

Early observations

15-113 – Wednesday 1/21

Reminders!

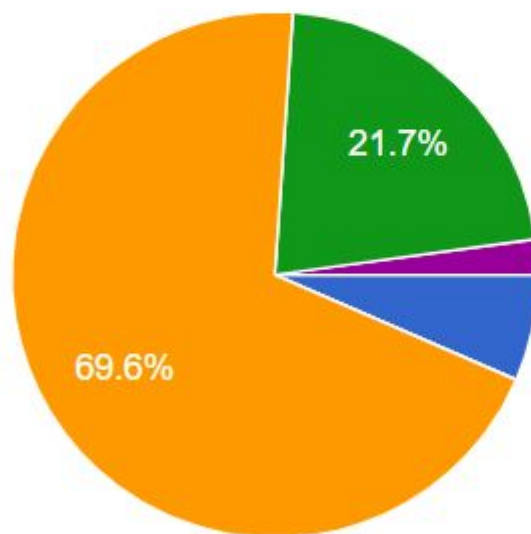
- If you haven't done the HW1 survey, please do that soon. If you joined the class within the last 6 days, send me an email and we'll make a catch-up plan.
- Project 1 (your website) is due Sun 1/25 at 8pm!
- Remember to stop by OH for early project feedback on or before Friday! (See Ed post for more details)
- Change to the schedule: HW2 Tetris reflection will now be due next week (week 3) so that you can focus on just Project 1

HW1 survey results

How would you describe your ability to create working applications with that language when you *do not* have access to generative AI?

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46 responses



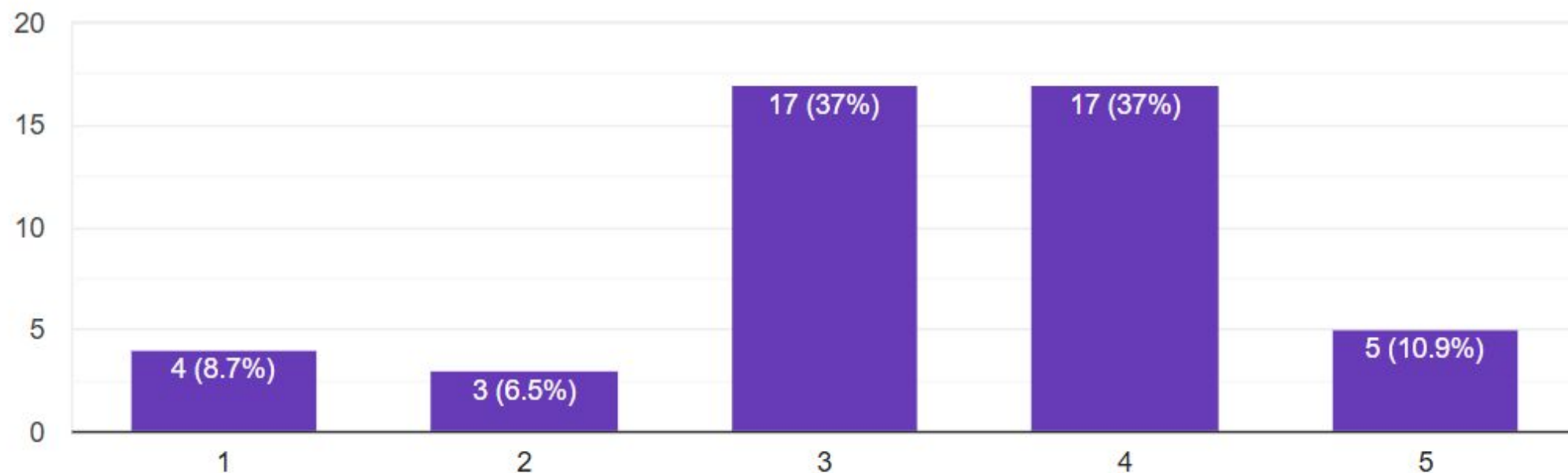
- I easily create fully professional production-ready apps
- I can create projects at the level of a nearly-graduated CMU CS major
- I can create projects typical of someone who has completed CMU 15-112, 15-...
- I could code something like Tetris from scratch, but it might be difficult and I...
- I don't think I would be able to code something like Tetris, even with lots of...

HW1 survey results

How often do you worry that you are not as proficient or experienced as others in your programming class(es)?

