming
Deng, Jingyuan	Peking University	
Deng, Zhuling	Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory	On the Formation of PSR J1640+2224: A Neutron Star Born Massive?
Diao, Zhenqi	Guizhou Normal University	

Participants

Who do you want to know?

Possible collaborator/supervisor/employer?

Meet your remote collaborator the first time?

Tip 2: Don't panic if you missed the registration deadline

Simply email the conference organiser — ASAP

But - you may need to arrange your own accommodation

Tip 2: Don't panic if you missed the registration deadline

Simply email the conference organiser — ASAP

But - you may need to arrange your own accommodation

Warning: don't do this too often, or you need to improve your decision-making/planning skills

Tip 3: If you register very early

- Why not suggest a session topic? (usually not possible in China, but try elsewhere)
- Suggest/host a panel discussion?
- Give a talk? (again, even if the deadline has passed, it still might not be too late)
- Facilitate a workshop session?

Tip 4: prepare and practice your talk before the conference

Wait until the last minute is very stressful - who would not?

You should enjoy the conference, rather than only focusing on your presentation!

Tip 4: prepare and practice your talk before the conference

Wait until the last minute is very stressful - who would not?

You should enjoy the conference, rather than only focusing on your presentation!

Aim:

- slides done
- practice your talk at least 5 times (at least 1 time to someone else)
- upload it to your github repo/ website/ ...
- prepare for technical problems - back up your slides in PDF, pptx, key...

Tip 5: arrange meetings

Arrange meet-ups with participants:

- Email: researchers you want to connect

“I saw your talk/name on the conference program... I am interested in your xx work ... My work is on ... I have some specific questions on ... would you mind if I take several minutes of your time during ... ?”

- Text/email: close friends/collaborators/mentors

“Grab a drink at?”

Practice 3: Plan your next conference (1)



Will you try Tip 1-5?

If not, what are your biggest fears/stress?

(you can discuss it with me after the workshop.)



3 mins to write down your preparation plan for your next conference!



Your thoughts & notes ...



- 1 Prepare for the conference
- 2 Your conference mindset
- 3 Social social social - how?
- 4 What's next?

Practice 4: Motivation - todo list



Look at our motivation list earlier

Practice 4: Motivation - todo list

Your motivation

Your to-do list during conference:



Tip 6: talk to your seniors



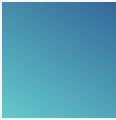
Senior PhD students, postdocs, supervisors, other senior researchers in your institute





- If you don't know the purpose of your attending the conference, ask!
- If you feel uncomfortable to go alone, ask seniors to 'take care' of you (introduce you, include you...)
- Observe what they do during conference

Discussion 2: Share your motivation - todo list

Your thoughts & notes ...

Tip 7: contribute contribute contribute

 Have a contributor's mindset, you are here because you want to advance science/technology in this field

-  Be active: ask questions at Q&A, initiate discussions
-  Help people: answer questions, help people get connected, invite talks
-  Offer useful materials: useful paper/documents/software/PPTs? A well-made booklist? Good video talk links?
-  Seek collaboration: Advertise your work/software/skills + *“would you be interested to invite me for a talk?”*



Your thoughts & notes ...



- 1 Prepare for the conference
- 2 Your conference mindset
- 3 Social social social - how?
- 4 What's next?

Social social and social!!!

Unfortunately, you cannot avoid this forever....

Here is a toolkit for you—

- Start a conversation
- Make new connections
- Exit a conversation
- Maintain a conversation

Focus on the social part. Maybe another workshop on presentation?



You make contacts to...



Advertise your research/paper/software...



Seek collaboration/visiting opportunities



Generate new ideas/research projects



Approach potential employers



....

Tip 8: killer conversation starter

When you are in a line for coffee/buffet/toilet:

Chat with the person standing next to you:

- *I really enjoy the weather here in [city name]. Have you been here before?* daily conversation, nothing serious
- *Long queue! You want coffee or tea? I am going for coffee.*
- *Have you tried [dish name]? It looks very tasty.*
- *You gave the talk yesterday on [topic], right? You talked about ...*

Tip 8: killer conversation starter

When you are early for a talk:

Chat with the speaker as well as the person sitting next to you:

- *You must be [speaker's name]. I am [name] from [institution]. I am so interested in your work in XYZ ... Would you mind if I come to find you during the [break time]?* pick a time when the speaker looks relaxed (relatively)
- *Which talk do you feel the most interesting so far?*
- *Which poster do you find interesting?*
- *Which session are you going to attend next?*
- *Who do you recommend me to talk to in the [field name]?*

Tip 8: killer conversation starter

Very simple questions to ask - cliché but useful

- *What's your research interest?*
- *What's your current research project?*
- *Do you know [name]? I think you may share some research interests.*
- *What's your plan for the rest of the day?*
- *Can I ask you a question about your talk?*

Tip 8: killer conversation starter

Don't panic, everyone is expecting questions during a conference!

Practice 5: your killer conversation starters





Everyone please give me a conversation starter now.

Tip 9: initiate a connection

Check your todo list, is there anyone you desire to connect with?

