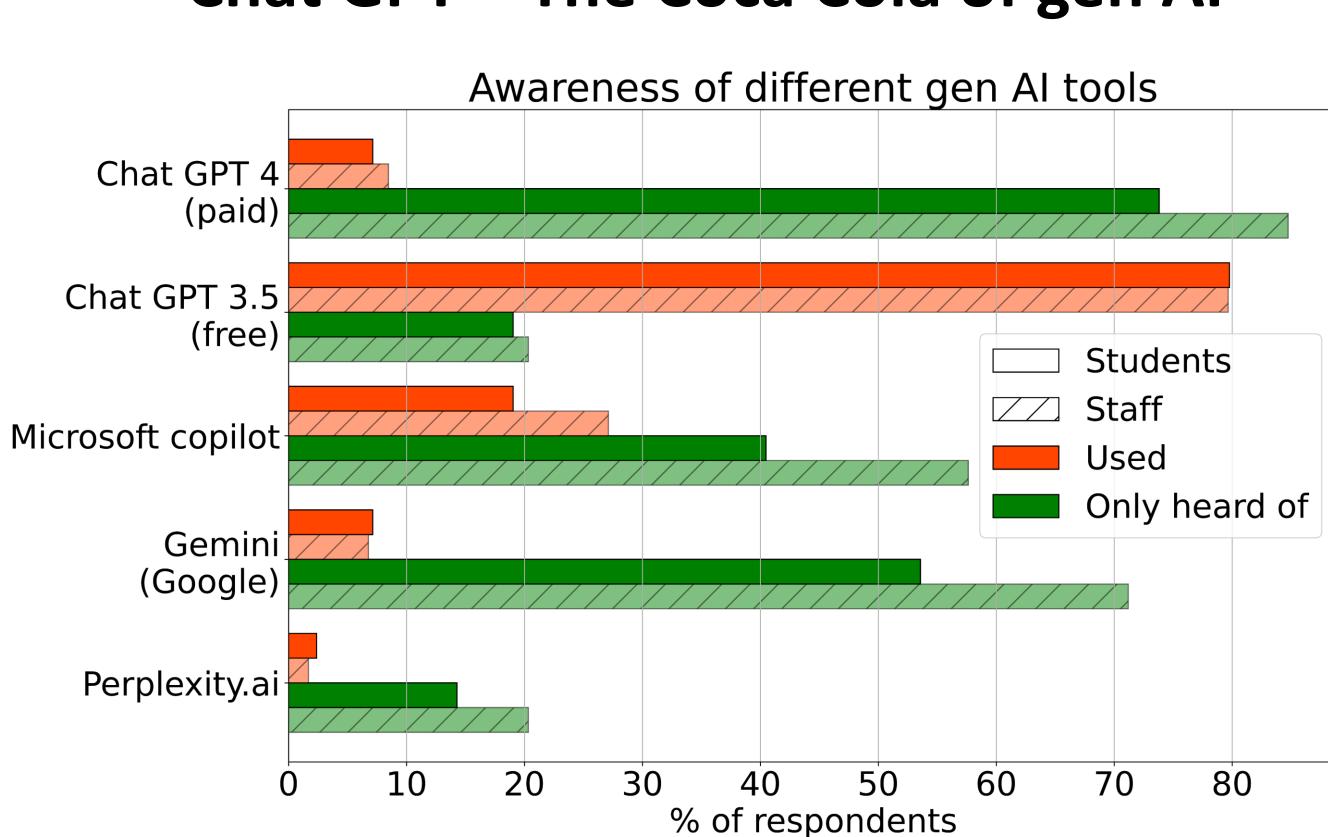
# Attitudes towards generative AI in physics and astronomy education David C L Millar

