Academic Integrity and MOSS

What is MOSS?

"Moss (for a Measure Of Software Similarity) is an automatic system for determining the similarity of programs. To date, the main application of Moss has been in detecting plagiarism in programming classes."

How does MOSS work?

- Black Box: we can view the inputs and outputs, but not the internal processes
- Instructors submit files to compare
- System returns HTML pages that detail similarities between files
- Cannot be used to determine if plagiarism or cheating actually occurred
- Highlights similarities, up to instructors to conclude

What can MOSS do?

- Whitespace insensitivity
 - Differences in whitespace (indentation/between blocks/etc.) and identifier names are ignored.
- Noise suppression
 - Potential matches must be long enough to be considered significant.
- Position independence
 - Blocks can match regardless of position in the source files.

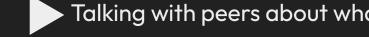
In the School of Computing at UNL, academic dishonesty can take many forms. A list of examples can be found on the policy webpage.

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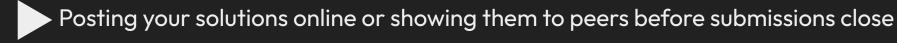
Acting honestly!:)

Hashing things out at a high level is often encouraged in comp sci courses.

Note that "high level" just means "keep it general".

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Posting your solutions online or showing them to peers before submissions close

Acting dishonestly... >:^(

There's a big difference between helping someone debug and helping them rewrite a whole block.

When in doubt, have them reach out to a TA to get help.

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Viewing code from a video/forum and writing the same block in your own solution

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Viewing code from a video/forum and writing the same block in your own solution

Acting dishonestly... >:^(

Manually typing the copied code, is the same as using copy/paste shortcuts.

Yes, even if you change the variable names. MOSS still detects this.

Avoiding cmd + $c \neq avoiding copying$.

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Meeting an instructor or TA in office hours to talk about out how to approach a problem.

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Meeting an instructor or TA in office hours to talk about out how to approach a problem.

Acting honestly!:)

This is usually your safest bet when it comes to getting help! We know exactly what kind of solution you should be working toward and can provide tips that won't get you in trouble.

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Taking code and renaming identifiers or shuffling the order of blocks.

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Taking code and renaming variables or shuffling the order of blocks.

Acting dishonestly... >:^(

This is just copying with slightly more effort put into it.

Might be easy for a human grader to miss, but MOSS detects this.

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Working with someone on the same source file for a partner assignment

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Taking code and renaming variables or shuffling the order of blocks.

Acting honestly!:)

When instructors explicitly allow working together for an assignment, they'll make it clear.

By default, you can safely assume no direct collaboration is allowed on coding assignments.

Grading Overview

For CSCE 155A, assignment grading is done by Learning Assistants (LA's) and managed by Course Leaders (CL's). A general layout of the grading process can be found below:

- Grading is assigned to LA's by a CL after the assignment deadline has passed.
- Once grading is finished and quality checked by a CL, student scores are posted.
- Any student with questions about their grade has up to 10 calendar days after grades are posted to discuss with their respective grader.
 - The grader of an assignment can be found in the submission comments on Canvas.
 - After this period, scores are treated as finalized and future requests by students to revisit their score may be denied.

How Cheating is Caught

- 1. During grading, LA's will report any suspicions to the CL's.
- 2. Anything missed by the graders will often be picked up by MOSS.
- 3. The instructors and CL review all potential matches
 - Regardless of how a potential match was identified
- 4. Decide if the files show enough evidence to flag the student for violating the academic integrity policy.

Getting Flagged

If it is decided that a potential match is an instance of cheating, every student involved will be flagged as being in violation of the academic integrity policy.

Each student will receive a sanction and a submission comment on Canvas explaining the sanction with deadlines for next steps.

Discussion With Instructors

- Any student flagged for cheating should meet with instructors to discuss the situation.
- If you know you did not cheat, this is your time to clear things up and remove the sanction.
- If a student does not reach out by the deadline given, then the sanction stands.

