

enjoying and getting
research degrees
reliably

Drive



Harold Thimbleby



personal opinions

Four points of view

1. You
2. International research
3. Your department
4. Your supervisor

I.

You

Vision

drive
not mediocrity

Reflection

1. What have you read?
2. What courses have you done?
3. What have you learnt about *research* as such?
4. What research skills are you learning?

Further reading

- Steven Covey, *Seven Habits of Highly Successful People*
- Gordon Rugg & Marian Petre, *The Unwritten Rules of PhD Research*
- Estelle Phillips & Derek Pugh, *How to Get a PhD* (4th ed)
- David Crystal, *Encyclopedia of English*
- Richard Feynman, *Cargo Cult Science*
- Richard Wiseman, *The Luck Factor*
- Carol Dweck, *Mindsets*
- Paul Cairns & Anna Cox, *Research Methods for Human-Computer Interaction*
[or equivalent for your area]

Begin with the end in mind

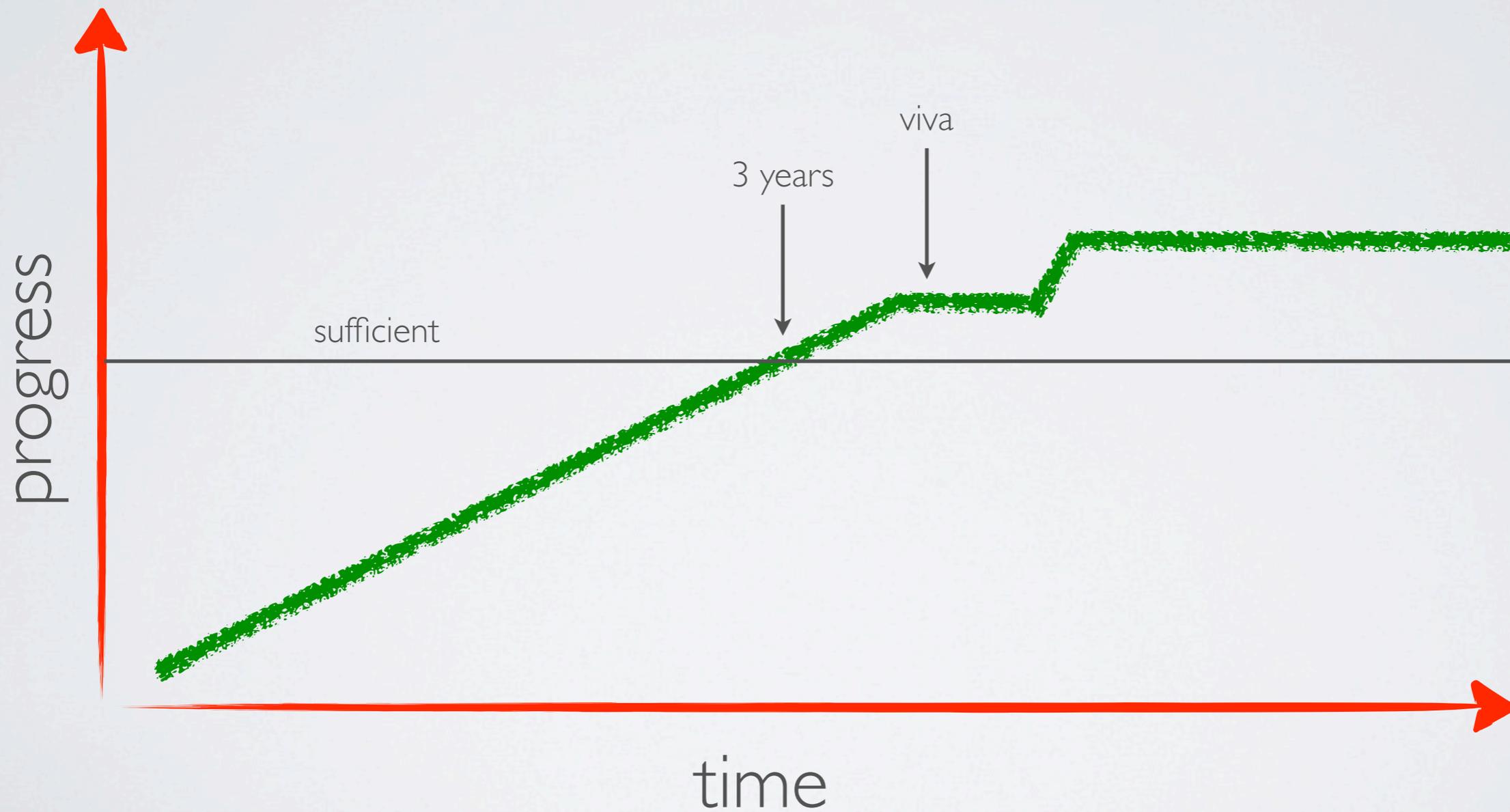
- Thesis
- Viva
- Actual and recognised research skills
- Actual and recognised professional skills

