Is Cheating Worth It?

By: Brandon Chong '17 (bschong2)

Costs of Cheating?

- If two people turn in the same code, both will be punished.
 - We don't care which one wrote it and which one copied it.
 - This means it's up to you to protect your code from copiers.
- First Offense: 1 letter grade reduction + the weight of the assignment.
- Second Offense: Automatic failure of the course.
- Third Offense: Does not matter (you already failed...).
- Sharing Code: 1 letter grade reduction for each MP/assignment we find 'publicly accessible'

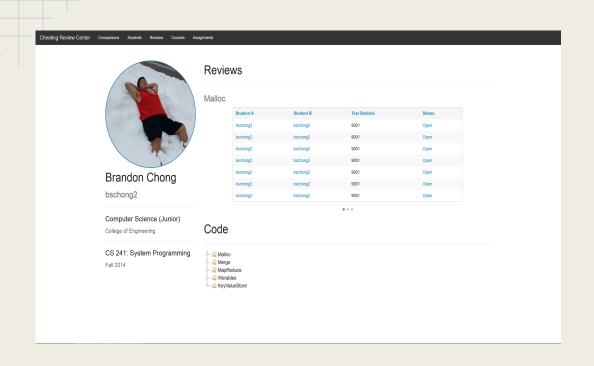
Why Do We Care?

- As instructors our job is to assign you a grade that reflects how much you learned / worked and how good you are with the material.
- If you cheat, then you have neither learned, nor worked, nor shown that you are you good with the material.
- So, you should receive a grade that reflects that.

How Good Are Our Tools For Flagging Code?

- Cheat Detection and Measures of Similarity are well studied problems
- MOSS: http://theory.stanford.edu/~aiken/publications/papers/sigmod03.pdf
- JPlag: https://jplag.ipd.kit.edu/
- GPlag: http://research.microsoft.com/pubs/73093/kdd06liu.pdf
- Ours is custom.

How Good Are Our Tools For Reviewing Flagged Code?







What is OK?

- Discussing concepts with classmates or anyone else (this is encouraged!).
- Using an online function reference (like cppreference.com).
- Going to office hours for help.
- When two students discuss a problem:
 - If another student asks for help, don't just give them the answer; give them hints.
 - Put yourself in the role of a teacher, and help them try to figure it out for themselves or give them the tools to help themselves.

What is NOT OK?

- Copying code or pseudocode.
- Copying code, but changing the variable names and formatting.
 - o (this doesn't "make it yours", and our tools will still catch it).
- Rule Of Thumb: If at any point you submit an assignment that does not reflect your understanding of the material, then you have probably cheated.

Conclusion

- Cheating is not worth it.
- If you are lost in the course
 - Please go to office hours (we love you <3)
- If you don't have enough time
 - Fail an MP worth 3% (you can still get an A)
 - Start Earlier
- Think about the strongest version of yourself.
 - o Is he/she a cheater?

Questions?