Academic Conduct and Plagiarism

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Plagiarism

L.H.O.O.Q.
Definition

• plagiarism - [pley-juh-riz-uhm, -jee-uh-raz-]

1. an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author.

2. a piece of writing or other work reflecting such unauthorized use or imitation.
Facts about plagiarism

- Almost **80%** of college students admit to cheating at least once
- **90%** of students believe that cheaters are either never caught or have never been appropriately disciplined
- **58.3%** of high school students let someone else copy their work in 1969, and **97.5%** did so in 1989
- Any work published after 1978 need not have the copyright symbol, ©, in order to be protected by copyright law.

Source: http://www.plagiarism.org
Cases of plagiarism

- "The Ghost Writer"
  - to copy from another's work, word-for-word, and present it as your own
- "The Labor of Laziness"
  - to paraphrase other sources and make it fit together
- "The Misinformer"
  - to provide inaccurate information regarding the sources, making it impossible to find them
- "The Too-Perfect Paraphrase"
  - to properly cites a source, but neglect to put in quotation marks for text that has been copied word-for-word, or close to it
Plagiarism in the Internet era

- Easy access to information
  - Search engines
- Cheating has never been easier
- The act of copying has never been faster
- Hard to find evidence for plagiarism
  - Who wants to sit around looking for websites trying to find out if a paper is plagiarized or not... pretty soon you're a private investigator"
    - anonymous Stanford University professor
- “Public” nature of online content
  - "Technology has changed the way information is viewed from an entity created by an individual to more of a communal property"
    - Tricia Gallant, Academic Integrity in the Twenty-First Century
Self-plagiarism

• Definition
  - is the reuse of significant, identical, or nearly identical portions of one's own work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing the original work

• “Salami-slicing” or publishing the “minimal publishable unit”

• ...but when is reusing your work justified?
But...

- What if I don’t know whether materials are protected?
  - A good rule of thumb when you are not sure is to err on the side of assuming that the material you want to use is protected by copyright.

- Does it matter how much was copied?
  - Not in determining whether or not plagiarism is a crime...However, the amount that was copied will have a bearing on the severity of the punishment.

- Are tweets copyright protected?
Preventing plagiarism

• Online tools for plagiarism detection
• Plagiarism awareness courses
  - Avoiding inadvertent plagiarism or
• Develop understanding of plagiarism through making mistakes

Golden Rule:
If you did not think of it yourself give credit!!!
(even if you did, check for originality)

...but what about the consequences?
Academic Conduct
Academic Conduct

• A set of conventional principles, rules and expectations that are considered binding on any person who is a member of the Academic community
• Academic Code of Conduct (per institution)
• Encompasses all members of Academia (students, faculty, researchers, staff)
• Student Honesty
• Research Ethics

Goal  Academic Integrity
• BU 2011–2012 Academic Conduct Code
• BU College of Arts & Sciences Academic Conduct Code
• BU Code of Student Responsibilities
• BU Code of Ethical Conduct
• BU Responsible Conduct of Research
• BU Policy on Investigator’s Conflicts of Interest
Acts of Academic Dishonesty

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Misrepresentation or falsification of data
- Violation of the rules governing teamwork
- Bribery
- Sabotage
- Professorial Misconduct
- Personation

Source: BU CAS Academic Conduct Code
What about CS?

What makes academic dishonesty in CS different?

- CS697
- Source: The Brown Daily Herald
Research Ethics

- Authorship (who are the "authors" of a research paper/ who deserves acknowledgement)
- Peer Review
- Data Management
  - how do you collect personal data?
  - security - privacy - exploits - publication
- Research Misconduct (Fabrication, Falsification)
- Image manipulation
Financial implications

• Copyright infringement

• Corporate Opportunities Exploitation

• Protection and Proper Use of University Assets

• Conflicts of Interest
Consequences: students

- Fine
- Disciplinary Probation
- Revocation of good standing
- Credit Withholding
- Denying of Graduation
- Suspension / Expulsion
Consequences: researchers

• “Black-listing” (ORI - Office of Research Integrity)

• Publication removal

• Barring from grant application

• Expulsion from Academia

• Arguably most important: Infamy
What causes research misconduct

- Career advancement:
  - Tenure/ fame / reputation
- Financial awards
- Poor training in standards and methods
- Conflicts of interests
- Large collaborative groups
- Remote laboratory managers
- “Bad Apples”
Thank you!
References

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- Case Studies in Research Misconduct – Tony Onofrietti, Jackie Hinton