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?