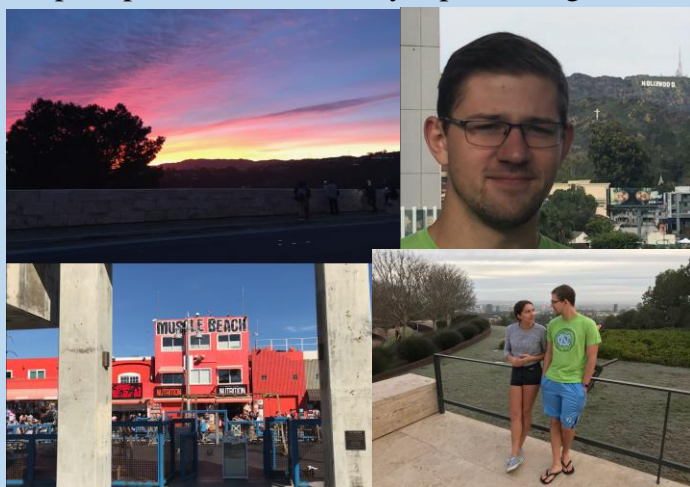


# ABGN #10

Adam's Bimonthly Grad Newsletter

## LA with Darcy

As revenge for her kidnapping to NC, Darcy stuffed me in a suitcase and took me to Topanga, her hometown, in mid-January. We went swimming in the frigid depths near Muscle Beach, saw the extra-touristy stars and Hollywood sign, and took one of Darcy's favorite hikes. The trip helped me frame Darcy's pre-college life.



TL: Sunset over LA. TR: A view of the Hollywood sign.  
BL: Muscle beach, ft. 'roid bros. BR: Darcy with me at the Getty.

## Birthday 24/Genesis 6

I turned 24 in February. As a treat, the Physics crowd gathered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> for all-you-can-eat sushi. David, Darcy, Ronaldo, and I packed out early on the 3<sup>rd</sup> for Genesis 6, the largest grassroots Melee tournament. It was five hours of nonstop Smash. I ate a burrito two tables from Westballz, a top Falco player, after the event. Mango lost. ☹



Left: Davis friends taking over Nami Sushi Buffet.  
Right: Our view of the main stage for Genesis 6 Top 8.

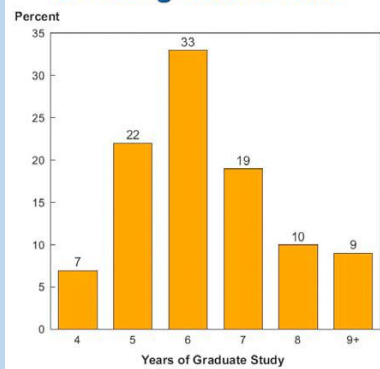
## Grad School Progress Report

Somehow, despite only 10 Grad Newsletters, I've been starting to get the dreaded "So when are you graduating?" If you take the distribution to the right and shift it left a year and a half, I've got about 4.5 years left on average. That's 27 more newsletters.

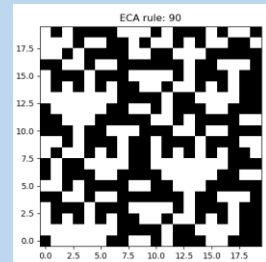
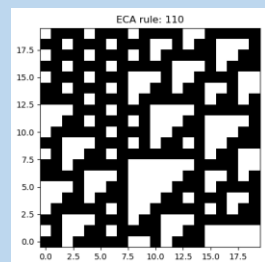
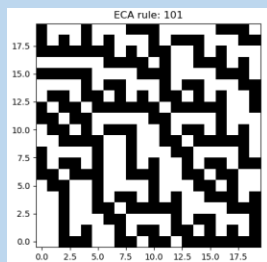
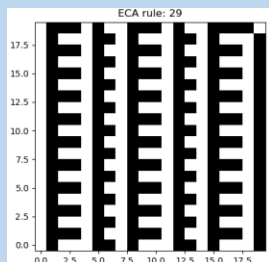
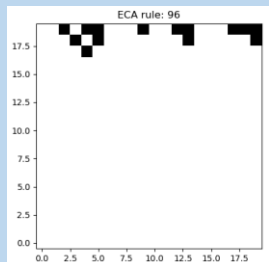
So far, morale's fairly high. I'm getting a little antsy to begin driving toward thesis-quality research, and classes have become pretty tough, but I'm still intent on the PhD, and I enjoy the lifestyle. Statistical mechanics, in particular, is at once mesmerizing and conceptually near-intractable.

As far as "degree milestones" go, I pass the second part of my prelim exam this Summer, and will be preparing for my qualifying oral exam around this time next year. We'll check back in on Newsletter 16 to see if these predictions came true.

### Physics PhD How Long Does it Take?



Distribution of graduation time for physics PhDs, courtesy of the American Physical Society. Mode: 6 years



Those aren't QR codes... ECA rules 96, 29, 101, 110, and 90 on a 20x20 lattice with periodic boundary conditions. [More here.](#)

Spring break is on the horizon. Let me know if you're in the Sac/Bay Area--our air mattress has lain empty for too long!

Feeling like spam? [apkunesh@gmail.com](mailto:apkunesh@gmail.com) to unsubscribe!