Obtaining Research Funding in the U.S.

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Why Get Funding?

- Summer salary
- Grad student salary and tuition
- Travel
- Equipment
- “Extras”: phone, xerox, ...
- Course relief?
- Support staff: programmers, post-docs, administrative support
- Reputation
- Sabbatical support
Funding Sources

- NSF
  - NSF CAREER (to be RIA again?)
- DARPA
- The services (ONR, AFOSR, ARO, ...)
  - Navy NYI
- Young investigator awards
- Foundations
- Corporations
- Your own university
- State-based funding
  - California MICRO; UC Discovery grants
- NIH
- NASA
Advice

- Read the solicitation
  - Determine the evaluation criteria
- Follow the instructions
- Talk to the program manager
  - Learn the agency’s process
- Have someone else read your draft proposal
- Watch out on human subjects
- NSF
  - Read the general grant guidelines, and learn them.
  - Learn Fastlane
  - Volunteer for NSF panels: you’ll learn a ton.
- Apply early and often; don’t give up
- Read your reviews
Additional Issues

- Joint proposals
  - PI v. co-PI
  - Pro’s and con’s
  - Cross-disciplinary research

- After you’ve won!
  - Manage your money
    - Bookkeeping v. financial planning
  - Progress reports/quarterly reports
  - Bridge funding

- More on NSF
  - “Special solicitations” v. regular programs
  - Standard budget amounts

- Homeland Security