

Project 1b1 – Problem Amplification

CSC510: Software Engineering – Fall 2025

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Reflecting on the differences between Claude and ChatGPT

We started with GPT Pro and Claude free tier. Both can search the web, and both provide reasonable output. Quickly, we hit the token limit for Claude free tier and bought the Pro version.

Now, Claude is presenting some major benefits. First, Claude's UI is capable of separating our prompts from its own output in a well structured way which gives out interactions with Claude a more modular feel which is familiar to us computer scientists. Second, Claude is much more liberal with its output, giving 30 pages of output in response to the same prompt in which ChatGPT gives 10 pages. In terms of output quality, it is clear that Claude's more detailed output wins against ChatGPT's curt responses. Moreover, Claude's UI has a more professional feel.

ChatGPT has the advantage in one way: it provides in-line links to sites from which it draws information to answer the prompt. This helps us validate each line of output from the model in a way that is not so easily done with Claude. Even after prompting Claude to include in-line citations and links in its output, it failed to do so. For this reason, any researcher, engineer, or otherwise interested creator interested in carrying responsibility for the quality and correctness of their documents should lean into the utility and verifiability of ChatGPT's web search functionality. With that said, after a few rounds of prompting ChatGPT, we still could not get its output to be nearly as detailed as Claude's, so there are tradeoffs to be made.

Both models run similar subscription-based payment for their Pro versions at twenty dollars a month.