Note: being flagged for a violation should not be taken lightly. Possible academic dishonesty is reviewed by multiple members of the instructor team and discussed at length before being flagged.

Consequences

A complete explanation of possible consequences for policy violations can be found on the policy webpage. In general, the SoC uses a three-strike system

- 1. For a first offense, the student will receive no credit for the assignment.
 - a. The sanction can increase straight to a failing grade in the class if the violation was bad enough.
- 2. For a second offense, the student will receive a failing grade in the class and will not be permitted to drop the class.
 - a. F stays on transcript.
- 3. For a third offense, the student will be expelled from their computing major or minor and will be barred from enrolling in future SoC courses.

All offenses will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, regardless of the sanction imposed.

Appeals Process

- You are allowed to challenge academic dishonesty sanctions
 - o For example, if you believe you are not guilty or feel the sanction was worse than called for.
- Contact the Chair of the School of Computing
- Chair assigns the case to an appropriate committee
- Committee meets with the student and the instructors to review the evidence,
 and make a recommendation to the instructor regarding the incident
- The instructor will review the recommendation, and may or may not amend the original decision.

If a student is still not satisfied with the instructors decision, they have the right to appeal at the university level.

Further Reading

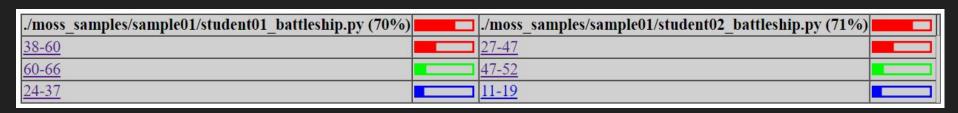
- SoC academic integrity policy
- University of Nebraska Student Code of Conduct
- Moss documentation

Sample MOSS Results

```
from random import randint
                                                                             Student 1
    board = []
10 def create board(size):
            board.append(["~"] * size)
    def random row(size):
        return randint(0, size - 1)
    def random col(size):
       return randint(0, size - 1)
24 def place ship():
     x = random row(size)
       y = random col(size)
        board[x][y] = "X"
31 def display_board(brd):
    def launch_missile(board, row, col):
       if board[row][col] == "X":
           print("Boom! You hit a ship!")
            board[row][col] = "!"
            print("You missed! Try again.")
            board[row][col] = "0"
         return board
    size = int(input("Enter board size: "))
   create board(size)
    total tiles = size * size
    numShips = int((1 / 5) * total_tiles)
    for i in range(numShips + 1):
      place_ship()
    display_board(board)
    for turn in range(size * size):
        coord_x, coord_y = [int(i) for i in input("Pick a coordinate to launch missile: ").split()]
        row = coord y
            board = launch missile(board, row, col)
            display_board(board)
```

from random import randint Student 2 board = [] def create board(size): for x in range(size): board.append(["."] * size) def place ship(): x = random row(size) y = random_col(size) board[x][y]="#" def display board(brd): for r in brd: print(" ".join(r)) def random row(size): return randint(0, size - 1) def random col(size): return randint(0, size - 1) def launch missile(board,row,col): if(board[row][col]=="#"): print("You hit a ship!") board[row][col]="X" print("You missed!") board[row][col]="0" return board print("Let's play Battleship!") size = int(input("Enter board size: ")) create board(size) total tiles = size*size numShips = int((1/5)*total tiles)for i in range(numShips+1): place ship() display_board(board) for turn in range(size): 48 coord x, coord y = [int(i) for i in input("Pick a coordinate to launch missile: ").split()] col = coord x row = coord y if((row< 0) or (row>(size-1)) or (col<0) or (col>size-1)): print("Sike! That's not part of the board") board = launch missile(board, row, col) display_board(board)

Student 1 Student 2



```
Student 1
coord x, coord y = [int(i) for i in input("Pick a coordinate to launch missile: ").split()]
col = coord x
row = coord y
if (row < 0) or (row > (size - 1)) or (col < 0) or (col > size - 1):
```