**If you don't know where you are going
you won't know
whether you are doing enough to get there**

C calibration

not ignorance
work hard

What is enough thesis?

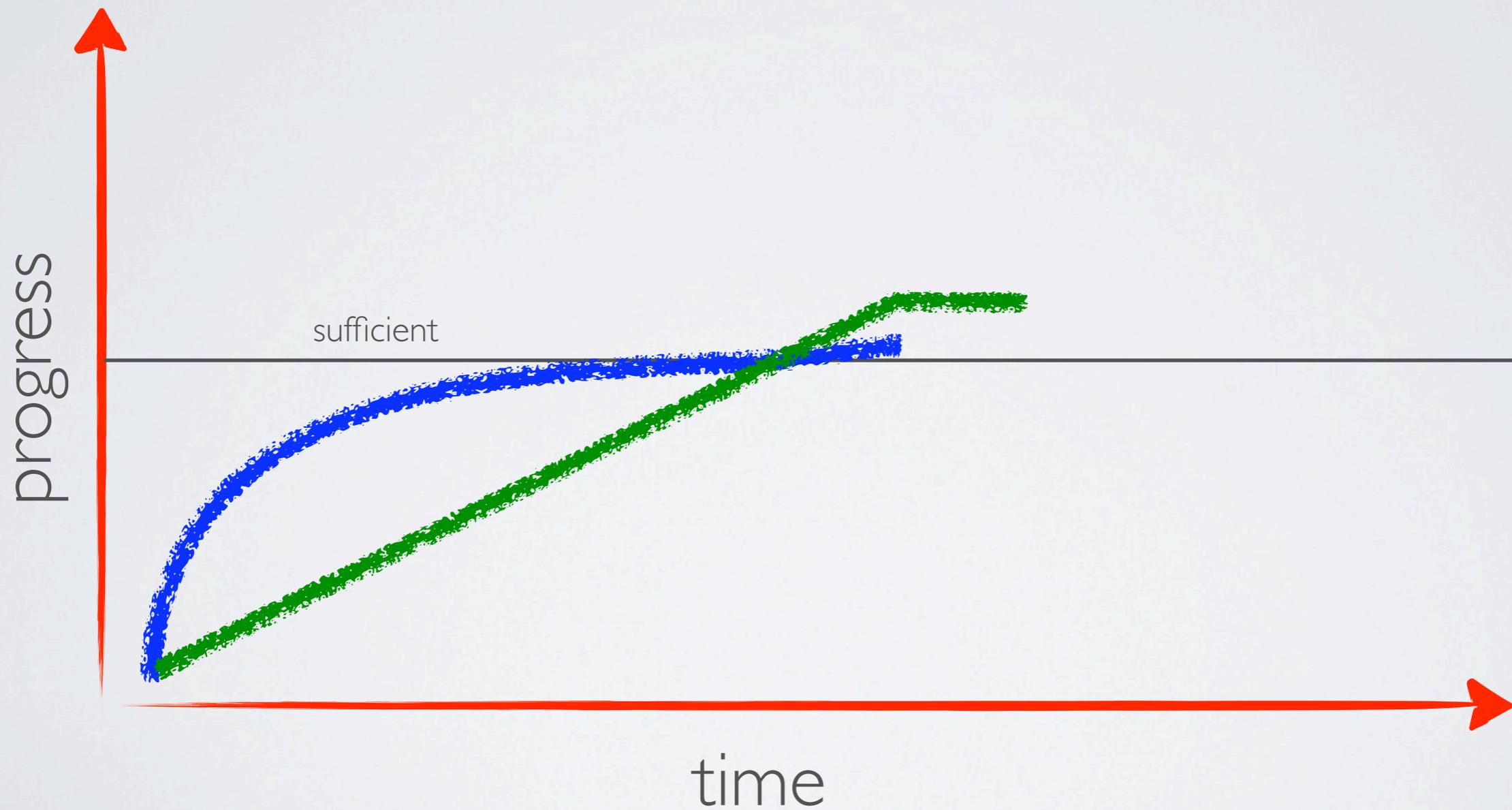


750 things?

