Lab Report 1

Due date: *4pm, Friday 14th February 2020 (online submission)*
(Draft reports should be ready by Monday 10th / Tuesday 11th)

Resources

Two report writing workshops will be run in Week 4:

- **Group A** (Mon/Tue lab group): Monday 10th Feb, 2 – 3.30pm
- **Group B** (Thu/Fri lab group): Tuesday 11th Feb, 2 – 3.30pm

Please consider the writing workshop **compulsory**. Attendance will be taken; please let Dr Bull know well in advance if you cannot make your session.

Also, make sure you have a **printed draft** of your report with you for the workshop. It's OK if it's not complete, but should be reasonably developed by this point, with a good amount of text in each section.

Check on QMPlus for guidance on how to use the **report template**, which is written for the LaTeX typesetting environment and can be edited using Overleaf. Help with using LaTeX/Overleaf will be available after the report writing workshops.

Specification

- Report not exceeding 2 pages in length (max. 2 sides of A4 paper).
- **Must** use the LaTeX report template available on the QMPlus page.
- Report must be on your 2nd experiment (carried out in Week 3).
- Report must be your original work, completed independently (i.e. not with your lab partner). Plagiarism guidelines apply, and plagiarism detection software will be run on submitted reports.
- You should follow the stylistic conventions of a professional scientific report, including:
  - Good English/spelling/grammar/paragraphs/punctuation.
  - Good presentation of figures.
  - Formal, professional writing style.
  - References following an established referencing convention.
    An example scientific paper is provided on QMPlus that follows these conventions.

Guidance

- Get Overleaf/LaTeX up and running ASAP! We can help with any problems, but only if there is enough time…
- A report of this length would typically be expected to have 5 or more references, most of which are scientific papers/books/data repositories, rather than general websites.
- For good, quick advice on writing well, try the *Oxford Guide to Plain English*, which is available through the library.
- Make sure you read through the report at least a day before you submit it to looks for typos, spelling and grammar mistakes etc.
- Submit your report as a PDF file at least a few hours before the deadline. This will give you time to check the submission, look over the plagiarism report etc.
- Come and ask us for help/advice! Writing a good report is difficult, so please make good use of the writing workshop etc.