Eval Board
Care and feeding Instructions

General

• Don't lose it!
  - Put your name/email on your board, power supply, cables, and plastic case.
  - Put label on plastic case.
  - Don't leave it laying around: it looks cool, and might "wander off"
  - 1 student left on bus.

Electrostatic Discharge (ESD)

• Plugging/Unplugging
  - plugging/unplugging the cape, or connecting pins to headers!
    (1 student fried BBB by shorting 5V to something)
  - USB and Ethernet should be OK to hot-swap.

• Static electricity can very easily damage electronics.
  - The high static voltage will "punch through" the electronics making them malfunction.
  - Especially problematic in..
  - Don't wear fuzzy slippers and a polar fleece robe while working on board.

• Ground yourself before touching board:
  Touch unpainted metal case of power supply.

• Take care when using push buttons.
  - Don't press buttons with metal pen, pencils, etc.

• Try not to touch chips on board or headers.
**Pin capabilities**

- BeagleBone’s CPU..
  - The AM335x microprocessor runs at 3.3V
    - Does not tolerate 5V applied to its pins: doing so can fry the CPU.
    - (One student shorted 5V to GPIO pin; board dead).
  - Some pins are 5V, others are 3.3V (USB is 5V).
  - Don't cross the streams.

**Liquids**

- General idea:..
  - Keep your drink on the opposite side of your computer from the board.
- Cleaning if you do spill on your board:
  - Disconnect all cables & power.
  - Run board under water from tap for 10 minutes.
  - Dry it off well using...

**Physical Damage**

- Case should *help* protect board from falls.
  - Rubber feet should help prevent falls.
  - Come see me if suspect damage; may be repairable (at your expense).
- Carrying Suggestions
  - Transport board inside anti-static bag.
  - Protect board using the provided plastic box.
  - Make sure your name is on the case and cables
    - 45+ identical copies floating around!
  - Pickup circuit board by the edges.

**Summary**

- The board is yours! Enjoy it, but take good care of it.
- Treat eval-board carefully: it is good quality, but easily damaged.
  - Be careful about static electricity.
  - Keep liquids away from it.
  - Protect it from physical damage.
- Repairs to damage may be possible, but likely at your expense.