pages, references, code, stuff

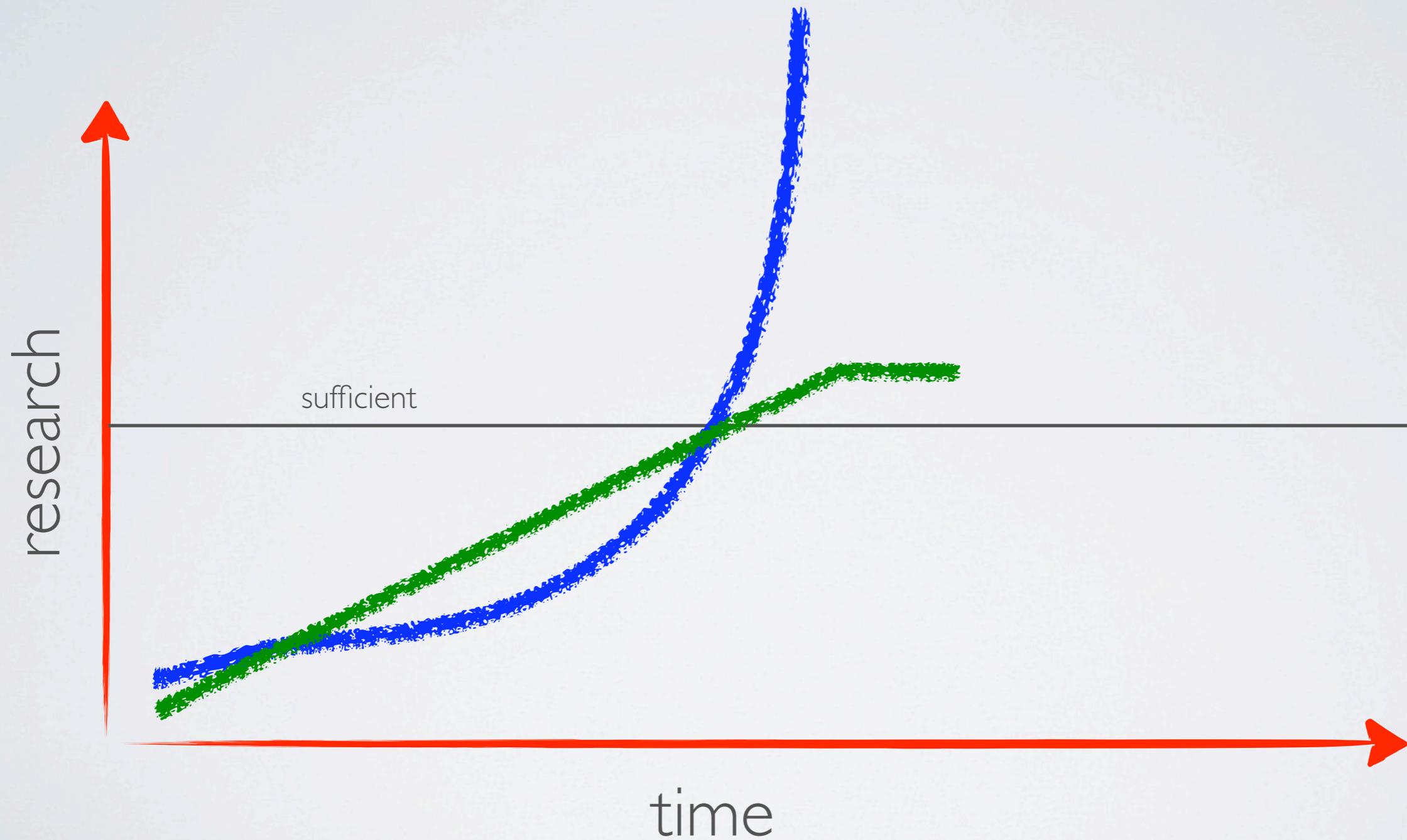
- 1 year = 50 weeks
- 1 week = 5 days
- 1 PhD = $750 \div 50$ advances per day
- Average one advance a day
- **If you work uniformly all the time**
- Some days **much** more

