Frank: If I was a reviewer...

When a business project wants venture capital
- Expectation = promised value \times feasibility
- high expectation \rightarrow More fundable
- Many rounds before success

Research proposal is, to some extent, similar
- Fundability = merits \times feasibility
- Merits are different in different project types
  - Basic research
    “Advancing the frontiers of knowledge”
  - Applied research
    Also supported by ITF, PPR, etc.
Frank’s tips (tentative, for Panel E, & basic research)

✧ Two popular routines
  ◦ Adapting a well-known methodology to a novel (basic) problem
  ◦ Developing a novel method for a known problem
    o Often leading to interdisciplinary ideas

✧ On the merits
  ◦ Ask a scientific question (wrapping up the objectives)
  ◦ Be brave to claim your research is “the world first”
    o if you are confident
  ◦ Potential cases/ impacts of future applications

✧ On the feasibility
  ◦ All-round evidences, e.g., theory, track record, literature, & pilots

✧ Better not asking for too much money

A maze of research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prob.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ‘regression’ effect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel</th>
<th>Avg. budget ($)’000</th>
<th>appl. supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>1129</td>
<td>568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>586</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Grand summary, RSS, HKU)