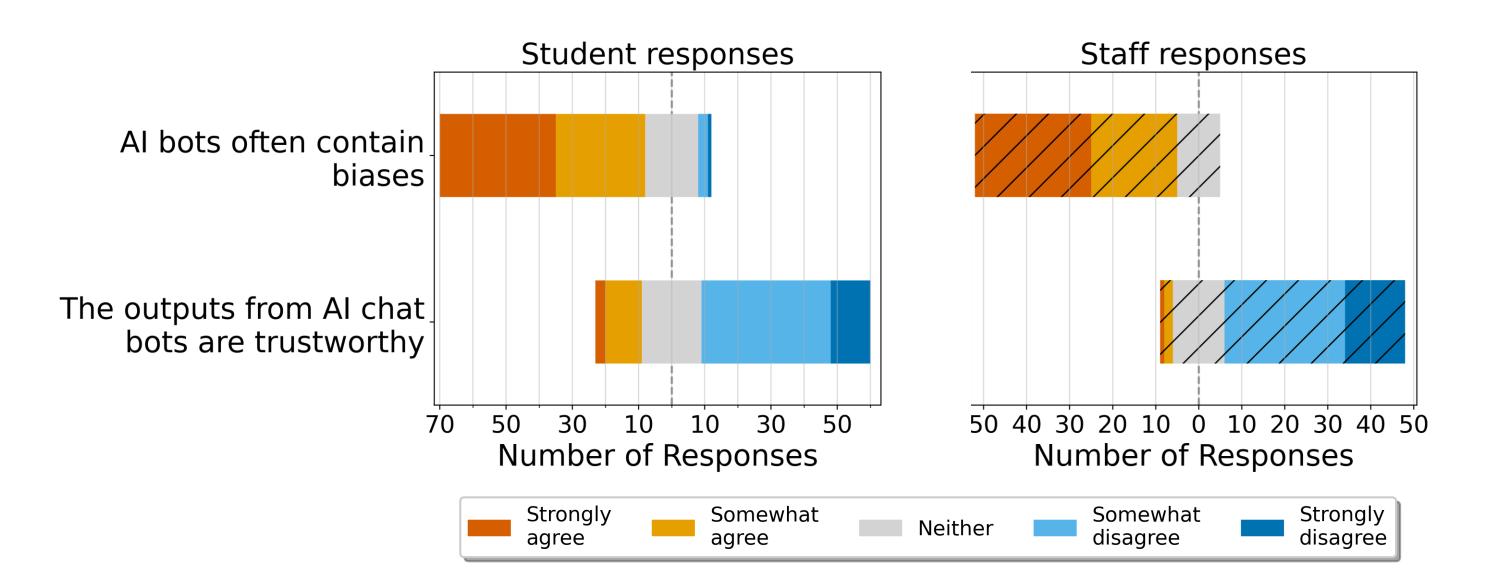
A survey was circulated to students and staff in the School of Physics & Astronomy at the University of Glasgow about generative AI. The survey aimed to gather opinions about AI in teaching at the university, how students use AI in their courses, and how teaching should develop.



Chat GPT – The Coca Cola of gen Al

The survey asked about the participants' experience with various popular AI chat bots

- Chat GPT was by far the most known and well used
- Less than 10% of both staff and students have used the paid version



#### Al awareness is strong

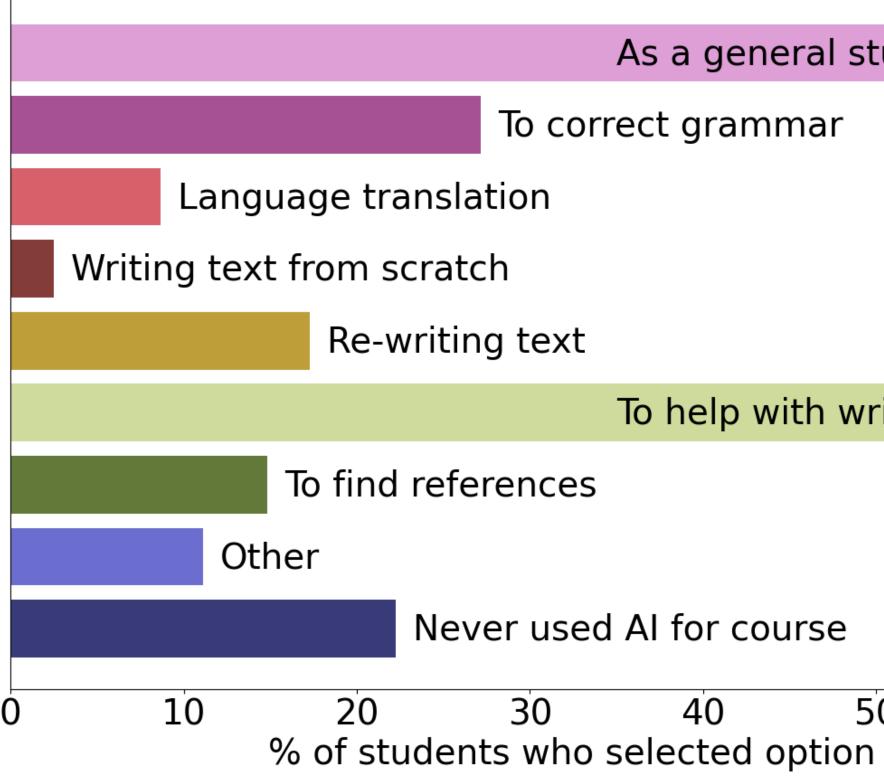
Both students and staff showed awareness of some of the pitfalls associated with using gen AI tools based on large language models (LLMs).

