

## COMP575 Honor Code

Fall 2007

You are bound by the UNC Honor Code. You are encouraged to work together to understand high-level concepts, but must do all assignments by yourself. Whenever you use “others” in any way, that usage must be documented in the submitted assignment. Every assignment must be pledged with the following statement: “I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance while preparing this assignment,” and, when applicable, “I have written all code myself.” Include this statement in your write up. If you don't feel you can honestly include this statement, explain why not.

“Others” is defined to include books, magazines, and other written materials; communication with other people in verbal, written, or other forms; and also the Internet.

In this class, we are using the Internet as a reference. Many books on this topic contain code (much is buggy). In your use of "others," including the Internet, you are not to copy others' code. A web page may present the algorithm with code segments interspersed, for example. Don't copy and paste the code. You're not guilty for seeing code that exists on the web, but don't cut-and-paste it and don't try to memorize it. In short: write your own code out of your understanding of the algorithm. Of course, I have no way to enforce this (other than your word), and I honestly expect a fair portion of your code to look like everyone else's: there are not many right ways to do it and there are only so many meaningful variable names for “x.”

You can look at code as you would look at code presented in a course textbook: use the segment to help you understand the algorithm, realized the segment may be buggy, and implement the algorithm yourself. If your implementation looks a whole lot like the code referenced, so be it. It's your responsibility to learn the algorithm and produce your own code. Example permissible usage scenario:

- look at a web page that presents the algorithm and may include code
- study the presentation and code until you feel you understand it
- acknowledge the URL(s) in your writeup
- close the browser (or scroll to a portion of the presentation that isn't code)
- implement your algorithm
- feel you didn't get it right, realize you misunderstood something, missed a piece of the algorithm etc,
- open the web page again to re-look at their presentation, possibly including code
- close it and return to yours
- iterate until you feel you understand the algorithm and your code is doing what you think it should
- double check to make sure all sources you used are acknowledged

This is fine. Again, you are the only one who can honestly include the pledge in your turn-in. Learn the algorithm and write you own code.

If you find a URL that has a particularly good presentation, you may share it with others - the preferred method is by posting to the blackboard utility used in the class. I reserve the right to publish and update a URL blacklist and expect you to honor that list. Visiting a page before it gets blacklisted is not guilt.

Finally, don't put your code on any web pages, and don't forget to completely attribute all your use of "others."

If any issues arise, contact and discuss them with me.