Ethics of Electrical Engineering

As an electrical engineering student, I must consider the ethics associated with my study and work. Because my current and future work may have an impact on communities, society, or even all human beings, I must know what is right or good for other people. To be positive and responsible should be my fundamental value. From this point of view, I need to build up my code of ethics.

For electrical engineering people, there is IEEE Code of Ethics. To study the code is required by the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECpE) Department of Iowa State University. The purpose of having the Code of Ethics is to have a good behavioral standard and a right developing direction in electrical engineering works. This gives people who work in the electrical engineering area a fair, positive, and honest environment. It also points out that the development of the electrical engineering should benefit human beings and the world.

Last semester, in a group meeting for ethics case study, I talked with Dr. Ramamoorthy who was a professor in ECpE Department. Our case study was the Space Shuttle Columbia. This was related to the honesty, fidelity, and responsibility of the virtue ethics. Based on this story, we knew that anything related to the engineering should be serious and precise because any part of a project might cause tragedy if it was not well done.

In the meeting of our group, we also talked about ethics of our study, especially honesty. We shared what we saw about cheating in classes. There were some people who liked to do group tests during quizzes and exams. Besides, some people even cheated when they did homework. Dr. Ramamoorthy told us that he even found a student who handed in the TA’s lab report as his own work, but forgot to change the name. In the meeting, we all believed that cheating is shameful and stupid, and every faculty member and student in this university should be responsible for eliminating cheating to make our academic environment better.

If I face with an ethical situation, I will check with the IEEE Code of Ethics before making a decision. Except checking with it, I must consider what the result will be for each possible decision. If a decision can lead to a harmful effect for others, I should stop it and
find another way that is neutral or positive. Based on this purpose, I would like to set up my own code of ethics for my daily study and work.

● Cheating is shameful. Always stay far away from cheating.

● Be willing to help people with academic development.

● Avoiding conflicts and injuring others. Trying best to understand others.

● Be fair and realistic.