

CSE 540: Theory of Computation, Fall 2016

Academic Honesty Review*

Jing Chen

The point of this assignment is twofold: (1) to examine issues of academic integrity and academic dishonesty, and (2) to get you started using latex.

You'll write this problem set solutions using latex, and you are highly recommended to do so for all other problem sets. For the Macintosh, install Mactex and use Texshop. For Windows, install Miktex and use WinEdt or some other editor. For linux, install texlive-full. For drawing figures, I recommend using xfig, Ipe, inkscape, or the Mac tool Omnigraffle.

Academic Honesty

These are detailed explanations of our course policy:

- I take academic honesty very seriously. Infractions have serious consequences.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.
- Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. It is wrong in this course. It is wrong in your profession. It is wrong in life. It is wrong. Period.
- Always cite! If you work with multiple people, cite with whom you worked.
- Copying (or approximately copying) a solution from the web or someone else's solution and putting in your problem set is plagiarism (even if you cite).
- Sharing any part of your write-up (latex, PDF, postscript, figures, or hard copy) before the assignment due date is academic dishonesty and invites plagiarism. Your own write-up is private information and should not be shared before submission.
- You will be able to find solutions to some of the homework problems on the web or from more senior students. It is academic dishonesty to search for and use such solutions in preparing your own write-up for the assignment, and it is plagiarism to copy such solutions and to submit as your own.

*I thank Michael A. Bender for discussing the issue of academic honesty with me and giving me the permission to use the Academic Honesty Review he created for CSE 548: Analysis of Algorithms, Fall 2013. This document is taken almost verbatim from there.

- You can work together to solve problems, but you must write up your own solutions, writing only those ideas and answers that you personally fully understand, and stating in your write-up with whom you worked to obtain the solution.
- It is academically dishonest to hand in a solution that you don't understand.

Problem 1. Explain why copying (or approximately copying) solutions from the web (or another source) is plagiarism, even if you cite your source.

Problem 2. Explain why it is academically dishonest to share your solution set with another student. Explain how you could get burned from just sharing your writeup even if you do not copy yourself.

Problem 3. Explain why we let students work together to solve problems, as long as the students cite their collaborators. Explain why it is plagiarism to share and/or copy other write-ups.

Problem 4. Explain why it is better for your grade to leave a question blank, rather than search for answers on the web. (Hint: calculate approximately how much a homework problem is worth to your raw score versus an exam question.) Explain why this is true regardless of whether you are actually caught plagiarizing.

Problem 5. How much time did this writeup take you, including learning how to use latex?