What is enough research?

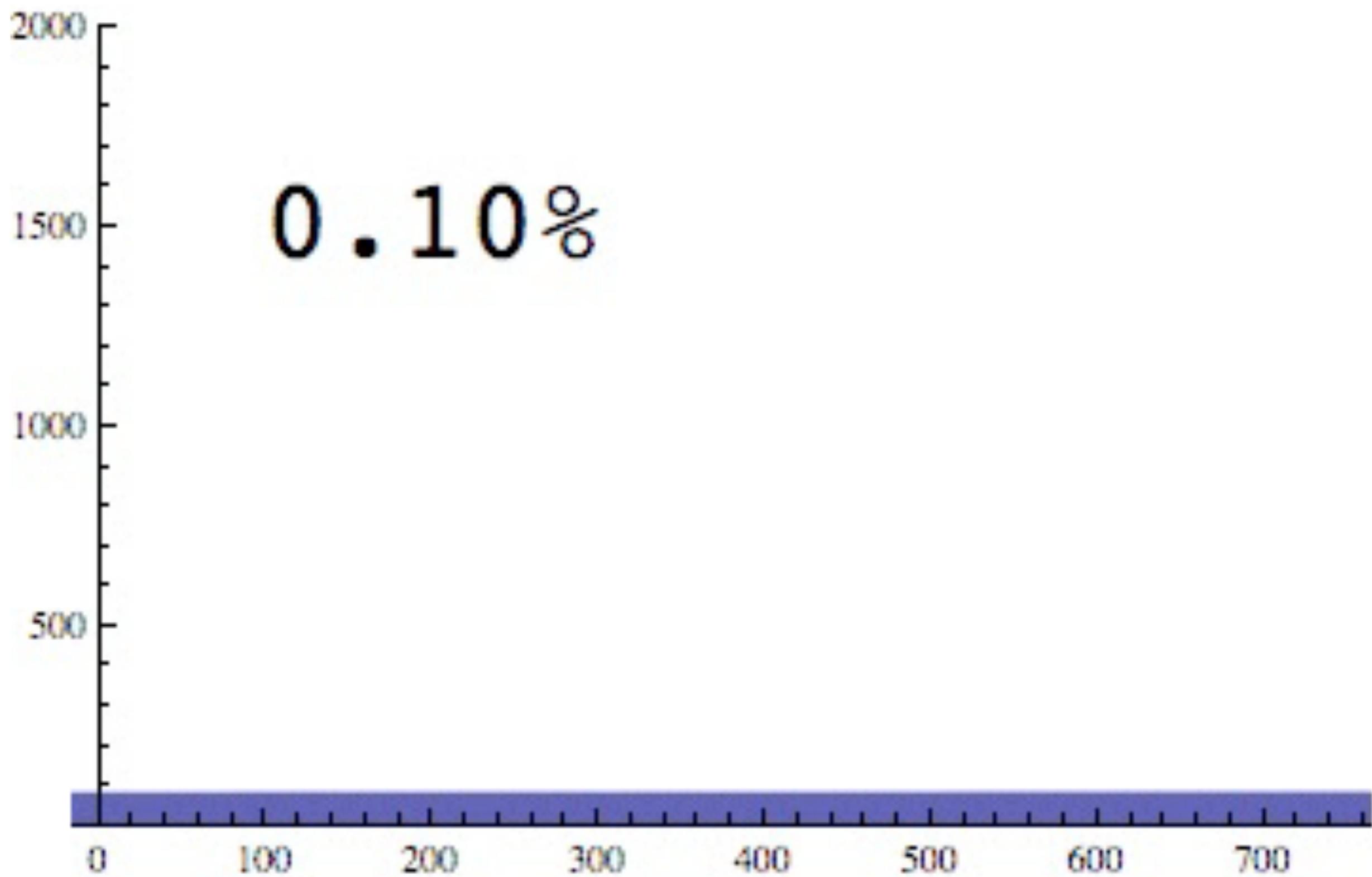


If you under-perform just a bit
you won't make it

What is enough research?



