Reflection

I had no experience in coding or computer science before this class, except for some r in Stats 101. I had no idea what to expect. When I was able to build my projects, I learned as I went. I did not really have any goals in mind except to learn how to do the next thing and work from there. Design, for the most part, was directed by what I was able to do coding-wise. When I had the chance to make aesthetic decisions, I just tried to let it come as naturally as possible – I do not fancy myself a graphic designer by any means. It was extremely rewarding to transition from absolutely no knowledge of computer science (I didn’t even know what terminal was before this class) to a solid appreciation for the logic and structure behind computing. I like the freedom that this class provides to play and explore – I truly think that interactive graphics is the best way to familiarize yourself with the coding world because you get a tangible result. You see coding at work on the screen in front of you. I think all of my projects are of the same vein, but I manipulated and stacked on things as I was able to learn and apply them. I have a solid sense of continuity going through all my projects and am able to really see my improvements. My greatest takeaway is that although I prefer planning out my projects, I learned how to adapt on the fly and be okay with changing my ideas as I go along. I have never had to think this way before, and it’s really cool to me how things that took me hours to originally figure out come very easily now. My struggles with this class were not material-related, so I don’t think they’re too relevant – BUT! I did find it very difficult to navigate the coding world. I am a big internet learner, and learning coding from the internet is a different process than learning other things. I spent a lot of time hanging out with Shiffman on his youtube channel, which was nice. Otherwise, I just looked and looked and tried all sorts of different ideas until it worked. Then, I would move onto the next task. Within this class, I most enjoyed the freedom, feeling of progression, and exposure to different thinking styles.