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46 responses

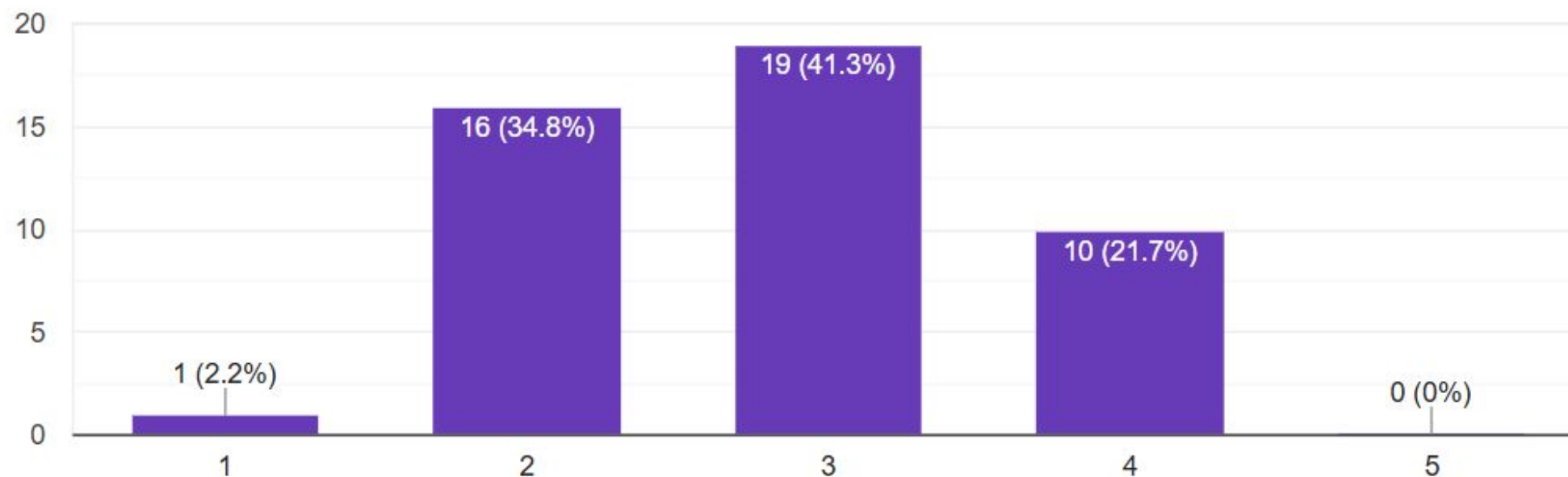


HW1 survey results

How often do you think *other students* in programming classes are worried about their own proficiency or experience?

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46 responses

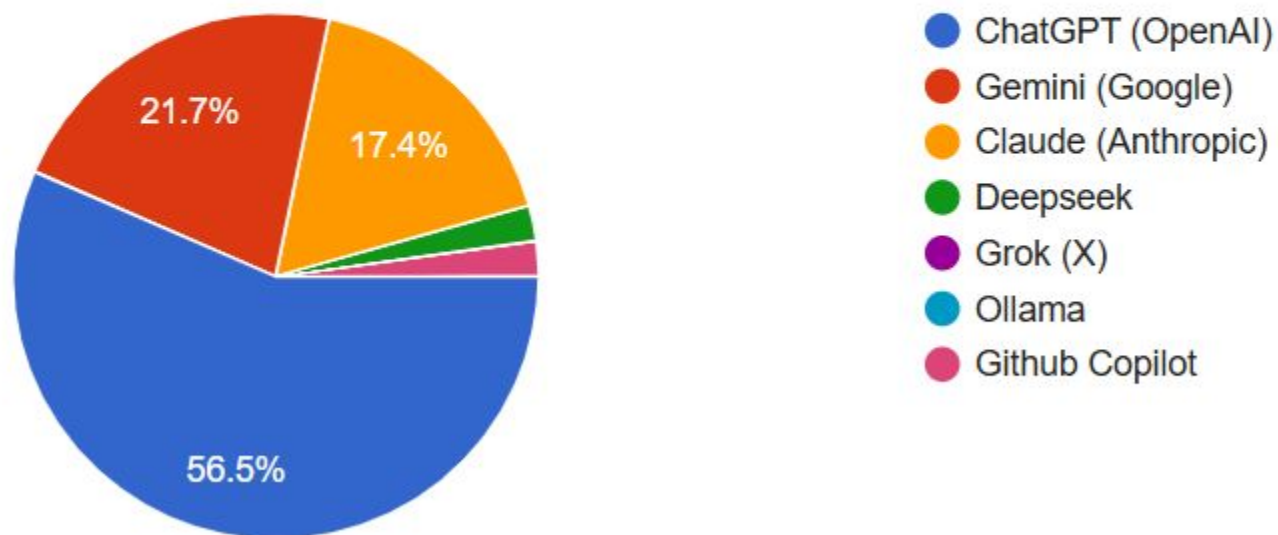


HW1 survey results

For coding tasks, which family of models do you tend to use *most* often?

