

Code-of-conduct for use of AI in the QDST group

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The use of AI for scientific work is becoming increasingly prevalent. In this group, our priority is for team members - especially PhD students and junior postdocs - to gain the skills and training in order to become scientists who can produce and publish high-quality scientific work. To this end, we here outline the way we use AI in our scientific and surrounding work.

General rules for AI use in the group

- We are honest about our use of AI, within or outside the group.
- We do our best to openly disclose whether ideas or methods originated through the use of AI. When appropriate, we also indicate this in manuscripts and any thesis or other work produced in the group.
- AI should accelerate learning, not replace or hinder it. The focus is on creating independent skills.

AI use for scientific work

- Generating calculations and code. For scientific work (including conceptualisation, exploration, and calculations), we may use generative AI to complete the calculation or coding task if we ourselves have already performed the type of calculation or coding problem independently before, such that we can reliably check and understand the output generated. This could be code or a calculation. The purpose of this is to ensure that we learn and build expertise in the group.
- All code that can affect a scientific result must be checked and tested. This includes simulation, analysis, fitting, statistics, data processing and any transformations performed when producing figures. Purely cosmetic, interface or boilerplate code does not necessarily require line-by-line inspection, but the resulting behaviour should still be tested where appropriate.
- Everything that contributes to a scientific claim in a manuscript must be understood and verified by the authors to the same standard as work produced without AI. The human authors retain full responsibility for the correctness, reproducibility and interpretation of the work.
- References suggested or retrieved by AI must be independently verified from the original source.
- We disclose how we used AI in papers (following journal rules)

Use of group-provided AI services (e.g. the Anthropic Teams subscription)

- We do not use the AI team subscription for commercial projects that do not align with the scientific purpose of the group
- Personal projects, if the plan is provided by the group

Prohibited use of AI

- We do not enter confidential, sensitive or protected information into AI systems unless that system has been explicitly approved for that category of information (e.g. when using a local model)
- This includes (for external models)
 - Uploading confidential documents (e.g .peer review material sent in confidence)
 - Uploading personal data (subject to GDPR rules -- Stockholm University explicitly treats CVs, application information and related material as personal data under GDPR.)
 - Meeting transcripts without the consent of the other meeting attendees
- We do not upload candidate application materials or other personal information from recruitment processes to non-approved AI systems. We do not delegate assessment, ranking or selection of candidates to generative AI.

Open questions / areas for discussions:

- Do we upload unpublished manuscripts? This might be a nonsensical question if part of the work has already been co-developed with the help of AI
- Is there a way to track what is human-originated and what is AI-originated? E.g. through git commits? This could increase overhead of the research process though.