### **Participant info**

89 students from 1st to 3rd year physics undergraduate 63 members of teaching staff, including PhD researchers

# Students are not misusing Al





- Coding is one of the most popular uses of gen AI for physics students which is important to keep in mind when designing courses especially in early years
- In the list of options, only writing text from scratch (3.5%) is considered an inappropriate use of AI by most universities

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As a general study aid

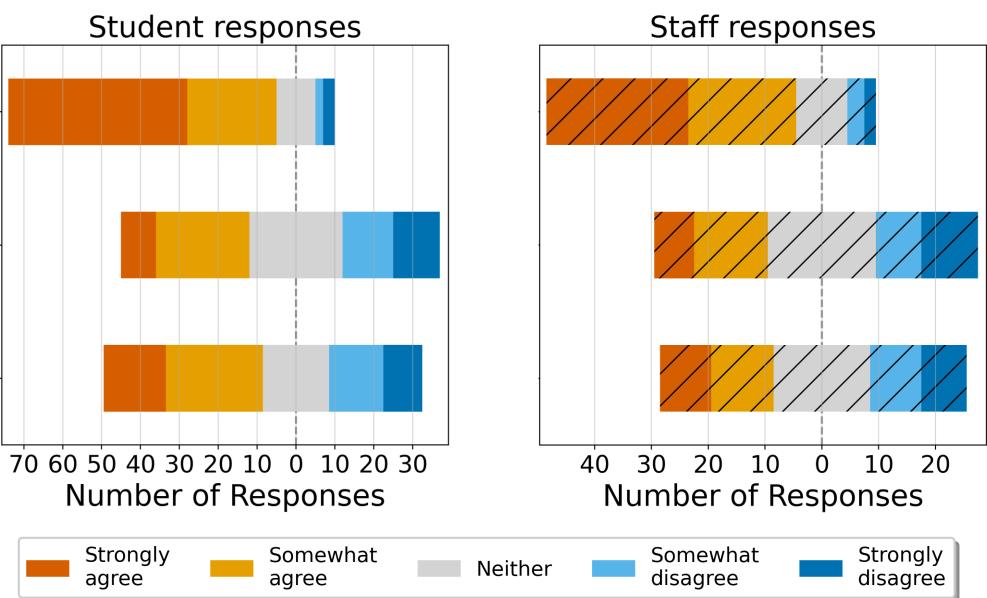
To help with writing code

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# A future for AI? Contradictory opinions

Being able to use Al effectively is an important skill to learn for the future The University should, in general, encourage the use of AI technology by STUDENTS

Al should be actively used and encouraged in teaching within the School



- consider including this in our curriculum?

### Is more guidance needed?

I know what uses of AI in my academic work are acceptable and

> I do not use AI for my studies in case I accidentally do something which is considered academic

I require more guidance from academic staff (lecturers, supervisors) on which AI practices are acceptable

> I feel a need for more guidance on the use of AI which is specific to

Strongly agree	Some agree

Students are in favour of more guidance for how to use Al in their courses, but most do not feel strongly



Students and staff agree that using AI is a worthy skill to learn, however opinions are split on whether the university should encourage its use by students. Students tend slightly in favour of AI being actively used in teaching, while staff are more balanced. If this skill is favourable for employers, should we

