Questions and Answers

Vol. 5

or

“The few, the brave – the ‘nominated representatives’”

Paul Pounds

20 May 2014

University of Queensland
But first…

Some house keeping
House keeping

• Lab is getting messy!
  – Not a problem yet, but it will be soon.
  – Tidy your work areas and be vigilant.

• Random people have been spotted in the lab
  – Always shut the door firmly when you enter/leave the lab
# Calendar at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Reviews</th>
<th>Demos</th>
<th>Assessment submissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3/3 – 7/3</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10/3 – 15/3</td>
<td>Principles of Mechatronic Systems design</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>17/3 – 21/3</td>
<td>Professional Engineering Topics</td>
<td></td>
<td>Design brief</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>24/3 – 28/3</td>
<td>Your soldering is (probably) terrible</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>31/3 -4/3</td>
<td>No lecture</td>
<td>Progress review 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7/4 – 11/4</td>
<td>Image segmentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>14/4 – 18/4</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Progress seminar</td>
<td>25% demo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td>21/4 – 25/4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>28/4 – 3/5</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>5/5 – 9/5</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Progress review</td>
<td>50% demo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>12/5 – 16/5</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>19/5 – 23/5</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td></td>
<td>75% demo</td>
<td>Preliminary report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>26/5 – 30/5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Final testing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2/6 – 6/6</td>
<td>Closing lecture</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final report and addendum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How are we all doing?

- Progress seminar results

![Bar Chart](chart.png)
Overall class progress

- Moving to the right!
Managing your stress levels

• Stress level seem better managed this year
How are we all doing?

So far, so good!

(Just keep it up!)
FAQ Roundup

• Can we recycle parts of our design brief for the report?
  – Sure. However, it's worth noting that a design brief and a project report are two different types of documents for two different purposes. You should think very carefully about what parts are recyclable and why you might choose to reuse them.

• What about self-plagiarism?
  – Sigh….

  Allow me to explain.
Self-plagiarism

• “Self-plagiarism” is almost certainly does not mean what you think it means.
  – Only tangentially about copying your own work

Self-plagiarism is about *misrepresentation*. 
Self-plagiarism

• In the rarefied airs of academic publishing, it is of utmost importance whether the material you publish is ‘novel’
  – Ie. never before seen nor published anywhere

“Nobody will pay for old news.”
Self-plagiarism

• Thus, if you take old academic work and try to pass it off as new research, the publishers will *destroy* you.
  – Or just sue you, or whatever.
  – Either way, your career is over.
Self-plagiarism

• In an educational context, rehashing old work does not fulfil the educational goal.
  – We want to know what you can do now, in the constraints imposed, rather than what you did last year without restrictions.
Self-plagiarism

• So, educators and academics care a great deal about self-plagiarism and warn students against it’s sinful nature.

• Of course, most engineers live and work in the real world…
Self-plagiarism

- In engineering practice, replicating work needlessly is unprofessional and inappropriate.

- So long as you only take credit for the work you have actually done and credit other’s work appropriately employers do not care if you copy – with their permission, of course!
Self-plagiarism

• This course is structured like a professional design and build project.
  – Your reporting should reflect this.

• Consequently, I have zero qualms about you copying your own past work.
  – Cite small quotes/extracts, but replication is ok.
  – Of course, do not copy the work of others without proper attribution, though.
Questions
Tune-in next time for...

Questions and Answers Vol. 6

or

“Yeah, everyone is just going to be in the lab, right?”

Fun fact: Excel’s histogram method is baffling.