

**An email that G.-B. Huang posted on his [ELM@mlist.ntu.edu.sg](mailto:ELM@mlist.ntu.edu.sg) emailing list has been forwarded to [ELM.Exposed@gmail.com](mailto:ELM.Exposed@gmail.com) with request for our remarks:**

From: G.-B. Huang

To: [ELM@mlist.ntu.edu.sg](mailto:ELM@mlist.ntu.edu.sg)

Subject: WHO behind the malign and attack on ELM, GOAL of the attack and ESSENCE of ELM

Dear Colleagues/Researchers,

Many researchers are curious on who are circulating anonymous malign letters and setting up anonymous malign websites to attack ELM (Extreme Learning Machines) community, the reasons behind and their final goals. Many of you have also received such malign letters which, from both contents and the attacking approaches viewpoints, may be considered most horrible in academic history. We tried not to waste any time on handling such illegal and horrible attacking for the moment, and we believe that the time will tell the truth in the end. There are many positive things awaiting us to study and concentrate.

**Our Remark: In the academic history, publishing violations as gross as ELM have never been committed. You must ask questions, such as, why these attacks are only targeted at ELM, why, for example, SVM was not targeted, etc.**

1) WHO behind the attack:

a. This malign and attacking campaigns were initiated and have been mainly driven by a person from XXX University (Person A). Person A plagiarized others' works. He has been working very hard in the past years in order to affect other researchers' independence and freedom in research (e.g., sending mass emails, repeatedly calling researchers and begging them not to study ELM, threatening authors of new submissions he is reviewing/handling, etc). Person A was suggested by us to write a comment letter and publish it with our response if he feels ELM same as others. However, Person A played games by asking others to submit the comment letter to a journal so that he can continue playing behind the curtain. After reading our response and knowing their comments are incorrect, they decided to withdraw the comment letter and spread it as an anonymous malign letter in order to reach his goal of attacking others. Person A pretended in front of some researchers that this was not done by him. In fact, Person A not only attacks ELM community but also those who he considers better than him but are younger than him or in the same generation as him, or those who helps him in one way or another but he considers should provide much more help on him.

b. Another person from YYY University (Person B), who is also involved in such attack campaign in one way or another, plagiarized others' research works 10 years ago. Person B was warned by the university due to his plagiarism case. Although his misconduct was forgiven by others, he is keeping playing games and unfortunately did not learn any lesson from his earlier misconduct.

**Our Remark for 1-a & 1-b: All the above allegations have been made without showing any evidence (If hard evidences on serious unethical behavior are provided to us, we will advise you on how to expose these 2 individuals to the world by making use of web pages and anonymous emails). However, allegations against ELM have solid evidences at:**

**<http://elmorigin.wix.com/originofelm>**

c. There are a few “assistants” and “special helpers” working behind too due to their common “benefit” concerns (instead of academic concerns). The main reason we do not wish to show the full list of those few people and only show the surnames of two misconduct people is that it’s better to give them some opportunities of correcting their own mistakes. Research is always serious, and it is not based on maligning, attacking, telling lies and cheating others. People could be cheated for a while but not forever. All these malign and attacking will finally become a joke and ridiculous story in academic history.

**Our Remark: There are not just a few assistants. There is a large community of researchers offended by your unethical publishing practices. You must accept this and correct yourself.**

d. In order to show that they themselves are “ethical” and can be “trusted,” they are suggested to disclose their own names to the research community in the world. We doubt whether they are “**brave**” enough to show their names and tell the world who they are.

**Our Remark: We do not ask anyone to trust us nor our ethical practices. We present hard evidences against your unethical publishing practices. It is within our rights to remain anonymous so that we will never have to deal with you on a personal level. We are interested only in the ethical and technical issues.**

**If you are *brave*, you should forward the web link of "Origins of ELM" to all researchers in your ELM emailing list and ask them to read the contents, decide for themselves and offer their views to you (and cc-ing to [ELM.Exposed@gmail.com](mailto:ELM.Exposed@gmail.com)). We are certain that you would never dare to do this because it will expose your unethical practices to the world research community in no time. You have no rights to hide these evidences from the world and continue to fool the research community with your unethically created term “ELM”, while stealing credits and citations from the true owners of the techniques that you call as “ELM”.**

2) GOAL of the attack:

a. They claimed in the anonymous malign and attack letters/website that ELM is same as SVM, LS-SVM, RVFL, RBF network, etc. At the first glance, it seems that they are advocating those techniques, however, it turns out that they are actually claiming in a “smart and indirect manner” that SVM, LS-SVM, RVFL, RBF networks, etc are same as each other if they really think those techniques are the same as ELM. They are trying to downgrade the originality of those related earlier works. However, obviously those techniques are quite different from each other.