- Exponential growth is good
- You only have to improve by “1%” a day to succeed
- But “0.1%” per day fails
- **Can you tell the difference?**



Calibrate **yourself**

- What is good enough? (compare with others)
- Are you getting better? (compare with yourself)
- Are you working hard enough?
- **Get better almost every day**

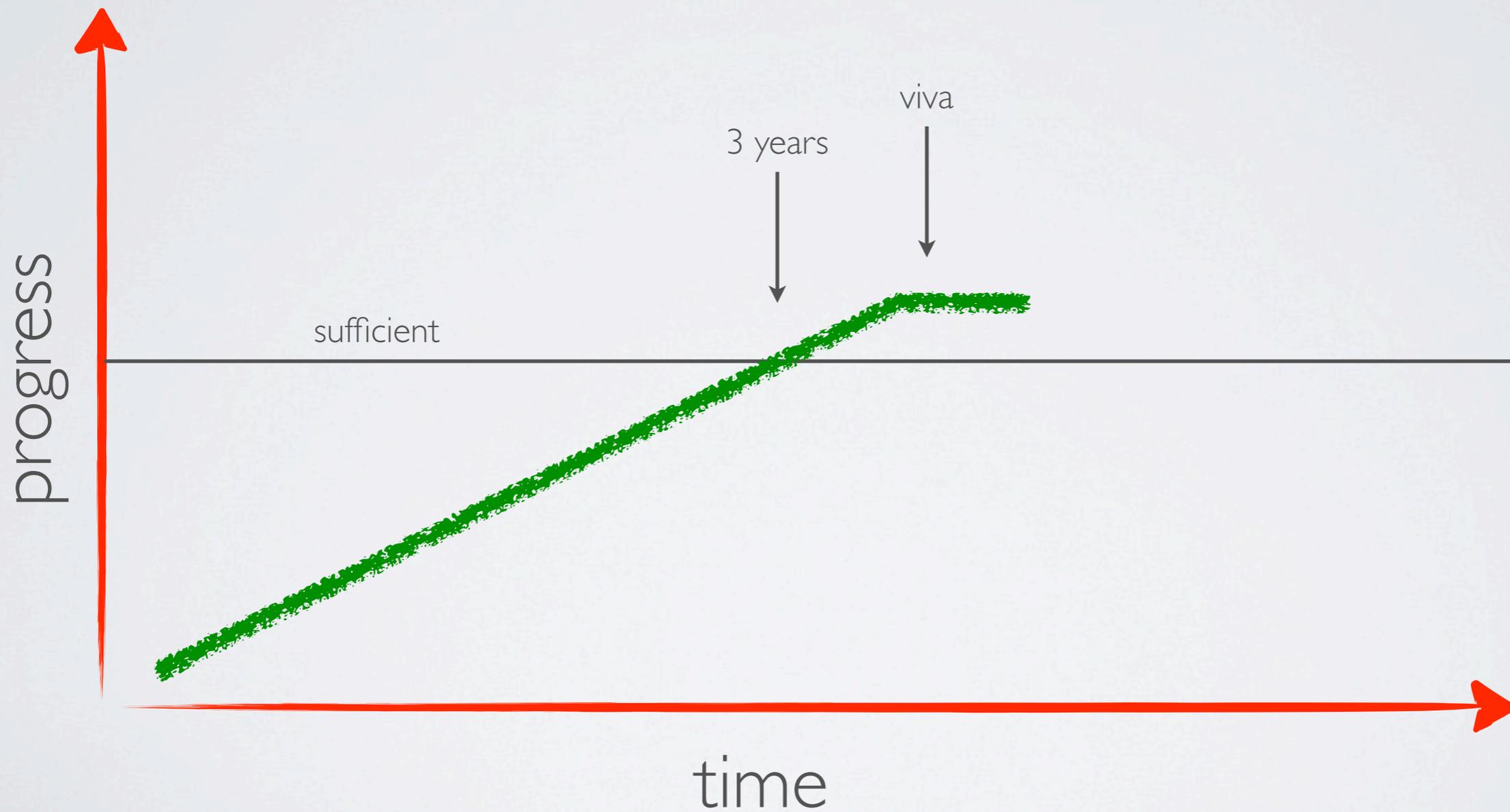
Biggest mistakes?