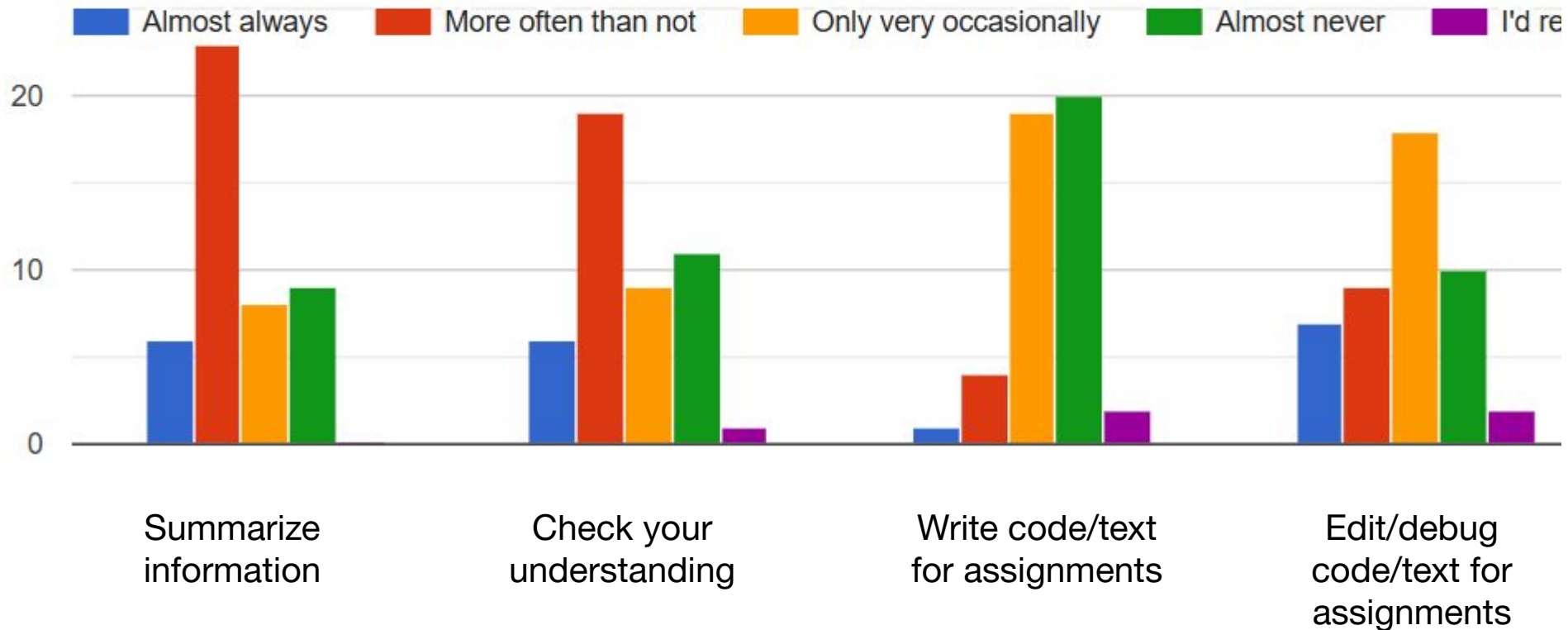
46 responses

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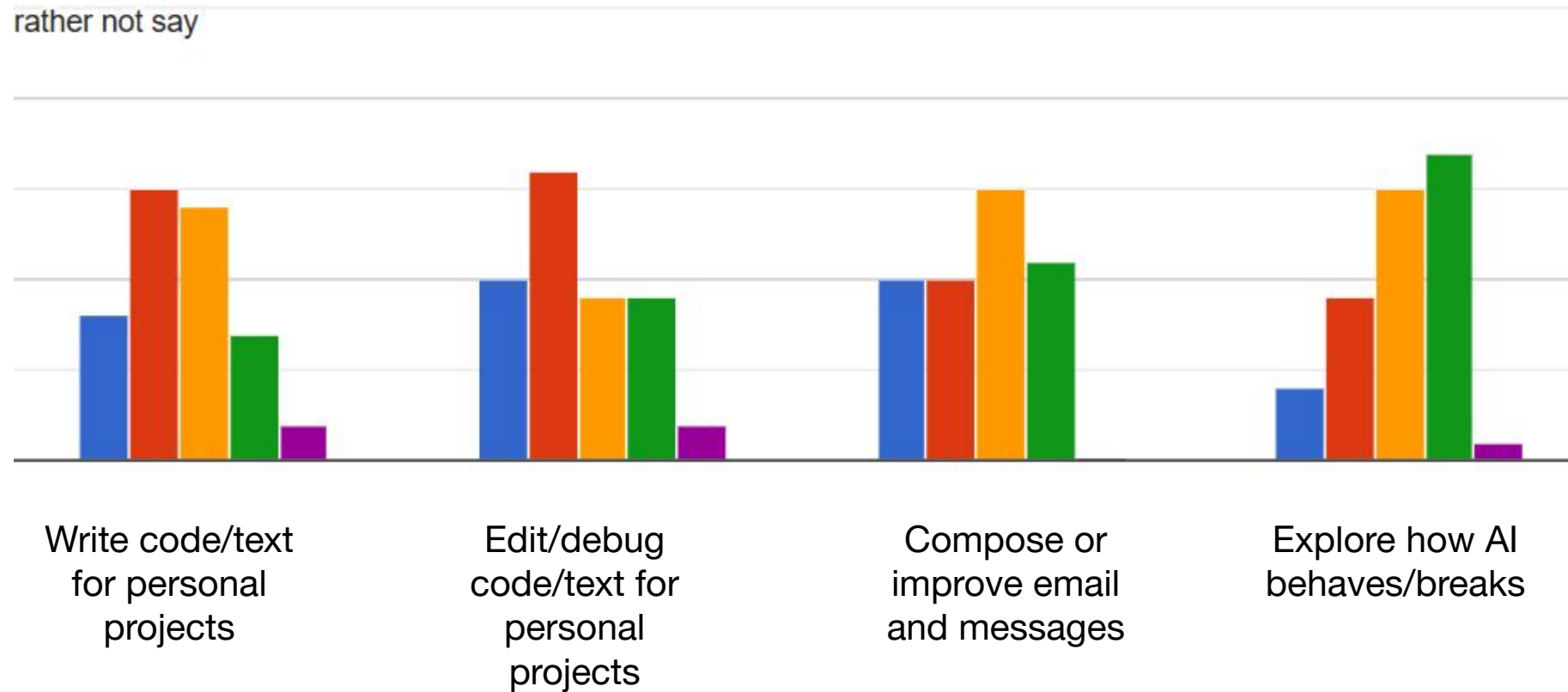


HW1 survey results

No judgment here. How often do you use generative AI or LLMs (i.e. ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc.) to...



