Unfair Means

What is it?
How to avoid it?
Unfair means is linked to ...

- Lack of academic integrity in written and oral communication
- It is about falsely representing the ideas/word/findings of others as your own.
- Can you list some others?
In oral communication

• You can avoid Unfair Means by
  o Being clear about which ideas are your own and which are not.
  o Being ethical: for example, do not claim results that you have not actually achieved.
In written communication

• You can **avoid unfair means** by referencing correctly and by being ethical in the presentation of ideas.
  
  ○ Correct referencing acknowledges the sources that you have used in preparing your papers/reports/thesis.
  
  ○ Being ethical would involve avoidance of double submission and fabrication.
The term ‘metaheuristic’ was coined by Fred Glover in his seminal paper (Glover, 1986), and it can be understood as “a master strategy that guides and modifies other heuristics to produce solutions beyond those that are normally generated in a quest for local optimality” (Glover and Laguna, 1997).


Numeric

• In the body of the report:

Many modern optimization methods, for example genetic algorithms [1], particle swarm optimization [2], ant colony optimization [3], can be considered as metaheuristic algorithms.

• In the list of references at the end:


Referencing from the Web

Website Reference, **Harvard Style**:  
Author, Year. *Title* [online]. [Date accessed].  
Available from World Wide Web: <url of site>

Website Reference, **Numeric Style**:  
[n] Author. *Title* [online]. Year [Date accessed].  
Available from World Wide Web: <url of site>
Why is referencing important?

- It shows the source of material that is not your own.
- It shows that your material has been assembled after consideration of other published works.
- It allows the reader to study a subject in more detail by reading your referenced sources.
- Correctly referenced work avoids plagiarism.
More information on referencing and avoiding unfair means

- Library - Information Skills MOLE course
- TASH: Everyday skills > Working with sources > Avoiding plagiarism (find the link to TASH is at http://www.shef.ac.uk/tash)
What is plagiarism?

• Submitting someone else’s work/words as your own.

• Submitting a piece of writing which includes even a small amount of material written by others, unless this material has been correctly referenced.

• Submitting a piece of writing containing paraphrases of others’ work, unless this material has been correctly referenced.
What is collusion?

• Getting another person to produce part or all of a piece of work, and submitting this as your own work.

• Copying material from another person or consenting to another person copying material from you – then submitting that material as your own work.

• Producing a piece of work in a group of two or more people, with each individual submitting the work as his/her own individual work.
How can you avoid plagiarism and collusion in your academic writing?

- Keep a list of sources (e.g. in a project log book) and read widely, assimilating ideas and gaining an understanding of the subject.
- Write up your own understanding and interpretation of the subject. Cite the source of background material.
- If a source expresses an idea particularly well, it is OK to include a short quote from that source and reference it, but do this sparingly.
- If you are writing about joint research, make sure you correctly acknowledge all those involved.
Other forms of unfair means that you must avoid:

- Buying or commissioning your work from someone else/some organisation
- Resubmitting work that you have already submitted elsewhere (more on this later)
- Fabricating work (e.g. making up results)
Penalties for unfair means

- Penalties against marks if on taught modules
- Failure of Confirmation Review/PhD
- Possible referral to the University Disciplinary Committee
- Rejection of material submitted for publication
- Loss of academic reputation and professional standing

e.g.

- Germany’s Dr Guttenberg (nicknamed “Dr Googleberg”) ([http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/24/german-defence-minister-guttenberg-plagiarism](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/24/german-defence-minister-guttenberg-plagiarism))

- South Korea’s Dr Hwang Woo-Suk – fabrication of results in research into stem cell cloning ([http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/4532128.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/4532128.stm))
What if ...

John has planned the structure and content of his Confirmation Review submission, and the time has come to start putting the ideas together in sentences. John has no confidence in his writing abilities. By using Google, John finds a paragraph on the Web which elegantly says just what he was trying to say. John copies this paragraph from the Web and inserts the paragraph verbatim and without quotes into his dissertation. John provides no reference to this work with his dissertation.

