SIERRA-WILLOW LLM Usage Etiquette

V1.0 (05/10/26, LLM L2)

1 Four levels of assistance

L0 *No LLM.*

L1 *Periphery.* Figures, boilerplate, asking the LLM to check small parts.

L2 *Co-construction.* I (re)write the core of the contribution myself, using the model as a research assistant.

L3 *Delegation.* The model produces and I audit.

2 Research tasks

Research ideation, active learning, bibliographic search, code writing, mathematical derivation, paper writing.

3 Etiquette

1. I experiment with ways of prompting the model that keep me in control of my scientific output and that build or maintain my own skills, rather than ways that maximise productivity. I leverage LLMs to learn.
2. I am able to explain at the blackboard the core of my contributions that go into a paper, a talk, or research code.
3. I check every reference the model suggests: the bibliographic data, and that the source actually says what I am stating it says.
4. I do not expose confidential data to a commercial model. The scope of confidential data is to be agreed with my supervisor or collaborators. Login data (including ssh keys) is confidential.
5. I am aware of which level of assistance I am using for a given project and a given research task. I keep part of my research activity with little or no assistance.
6. I state the level of assistance proactively by a statement on research artifacts and by declaration to my supervisor, student or collaborators. The level of assistance is discussed regularly.
7. I reread and rewrite anything I send to another person. I do not send walls of LLM-generated text.