

# My RIGHT-O Lab

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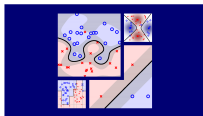
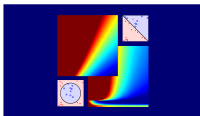
# About Me: Hsuan-Tien Lin

- Associate Professor, Dept. of CSIE
  - NTU Distinguished Teaching Award
  - NTU Outstanding Mentoring Award
  - TY Wu Memorial Award
  - KT Li Young Researcher Award
  - Six Data Mining World Champions as Team Co-leader
- **Leader of the Computational Learning Laboratory**
- Co-author of the textbook “*Learning from Data: A Short Course*” (often **ML best seller on Amazon**)
- Instructor of the NTU-Coursera Mandarin-teaching ML MOOCs



“*Machine Learning Foundations*”: [www.coursera.org/course/ntumlone](http://www.coursera.org/course/ntumlone)

“*Machine Learning Techniques*”: [www.coursera.org/course/ntumltwo](http://www.coursera.org/course/ntumltwo)



# My RIGHT-O Lab

(2008) 1 Professor, 3 MS Students  $\implies$

(2015) 1 Professor, 1/3 Secretary, 1 RA, 7 MS Students, 6 Undergrads, 27 Alumni



## Core Values

- Responsive
- Interactive
- Growing
- Honest
- Trustworthy
- Open

# Responsive

keep every communication within the lab **efficient**

## For Me

- respond students' emails **almost immediately**
- meeting for **active research discussion**, not just hearing reports
- students' meeting request at **toppest priority to say yes**

## For Students

- respond emails **reasonably fast**, at least with **expected full-response time**
- meeting for **active research discussion**, not just hearing commands
- my meeting request at toppest priority to **say yes or no**

# Interactive

keep every research work going **towards the highest quality**

## For Me

- personal meeting for **active research discussion**
- **“force”** students to interact in group meeting
  - newbie homework
  - mini-workshops
- encourage students to **debate with me or others**

## For Students

- **no talk nonsense** in personal meeting (**always okay to cancel**)
- **no hiding and wasting time** in group meeting
- guideline for students: if **don't know what to do next, time to ask** other members—**not limited to me**

# Growing

everyone is a **“learner”** within the lab

## For Me

- **courageously** and **modestly** learn from my students
- open-minded to students' **learning opportunities**
  - summer school
  - internship
  - courses

## For Students

- start learning from each other **from day 1**  
—newbie homework: **when one teaches, two learn**
- think **out of box**, step **out of comfort zone**, and learn

# Honest

keep the lab “home-like”

—do **not take any unfair advantage** over other members

## For Me

- treat students with **fair and respect**
  - **no unfair request**
  - issues somewhat unrelated with research
    - help me review papers
    - help as my TAs
    - refill lab beers :-)
- can **always say no**
- highlight and exercise academic **integrity**

## For Students

- honest with me about **“life crisis”**
- honest to everyone (including themselves) about **research results**
- honest in **expressing yes/no**

# Trustworthy

keep everyone the **best supporter** for other lab members

## For Me

- **follow deadlines** as seriously as everyone
- **no arrogance: apologize** if I make mistakes —what if I have to be late for students' meetings?
- let students' **secrets stay safe** with me
- always remember: **trust is hardest to establish**

## For Students

- responsible: finish **on time**, or **take responsibility to re-schedule**
- **quality**-oriented
- bottom line: can say no to almost any requests (from me or others), but need to be **trustworthy to yes-requests**



# Open

keep the lab **free-style**

## For Me

- open in **letting students say no**
- open in **receiving constructive criticism**
- open in **students' chosen research topics**, not mine

## For Students

- open in **expressing needs/preferences, including saying no**
- open in **receiving constructive criticism**
- open in **brainstorming for better solutions**

# Summary

## RIGHT-O: Core Values of CLLab

- Responsive: **efficiency**
- Interactive: **quality**
- Growing: **learner-matching**
- Honest: **home-like**
- Trustworthy: **supporting**
- Open: **free-style**

## Appendix: Some Wise Quotes

- (anonymous) research is **teaching in another style**
- (Chih-Jen Lin) remember that your **one sentence may cause your member one month** to do it  
—more at [http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/mlgroup/rule\\_manager.html](http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/mlgroup/rule_manager.html)
- (Yaser Abu-Mostafa, my Ph.D. advisor) I have to **contribute to more than 10%** of your work **to qualify as co-author**  
—full story at <https://www.facebook.com/hsuantien/posts/10152276450637810>
- (Lin-Shan Lee) **time is like diamond**, if you cut it to tiny pieces, it is useless
- (Ming-Syan Chen) uncertainty principle: if you measure the numbers (citation counts, evaluation scores, etc.) too seriously, they become inaccurate  
—**make numbers good, don't make good numbers**