Plagiarism in Projects

Further guidance
- Project page
- School's online student handbook
- University web site

Steve Vickers 2015
Plagiarism =
Passing someone else's work off as your own - cheating
Degrees of plagiarism

Plagiarism out of ignorance

"Poor academic practice"

- No penalty for plagiarism
- Can still lose marks for not doing work properly
Degrees of plagiarism

Deliberate cheating
Moderate plagiarism
  - dealt with in School
Serious plagiarism
  \( \rightarrow \) College Misconduct Committee
  - penalties for plagiarism
    - can be severe
What might plagiarism in a project be?

- Using library, not referencing
- Using code off internet,
- Quoting a paper,

[Source: students in orientation lecture]
Avoiding plagiarism - in dissertation

cite all sources of words or ideas you use

- Put references in bibliography

- Make clear in text what is cited - how much? where from?

Further guidance online
Avoiding plagiarism - in code

Same principles
+ check you have permission
to use others' code
+ document use of others' code
  both in dissertation
  and in comments in code
It must be completely clear
how much is not your own
Plagiarism in code

- is likely to be serious

- this is a CS degree
  ... we expect you to know the rules

- penalty
  fail project without resit
  ... fail degree
Evidence of plagiarism

- Proof of copying
  - Text or code out of your usual style
- You can't explain the code
  - Dissertation vague
  - We interview you

not needed
Plagiarising by accident

- Research web to find similar projects to give you ideas 😊
- Download code to use as a model
- You don't understand it well enough to adapt it
- Submit a plagiarized project
- Fail project, no degree

Choose a project that's not already out there on web