Chau Chi Hong 鄒志康

Hi there, if you are reading these words, it means you are trying to figure out what FYP is, and I hope that you can get some insights from my experience.

My FYP was about the symbiotic relationship between soybean and rhizobium (a bacteria that live in soybean's roots). In my project, genetic and molecular technologies, such as PCR, DNA extraction, and bacteria culturing, were used to find certain genes in rhizobia that help with such relationship. Like other FYP students, I received a theme from my supervisor-Prof Lam Hon Ming, and then designed my own research plan. What's followed was to put through those experiments with the help from senior labmates (P.S. guidance from a senior is not guaranteed~). The photos attached are: me running a protein gel; an agar gel with my target bacterial colonies on it.

The knowledge I learnt and applied was quite different from those mentioned in lectures because Biology courses do not touch much on biotechnology. But don't ask me why a Biology student would go to a molecular lab (because nowadays the major research trend is biotech, most FYP projects involve biotech). And indeed, the way of designing a research and put it into practice is crucial for students that prefer a postgraduate study, no matter which major you are in. Throughout the last three semesters, I really had a great time and a fruitful experience. The hardest time that I have gone through was not picking up lab skills, but to solve problems. It is quite frustrating when you keep having negative results and you have already tried every possible solution you can think of. But it is also a great time when you get through that obstacle after seeking help from others. These problem-solving trainings are life-long attributes which may not be provided by lectures.

However, I should say that FYP is quite demanding as it goes through at least two semesters (if you want to wrap it up). So, do seek advice from teachers if you want to have a research-based FYP. Last but not least, I would like to thank Prof Lam, and of course, all my lab mates for giving me a chance to begin a page in doing research.