

# BSP Structured Projects

## HT 2021

## **Important dates**

HT Week 10

Monday 22 March (12 noon)

deadline for handing in project write-up

Roughly Monday 29 March to Monday 19 April

peer review period

TT Week 1

oral presentations

## **Project write-up**

Should be equivalent to a 7500-word project, roughly 15 pages of plain text.

Number of pages: **no more than 35** including calculations and tables.

(Code can be added as an appendix.)

## **Getting started**

- plan your structure
- plan your time

## **Structure**

A good structure for this (or any extended piece of writing) is:

Introduction

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Conclusion

For example:

Introduction

1. The basic model
2. Extension A: varying the wind speed
3. Extension B: lunar disturbances

Conclusion

Allocate word lengths:

Introduction – 500 words

Section 1 – 2000 words

Section 2 – 2000 words

Section 3 – 2000 words

Conclusion – 1000 words

Set yourself manageable targets:

Section 1 – by end of Week 2

Section 2 – by end of Week 4

Section 3 – by end of Week 6

Introduction and Conclusion

(and general polishing) – by end of Week 8



## **Writing**

LaTeX document class 'report' enables you to produce a title page, table of contents, section headings, etc.

Some tips:

- **always** keep your reader in mind
- write for yourself a year ago, or another student in your year
- in each section explain what you are going to do and why
- also explain any limitations
- use formal English and short direct sentences.

## AVOID PLAGIARISM

by writing in your own words  
and acknowledging all your sources.

## References

There are three ways to insert references into your text.

1. Allow LaTeX to do it for you [4].
2. Insert your own (Sobey 2007a, 2008).
3. Use footnotes.

For methods 2 and 3 a brief reference is sufficient.

For journal articles just give name and date:  
(Sobey 2011).

For books give name, date, pages:  
(Wilkins 2012, 345–358).

Then give a full list of references at the end.

For journal articles:

Author(s), 'Title', *Journal*, vol (year), pages.

For books:

Author(s), *Title*, Publisher, Year.

Choose a consistent system and keep to it.

## **Figures and tables**

These may be inserted into your text or added at the end.

In either case refer to them at the relevant point in the text

‘ ... effects of the moon (see Figure 3) ...’

For further advice on writing a dissertation, including advice on references, plagiarism, and the evaluation of web resources, see

‘Advice on reading and writing’

on the O1 (History of Mathematics) web page.



Looking ahead 1

## **Peer review**

During a 4-week period during the Easter vacation you will be asked to assess another student's project (on a topic different from your own), answering such questions as:

- does it approach the problem in a sensible and realistic way?
- is the explanation of the problem clear?
- are the basic tasks properly performed and explained?
- are the extensions well chosen?
- is the mathematics well handled?
- are the results appropriately displayed?
- are the arguments sound?
- are sources fully and correctly referenced?
- is the conclusion convincing?

Looking ahead 2

## **Presentation**

In Week 1 TT you will give a 20-minute presentation of your work. This will be online, using MSTeams.

You will be assessed on your ability to explain your project clearly to an audience of non-specialists.