Anastasia LaPeruta

Professor Labouseur

CMPT333N111

November 22, 2023

I decided to utilize ChatGPT for this assignment. I have used it before only to ask simpler questions for my other class to help me understand the material better, but I have not tried to see what code it would generate. To be honest my expectations were not very high for what code it could produce, and the results of its assistance were about what I expected. A few times I was stumped while working on this project and needed to find a different approach when mine was not working out as well as I liked. Some of these instances included working out the logic for the computer move and also how to check for a tie. Every time it produced some lines of code to perform these functions, there were constant errors having to do with illegal guard expression. Despite how many times I told ChatGPT the error message and to see if it had a different approach, it could never get past that hurdle. It seems as though it is difficult for ChatGPT to know of all the quirks of Erlang and maybe would create better code for Java or another mainstream programming language that is more flexible and does not require as many workarounds and complex solutions. Despite trying to gain help for multiple parts of the program, it never produced workable code on the first try. I had to keep tweaking what was given and being even more specific to get more useful code, and even then, it was not the cleanest workaround. Through using ChatGPT I learned new useful operations in Erlang like that a semicolon in an if statement operates as a logical OR, what the "andalso" operator is, and which way around the "greater than or equal to" and "less than or equal to" symbols went. ChatGPT also helped me a great deal with syntax since that can get pretty confusing. It helped place semicolons, colons and periods so I could focus on the meat of the program. Towards the end of my program, I needed help with error checking since Erlang does not have any way to loop to do so. Since I am more comfortable with loops than recursion I tried to see if it could assist with that, but I once again kept getting many errors including the illegal guard expression error once again (it never learned that Erlang has issues with this). I also tried formatting my ridiculously long case statement, which was the result of my original case statement not going through all the checks I needed it to before it just placed its move in the next free spot. ChatGPT surprisingly came up with that workaround, although clearly not the best way to do that. I also wanted ChatGPT to help format this block of code, but it did not want to do that neatly, so I had to manually do that. Overall ChatGPT gives good explanations for smaller problems and is more convenient than looking up the answers on Google and going through various pages to find exactly what you are looking for. It gives you a specific answer and explains concepts you need help with and can be a great resource but the code it provides is not very trustworthy. It often has faults even if you tell it the errors the program gives. It just is not able to correct them properly. I have not tried using ChatGPT with other languages so it could just be that Erlang has many quirks that make it hard for a computer to work with.