

Academia, Industry or Both?

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My Story

- First, get a PhD in Electrical Engineering. Why? Keep options open, and decide later when I am older...
- Next , industry. A fabless semiconductor company: Atheros communications (now Qualcomm-Atheros).
- Now, academia. Go Trojans!

Difference?

- Objective function is different.

Industry -> profit.

Academia -> proof of concept.

- Both are challenging and require innovations.

- Either way, you can make big impacts.

Industry -> End products.

Academia -> Originate core technology.

Which one makes you feel most excited?

Other things to consider

- Decision between industry or academia
 - Working style: Regular vs. irregular pattern.
 - Personality: Enjoy sharing knowledge?
 - Breadth vs. depth.
 - Team member: Work with professionals vs. younger researchers.
 - Openings.

Industry → Academia

- Advantages:
 - Seeing what is going on in the real world definitely helps you teach, and research.
 - Isn't it cool to know both sides?
- Disadvantage:
 - Not every industrial position allows you to work on “research-like” projects.
 - Industry job in general tends to be more focused in scope.

Conclusion

- Either way, you can make big impacts!
- Whichever side you enjoy the most is your best choice.
- If you don't know the answer for now, why not try both?