- Arranged meetings before the conference
- Ask for introduction: *I want to ask [name] some questions about [topic], do you know him/her? Would you mind introducing me to him/her?*
- Approach strategically: stand/queue next to him/her while coffee break; arrive early for his/her talk
- Approach directly: elevator pitch

Tip 10: prepare your elevator pitch

-  Your name and institution
(may mention supervisor if you are a student)
Remember your badge?
It is more useful than you think!
-  Why you are here - talk? poster? your research?
-  Your past experience - your expertise, your paper, your software
-  What you want to do? - find a synergy between your plan and the conference/person's work

Practice 6: your elevator pitch

Your thoughts & notes ...

Keep it compact and practice it until you can say it out loud without hesitation/pauses

Tip 11: join a conversation

When you see a group of people chatting, you want to join:

- Find a person you know — exchange an eye contact, or have a small wave of hand. You don't have to stand next to him/her
- Find a gap and blend in — listen first, contribute later
- If you don't know what to say, just listen.
- You can contribute by asking questions — don't try to dominate a conversation!

Tip 12: maintain a conversation or make a conversation more interesting

People would not leave an interesting conversation, so how to contribute to an interesting conversation?

- Contribute insightful opinion
 - Share information — everybody wants to accumulate more info
 - Humour— a spontaneous joke
 - Ask good questions
 - Have lunch together, so that you don't have to talk about science :D
- Add value to the conversation!

How to ask good questions

This topic worths a separate workshop.

See further reading/watching slide

But you can always ask:

You talked about XYZ, it is very interesting, can you talk a little bit more on this?

Tip 13: prepare conversation exit

Check your todo list, is there anyone you desire to connect with?

3 steps:

1. Appreciation: *Thank you very much for your time! (or something else you feel grateful for)*
2. Follow up: *Can I add you on twitter/whatsapp/wechat? or I will drop you an email to catch up.*
3. Handshake/wave/eye contact + `see you later' or `good luck'

Tip 14: challenge yourself until you know your limits

- If you are an introvert, please try to join a group chat — you can learn and connect with people by listening — if it takes you too much energy, so why not arrange some one-on-one conversations?
- Social is very important, but don't exhaust yourself — you need enough food/drink/sleep
- You don't have to know everyone, so be relaxed. Connect with people you genuinely interested in, and discuss topics that you feel most excited about.

Tip 15: be nice, honest and genuine

Practice 7: Plan your next conference (2)



Will you try Tip 8-15?

If not, what are your biggest fears/stress?

(you can discuss it with me after the workshop.)



3 mins to write down your social plan for your next conference!



Your thoughts & notes ...



- 1 Prepare for the conference
- 2 Your conference mindset
- 3 Social social social - how?
- 4 What's next?

Tip 16: thank you email/notes

Enjoyed the conference? Then you may want to appreciate the following groups of people:

- The organising committee - they have done all the hard work, but usually receive few thanks.
- Who invited you to this conference? Thank them and let them know how you enjoyed the conference - learn more things? Generate new ideas? Make great connections?
- People who helped you in many different ways at the conference: thanks them for their time, their answers, their kindness, etc.

Tip 17: Organise conference materials

- If recordings/PPTs not provided, ask if any attendee has them (you can even be the person to write to speakers for PPTs)
- Organise your notes, to-do lists, ideas generated during the conference
- Organise a small talk to share with your colleagues, on what you have learned, things/trends that all the people are talking about, important updates/news/announcements

Tip 18: Reconnect and reflect

- Reconnect with people using your own way — twitter? wechat? email?
- Reflect what you have done great doing the conference, as well as what you need to improve the next time.
- Can you immediately act on your newly generated ideas? If so, do it right now while it is still fresh!

Practice 8: Plan your next conference (3)



Will you try Tip 16-18?

If not, what are your biggest fears/stress?

(you can discuss it with me after the workshop.)



3 mins to write down your post-conference plan!



Your thoughts & notes ...



Homework

A detailed plan

Please add the practice notes together to organise a detailed plan for your next conference meeting

Try the tips

Practice the tips as often as you can in your daily life, and conference.

Challenge yourself

Push yourself to find your current limit, research to find techniques and practice them to push your limit even further.

Please fill in this short survey, your time will be much appreciated!

<https://wj.qq.com/s2/7275687/01d3/>





Further reading/watching

- [How to make the most of an academic conference – a checklist for before, during and after the meeting](#) by Marta Teperek
- [How to Ask Better Questions | Mike Vaughan | TEDxMileHigh](#) by Mike Vaughan
- [How to Ask Questions Better](#) by Tim Ferriss
- [How to MAKE THE MOST of Conferences](#) by Jessica Sainsbury



Questionnaire

Your feedback is very much valued!

Please fill in this short survey, your time will be much appreciated!

<https://wj.qq.com/s2/7275687/01d3/>



Thank you!

Welcome to share/modify
Don't use it for profitable purposes

Dr.

Haoyang Ye

叶昊扬

Email: haoyang.ye@cantab.net

Website: haoyangye.com/Home

Slides: <https://github.com/zoeye859/Workshop>

Q&A

培训

Dr.

Haoyang Ye

叶昊扬

Email: haoyang.ye@cantab.net

Website: haoyangye.com/Home

Slides: <https://github.com/zoeye859/Workshop>