



# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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**AMITABHA LAHIRI**

S. N. BOSE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR BASIC SCIENCES

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# PLAGIARISM

- ☞ The act of using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person : *from Merriam-Webster online*
- ☞ *Plagiarise* :
  - ☞ to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- ☞ Copying from another paper without acknowledgement (citation)
  - ☞ Copying could refer to ideas, techniques,
  - ☞ Or language (groups of sentences)
  - ☞ Or figures, diagrams, data

# PLAGIARISM

- ❏ Copying/splicing from several papers is also plagiarism
  - ❏ Many people write the introduction to their paper by this method
  - ❏ Some papers are written very well, and it is difficult to avoid their influence
  - ❏ One should consciously try to use original sentences
- ❏ Not always intentional or obvious
  - ❏ Example: a deep comment from another paper
  - ❏ Should be put in quotation marks and given a citation
  - ❏ Basic or fundamental results are sometimes given without citation
  - ❏ If they are recently discovered, it should be considered plagiarism

# PLAGIARISM

- ❏ **Improper or incomplete citations**
  - ❏ Mentioned in bibliography but not cited at the appropriate place
  - ❏ Self-citation: taken from another paper written by the same author(s)
- ❏ **Plagiarism is a grave offence**
  - ❏ In principle, all authors are responsible
  - ❏ In practice, not all authors get equal punishment
  - ❏ Loss of face for senior authors, career problems for juniors
- ❏ **Anti-plagiarism software: Turnitin/iThenticate**
  - ❏ [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

# SOME CASES

- ☞ B. S. Rajput – Vice Chancellor, Kumaun U.
- ☞ Europhysics Letters (2002) plagiarised from Phys. Rev. D paper (1996)
- ☞ K. Pandey, Head of Physics Dept, made this public
- ☞ Several earlier papers also found to be plagiarised
- ☞ Letters to President, Minister, Governor by eminent scientists
- ☞ Rajput removed from his position as VC
- ☞ Frontline article for more details (but before Rajput was removed)

# SOME CASES

- ☞ **CNR Rao also accused in a case in 2010-11**
- ☞ **In 3-4 papers, part of the introduction was copied from elsewhere**
- ☞ “This should not be really considered as plagiarism, but an instance of copying of a few sentences in the text” – CNR Rao
- ☞ **Blame fell on one student**