

For the reader

This thesis is divided into 3 chapters.

Chapter 1, titled *General Introduction*, is a chapter that familiarizes the reader with the general subject matter of the thesis so that the content of Chapters 2 and 3 can be understood in a clearer way. In addition, each chapter is preceded by an introductory section called *About this chapter*, which apprises the reader about the nature of the immediate content that follows.

The sections in Chapter 1 (*General Introduction*) are divided into sections and subsections, from 1.1 to 1.6. The figures are numbered alphabetically - 1A, 1B, 1C, and so forth. Chapter 3 also has an introductory section within, where the figures are numbered similarly, from 3A, 3B... to 3J. Most figures used in the introduction sections have been used under Creative Commons (CC) licences; where this is not the case, permissions have been obtained from the respective holders of copyright.

Chapters 2 and 3 are data chapters that contain results of experiments performed. The *Results* sections of Chapters 2 and 3 are divided into twelve sections each, numbered from 2.1 to 2.12, and 3.1 to 3.12. The figures in these sections are numbered after the corresponding sections; for example, Section 3.1 has Figure 3.1, which comprises subfigures 3.1 A, B, C, D, and E; Section 3.2 has Figure 3.2, comprising subfigures 3.2 A, B, C, D, and E.

Chapters 2 and 3 have a *Discussion* section that follows the *Results* section.

Materials and Methods are contained in a single section towards the end, and so are the references.

After the third chapter ends there is a section *Perspective*, which ruminates on the general theme of the subject matter and its broader implications.

The primary font used in the text is Georgia 12 pt. Figure legends are written in Calibri (Body) 11 pt. to provide better contrast for readability. Similarly, figure and reference labels within the text use Cambria (Headings) bold to be easily visible to the eye.

Numerical references are used throughout the document and listed at the end of the thesis in the Vancouver (author-date) format.

I hope you enjoy reading this thesis.