no calibration

delayed write up

no fun

What is enough thesis?



2.

International
research

What is a research degree?

- You know the papers, books...
- You are a *proactive* member of the research community
- You know the **international** people...
- You know where they are
- You've met or corresponded with some of them

Masters versus PhD

- MRes you know 10 top papers
- You know **of** 5 top researchers
- PhD you know 100 papers, 20 PhDs
- You've **met** 10 top researchers
- You've **worked** with some

3.

Your
department

Excellent PhD department

- Transparent budget for researcher development
- Regular department-researcher activities
- Regular lunchtime peer activities...
- Regular training activities
- Continual formative feedback
- Representation in research decision-making
- Encourages and responds to complaints
- Encourages supervisor development
- Empowerment
- Single point of call
- and it's visible

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Weak PhD department

- None of those
- Encourages teaching (i.e., helps supervisors' research)
- Procedures not resources
- Performance/progression not development
- No disagreement
- Isolated visitors

4.

Your
supervisor

Psychology 101

- Individual differences
- Match personalities
- Change
- ~~Manipulate~~ Relate (not manipulate as in deceive)

Supervisor

You





Friday, 8 May 2009

A supervisor should...

- Help you do better than themselves
- Challenge you
- Inspire you — and inspire you about research **in general**
- Move you from dependence to leadership
- Move from supervision to collaboration & **co-authoring**
- Not get you to do their research
- Make **you** accountable for progress
- Train **you** to write & to read your writing
- Train **you** to defend your ideas
- Not do your work

Scary thought

What if [...] is not enough?

Hope

free thoughts

Don't worry over here

Circle of influence

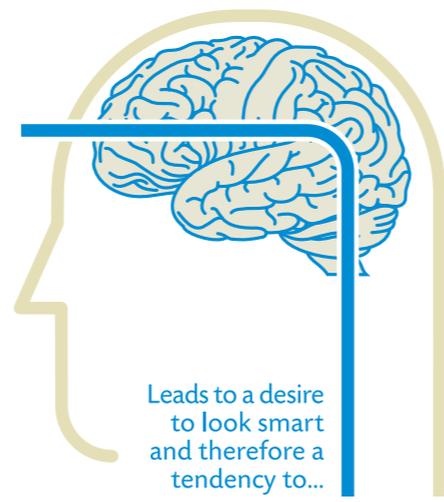
Circle of concern



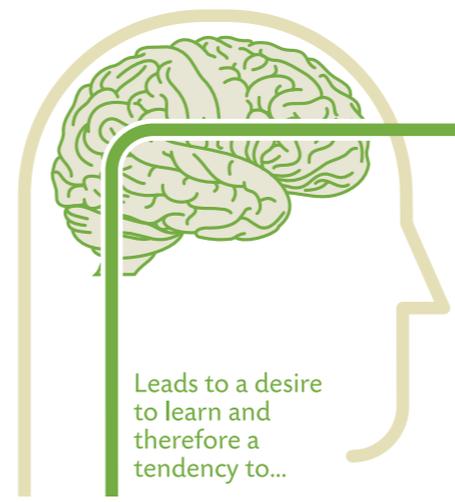
Don't waste your time
doing things that don't help make progress

Get better
stretch yourself

Fixed mindset



Leads to a desire
to look smart
and therefore a
tendency to...



Leads to a desire
to learn and
therefore a
tendency to...

Growth mindset

finally...

- Learning *but not too much*
- Cargo cult science
- Scientific luck
- Know your heros
- Get out & about — plan your visits now

Your thoughts?

Your actions?