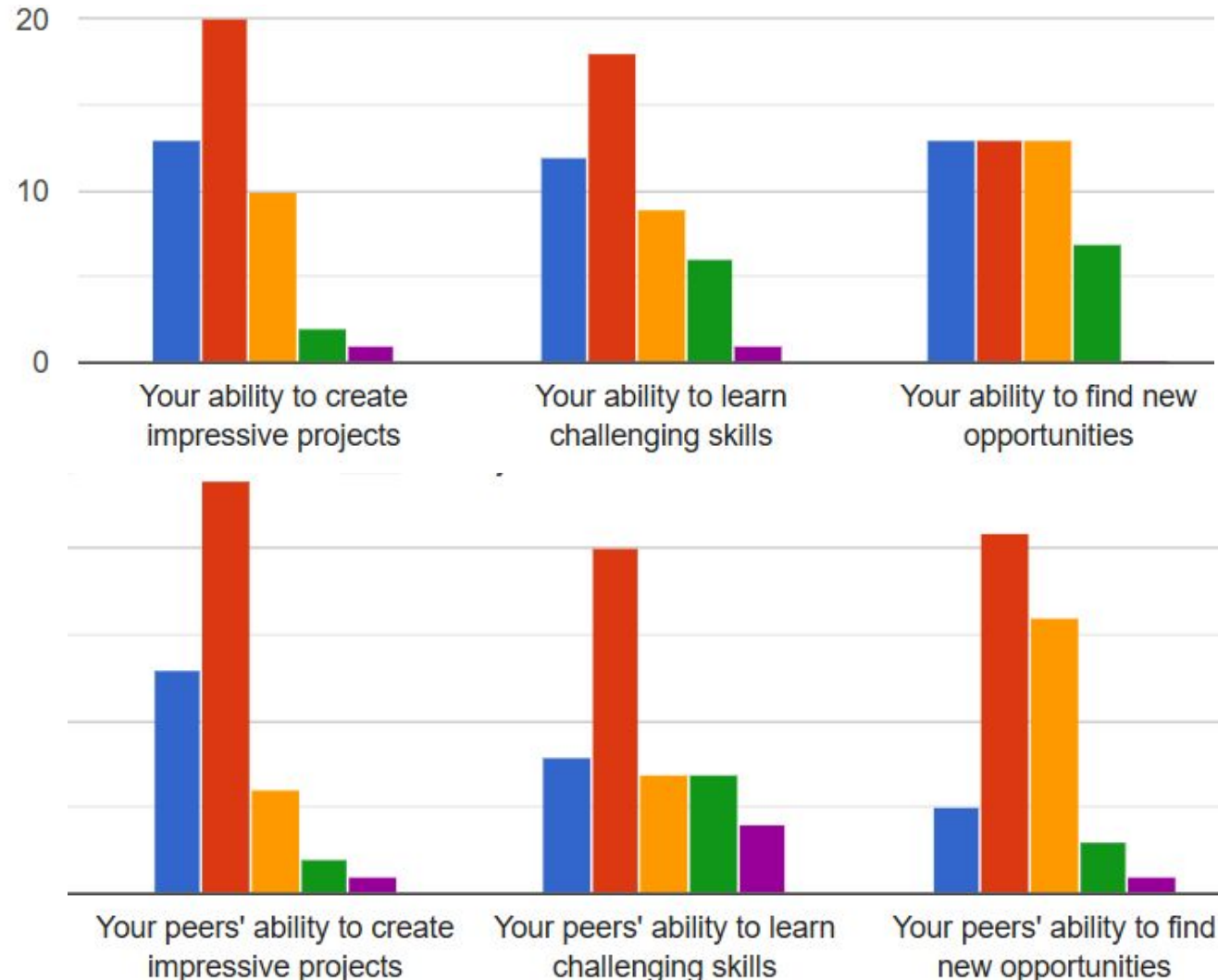
HW1 survey results



HW1 survey results

How much do you feel AI has either generally helped or generally hindered the following:

Greatly helped Helped a little Neither helped nor hindered Hindered a little Greatly hindered



The free responses are all over the map

- Attitudes about AI in general range from highly skeptical to highly praiseworthy, but everyone seems to be very open-minded. Experience levels are highly variable.
- Common themes:
 - People struggle to fully materialize their ideas with AI (as of right now)
 - Plenty of anxiety for what the future holds / what will be valued
 - Some concerns about not feeling ownership/authorship
 - Awareness that naive AI use might hinder personal growth
- General optimism for being able to learn best practices through experimentation

Three options for today:

- Option A: We start making Tetris. First I show you how to effectively use Copilot, then you each break into small groups and begin creating Tetris in Python
- Option B: We use the rest of today for you to work on your websites and get help / feedback from the TAs and I
- Option C: I give a *brief* Copilot demo, and then we work on the websites as described above

(Copilot is one of several tools that integrates AI directly into your coding workflow. Much less copy-pasting, and more immediate results!)

What sounds good?

- Fill this out to let us know! <https://bit.ly/3ZnbH81>



For posterity: We chose option C

- Seems like most folks have a solid start!
- Some suggestions:
 - Watch out: There are several Copilots. We want Github Copilot, not Microsoft Copilot. Ping us if you need help enabling it in VS Code. You'll have to sign into your github account from VS Code to get access.
 - You may be able to sign up for Copilot Pro for free as a student. Search for Github Copilot Pro (higher usage limits!)
 - If having trouble signing up for Gemini Pro, consider making a new / burner gmail account that isn't tied to any family plans etc. Let me know if nothing's working and I'll try to poke around for another fix.