**Our Remark: The above statements attempt to fool general readers who do not know the details of ELM. In fact, ELM has 3 variants as presented on the web page on "Origins of ELM", i.e.,**

- 1. ELM-SLFN is identical to RVFL (without the VITAL direct links);**
- 2. ELM-RBF is identical to Broomhead-Lowe RBF (with additional performance-degrading randomization of RBF radii or impact factors);**
- 3. ELM-Kernel is identical to kernel ridge regression and LS-SVM without bias.**

**SVM, LS-SVM, RVFL, RBF, and kernel ridge regression are all certainly different. But you seem to have developed a tendency of grabbing all methods that you can find in the literature using pseudo-inverse and calling them as ELM!**

b. They claimed in the anonymous malign and attack letters/website that ELM does not refer to those earlier works and should not be forgiven, however, it's reasonable that those earlier works do not refer to each other as it was not easy for the authors of those earlier works to access others' works. This actually intends to insult the authors of those earlier works, to challenge the seriousness of those pioneers in research, and intentionally tells the world that those earlier works are same. Actually those earlier works are significantly different from each other, there is no credit and citation issue to them at all. On the other hand, those earlier works have been referred in relevant ELM works appropriately. In fact, some authors of those earlier works told us (by emails) and/or stated openly to the research community that they actually feel thankful to ELM community for the credit given to them. Several years ago, Halbert White, the pioneer of artificial neural networks and also the main inventor of QuickNet (1988) commented that "ELM" term was so sexy and so great!

**Our Remark: All the above has already been refuted on our website. You are simply repeating these false statements. The issue is not about "citing" or "not citing", but first knowingly excluding relevant references in order to publish your (almost) identical works without citations or proper comparisons to the literature, and later citing the references in an incorrect and misleading manner. You must copy the content of the web page on "Origins of ELM" and comments in the PDF files uploaded on this web page and answer to each and every allegation, as we are doing on your meaningless email. You should circulate such a reply to your ELM emailing list. It is anybody's opinion whether the term "ELM" is sexy or great, but there is nothing sexy or great about stealing by re-naming!**

c. Different research communities (including ELM, RVFL, QuickNet, SVM, LS-SVM, Neural Science, etc) are actually discussing relevant research often in a very harmony manner and we are enjoying such fruitful and encouraging discussions. Our aim is very simple: try to find the truth of nature with joint research effort. However, such a few who had never truly working on any of these areas (except for several plagiarism cases or related papers but mainly written by others) feel jealous on the growing harmony atmosphere among different research communities.

**Our Remark:** We invite you to list out previous attacks based on jealousy on any genuine researcher. There are hundreds of great computer science researchers. How many of them have suffered from jealous attacks? Please list their names with solid evidences. Why are we not jealous of those hundreds of genuine researchers and their true achievements? Why are you the only one to face these attacks? The answers are obvious. These attacks are not based on jealousy. These are only due to your unethical publishing activities.

3) ESSENCE of ELM:

**Our Remark:** Readers can find out the real essence of ELM (i.e. ELM-SLFN, ELM-RBF, ELM-Kernel) at:

<http://elmorigin.wix.com/originofelm>

The essence of ELM is nothing more than an unethical new name for the following published techniques: RFVL (without direct link), RBF, kernel ridge regression, and LS-SVM (with zero b). There is no technical novelty in ELM.

It is unethical to say ELM is capable of many things: you should say RFVL, RBF, kernel ridge regression, and LS-SVM are capable of many things. Any further development of ELM should be ethically called further development of RFVL, RBF, kernel ridge regression, or LS-SVM.

Stop using the unethical term “ELM” to steal credits and citations from the original inventors of these methods!

**Our Final Remark:** The ELM creator is certainly damaging the reputation of the domain name ELM@MLIST.NTU.EDU.SG by sending out offending emails such as this one by using his university emailing list.

**Email for Feedback:** ELM.Exposed@gmail.com