Student 2 rompt and accept location of missle turn in range(size): coord x, coord y = [int(i) for i in input("Pick a coordinate to launch missile: ").split()] col = coord xrow = coord y if((row< 0) or (row>(size-1)) or (col<0) or (col>size-1):

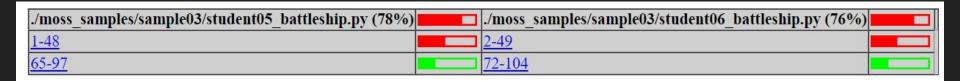
```
Student 3
 4 import numpy as np
    import time
    num_ships = 0
    size = int(input("Enter a board size: "))
    ocean = np.full((size, size), ' ')
14 def makeMap_function(size, num_ships, ocean):
        for x in range(0, size):
           for y in range(0, size):
                dice = random.randint(1.5)
                   if num_ships < (1/5 * size * size):
                      ocean[x][y] = "&"
                       num ships += 1
                       ocean[x][y] = 'C
                   ocean[x][y] = 'C'
        print("There are", num_ships, "ships in the ocean.")
        return num_ships
30 def print_array(arr):
        os.system('clear')
        for x in range(0, size):
            for y in range(0, size):
                print("\033[0;40;33m" + str(arr[y][x]),end=' ')
38 def shooting_function(num_ships):
            coord_x = int(input("\033[0;34;37mPick an x coordinate: "))
            coord_y = int(input("\033[0;34;37mPick a y coordinate: "))
           if coord_x < 0 or coord_x > size - 1 or coord_y < 0 or coord_y > size - 1:
               print("\033[0;34;31mNot a valid coordinate.")
            if ocean [coord_x][coord_y] == "...":
               ocean [coord_x][coord_y] = "X"
                print array(ocean)
                print("\033[0;34;32mConfirmed hit!")
                num ships -= 1
                if num ships == 1:
                   print(num_ships, "ship remaining")
                 print(num_ships, "ships remaining")
            elif ocean [coord_x][coord_y] == "[]":
                ocean [coord_x][coord_y] = "0"
                print_array(ocean)
                print("\033[0;34;32mHow could you miss? The ships are right in front of you!")
                if num ships == 1:
                   print(num_ships, "ship remaining")
                   print(num_ships, "ships remaining")
    num_ships = makeMap_function(size, num_ships, ocean)
    print_array(ocean)
    shooting_function(num_ships)
```

```
import numpy as np
import random
                                                              Student 4
import math
board size = int(input('What would you like the size of your board to be?'))
board = np.full((board size, board size), '~')
total slots = board size * board size
ship slots = int(total slots/5)
ships per row = ship slots/board size
ships remaining = int(total slots/5)
end flag = 0
def ships(ship slots, board size, ships per row):
    global board
    for i in range(ship slots):
            x = random.randint(0,board size - 1)
            y = random.randint(0, board size - 1)
           board[x][y] = '#'
def missle launch(ship slots,total slots):
    global end flag
    global ships remaining
    global board
    while (ships remaining > 0):
        x = int(input('What is the Y coordinate of your missile strike')) - 1
        y = int(input('What is the X coordinate of your missile strike')) - 1
        if board[x][y] == '#':
           board[x][y] = 'X'
           print('Direct Hit!!')
            ships remaining -= 1
            board[x][y] = '0'
            print('You missed')
        for n in range(board size):
            print()
            for m in range(board size):
                print(board[n][m],end='')
        print()
        print('Ships remaining', ships remaining)
while True:
    if ships remaining > 0:
        ships(ship slots, board size, ships per row)
        end flag = missle launch (ship slots, total slots)
print('Nice work sailor, you defeated all the enemy ships')
```

```
return[['.' for i in range(board_size)] for i in range(board size)]
                                                                                            Student 5
      ship_len = random.randint(2,3)
       ship len = random.randint(2.4)
      ship len = random.randint(2.5)
   ship_pattern = random.randint(0, 1)
   if ship pattern -- 8:
       ship row - [random.randint(8, board size - 1)] * ship len
       cols - random.randint(0, board size - ship len)
       ship_col = list(range(cols, cols + ship_len))
coordinates = tuple(zip(ship_row, ship_col))
       ship_col = [random.randint(0, board_size - 1)] * ship_len
       row - random.randint(0, board size - ship len)
       ship_row = list(range(row, row + ship_len))
coordinates = tuple(zip(ship_row, ship_cell)
   return list(coordinates)
dof verify_coords(board_size):
           col - int(input(*Please (re)enter your column (x) value that is not greater or less than the board:\n>>"))
   if given_coords in coords:
   coords append(given coords)
    if given_coords in ship:
       board[given_coords[8]] [given_coords[1]] = 'X
       ship, remove(given coords)
 print("Congrats! You have sunk my battleship!")
exit()
  board_size = int(input("Enter a board size greater than 1: "))
  coords = []
display board(board)
        valid_coords - verify_coords(board_size)
       board - update_board(valid_coords, board, ships, coords)
       display_board(board)
```

```
return[["." for count in range(grid size)] for count in range(grid size)]
                                                                                                                                                  Student 6
          battleship_length = random.randint(2,3)
         battleship length - random.randint(2,5)
     battleship_orientation = random.randint(8, 1)
        battleship_row = [random.randint(0, grid_size - 1)] * battleship_length
cols = random.randint(0, grid_size = battleship_length)
         battleship_col = list(range(cols, cols + battleship_length)
coordinates = tuple(zip(battleship_row, battleship_col))
          row = random.randint(0, grid_size - battleship_length)
battleship_row = list(range(row, row + battleship_length))
coordinates = tuple(zip(battleship_row, battleship_col))
     ceture list(coordinates)
dof user guess(grid size):
def board undate(guess, board, ship, guesses);
     guesses.append(guess)
          ship.remove(guess)
   board area - int(input("inter a board size greater than 1: "))
board - create board(board area)
ship - create battleship(board area)
     while(len(ship) > 8):
         attempt_guess = user_guess(board_area)
          board - board_update(attempt_guess, board, ship, guesses)
         print board(board)
```