Is this acceptable?
What if ...

Leena has had personal problems during her PhD: her family have been ill, and because of this she has been very anxious and unable to make good progress with her research. One of her friends at Manchester University did similar research last year. The friend sends her results to Meena, to help Meena understand the work better. Meena stops doing her own research, and uses her friend’s results. Her thesis is written in her own words, but none of the results she claims to have achieved are actually hers.

Is this acceptable?
An example ...

• Suppose you had to look into techniques for on battery storage of wind energy system, with a view to eventually submitting a paper to a journal. You have been recommended by your supervisor to look for a paper on model predictive control written by Borhan et al (2012), given as part of an international conference on control of storage for wind energy.

• You locate the paper on the IEEE Explorer Digital Library – it was a paper given at the American Control Conference (ACC) - 2012.

http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpls/abs_all.jsp?arnumber=6315160
http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?arnumber=06315160
Example, continued ...

• The article by Borhan et al contains a comment about battery storage (p.1342, 1st paragraph) which seems relevant to your project.

• You thus decide that this paragraph expresses a point you need to make, so you copy/paste it into your paper, as follows:

Costs associated to battery storage maintenance and replacements could be quite large. Therefore, for an economically feasible project, special attention should be placed on the way the storage is operated.

Is this plagiarism?
Example, continued ...

How about this?

“Costs associated to battery storage maintenance and replacements could be quite large. Therefore, for an economically feasible project, special attention should be placed on the way the storage is operated.”

Is this a plagiarism?
“Costs associated to battery storage maintenance and replacements could be quite large. Therefore, for an economically feasible project, special attention should be placed on the way the storage is operated” (Borhan, Rotea and Viassolo, 2012).
Battery energy storage of power dispatching can benefit from the use of optimal control methods. For example, Borhan, Rotea and Viassolo described an optimization-based strategy, implemented in a framework of model predictive control (MPC) for the power management problem of battery storage in a wind farm.

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Is this plagiarism?

Figure 1 A battery storage system in a wind farm
TurnItIn

- Turnitin is text matching, electronic submission and feedback software endorsed by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), an organisation that supports higher education in the UK.
- Your Confirmation Review report will be submitted to Turnitin.
- Turnitin produces an originality report, showing the percentage (%) of your report that matches other published material.
Including your own published work in your PhD thesis (1)

- This is a common concern for PhD students who have, for example, published a paper in a journal and want to include the paper in their PhD thesis.
- Requires proper acknowledgement, and without proper acknowledgement would be double submission, or self-plagiarism.
- **Acknowledgement = correct referencing**
Including your own published work in your PhD thesis (2)

- Turnitin will detect any previous submission that you have made and will include such matches in your originality report.
- If your supervisor requires you to reproduce material in your dissertation that you have already submitted elsewhere (e.g. published paper/literature review) then it is possible to exclude the match from the Turnitin report.
Including your own published work in your PhD thesis (3)

Copyright issues related to publishing a paper in a journal or a conference proceeding:

• For some publications, you may be asked to sign a copyright transfer agreement.

• When you sign such an agreement, you need to confirm with the publisher whether or not you can retain the right to reproduce part or all of the paper. You can also retrospectively request permission from the publisher to reproduce the paper.

• You will need to clearly state in your thesis that you have retained the right to publish the material or that you have the permission of the publisher.
Including your own published work in your PhD thesis (4)

Issues related to **jointly** publishing a paper in a journal or a conference proceeding:

- In addition to the copyright issues on the previous slide, if the paper you would like to include in your thesis has multiple authors, then you also need the permission of your co-authors before you can incorporate it in your thesis.

- In such cases, you will need to clearly state in your thesis that you have the permission of the co-authors (in addition to the statements on the previous slide).

If you cannot meet any of these conditions, then you must rewrite the material in your own words and also reference the original source.
Summary

• Avoid unfair means by using an ethical approach to presenting information.

• Academic integrity includes giving correct acknowledgement for ideas and material that you have used from other sources.