

How to find/work-on Technology Problems Relevant for Policy Issues

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Tutorial

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Instructor:

Anant Sahai, University of California, Berkeley

Abstract: Finding and formulating a good problem is often more than half of research. There are four basic categories of problems on the technology side of dynamic spectrum access:

1. Relevant problems inspired by the real needs of potential systems that use dynamic spectrum access. (e.g. The kind of stuff that might influence thinking in a standard.)
2. Irrelevant problems that superficially look like they might be relevant to engineers building systems.
3. Irrelevant problems that superficially look like they might be relevant to policy-makers or economic considerations.
4. Relevant problems inspired by the real challenges and conceptual questions facing potential regulators, lawyers, economists, and policy makers.

The dirty-little-secret is that the field is getting quite crowded in both (2) and (3), while (1) still has room for good research and (4) is largely open. This tutorial will give recipes to construct problems in all four categories, but will spend most of its time on the least understood category: #4. By the end of the tutorial, it is hoped that attendees will be able to construct problems in all

categories or will at least know what they need to study in order to do so.

Authors:

Sahai, Anant

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