Student 5 Student 6



```
Student 5
```

import random

Student 6

Student 5

```
return(row, col)
def update board(given coords, board, ship, coords):
    if given coords in coords:
        print("You already made that given coords! Try again...")
        return board
    coords.append(given coords)
   board[given coords[0]] [given_coords[1]] = '0'
    if given coords in ship:
        print("You hit a battleship!")
        board[given coords[0]] [given coords[1]] = 'X'
        ship.remove(given coords)
        return board
    print("You miss! Try again...")
    return board
#Print Victory and exit Program
def victory point():
   print("Congrats! You have sunk my battleship!")
    exit()
#Main function (For full points, less than 10 pieces of code in main, [can be done in 6])
if name == ' main ':
   board size = int(input("Enter a board size greater than 1: "))
   board = new board(board size)
    ships = create battleship(board size)
   coords = []
   display board(board)
   while(len(ships) > 0):
        valid coords = verify coords(board size)
        board = update board(valid coords, board, ships, coords)
```

Student 6

```
return(row, col)
def board update(guess, board, ship, guesses):
    if guess in guesses:
        print("You already made that guess! Try again...")
        return board
    guesses.append(guess)
    board[guess[0]] [guess[1]] = '0'
    if guess in ship:
        print("You hit a battleship!")
        board[guess[0]] [guess[1]] = 'X'
        ship.remove(guess)
        return board
    print("You miss! Try again...")
    return board
#Print Victory and exit Program
def win():
    print("Congrats! You have sunk my battleship!")
    exit()
#Main function (For full points, less than 10 pieces of code in main, [can be done in 6])
if name == ' main ':
    board area = int(input("Enter a board size greater than 1: "))
    board = create board(board area)
    ship = create battleship(board area)
    guesses = []
    print board(board)
    while(len(ship) > 0):
        attempt guess = user guess(board area)
        board = board update(attempt guess, board, ship, guesses)
```

Thank you for listening

Questions?