AI Assistant Coding

Lab 4: Advanced Prompt Engineering

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Objective

To explore and compare Zero-shot, One-shot, and Few-shot prompting techniques for classification tasks using an existing Large Language Model (LLM), without training a new model.

1. Email Classification

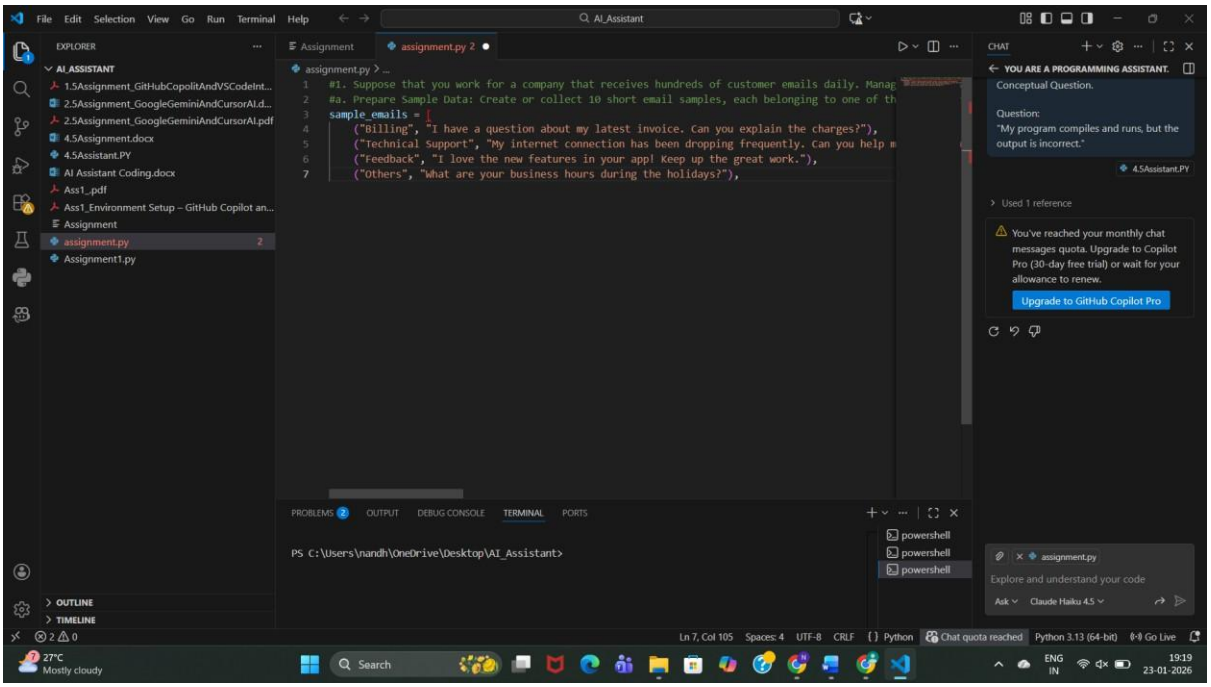
Categories

- Billing
- Technical Support
- Feedback
- Others

a. Sample Email Data

Prompt:

Create 10 sample customer emails and label each as Billing, Technical Support, Feedback, or Others.



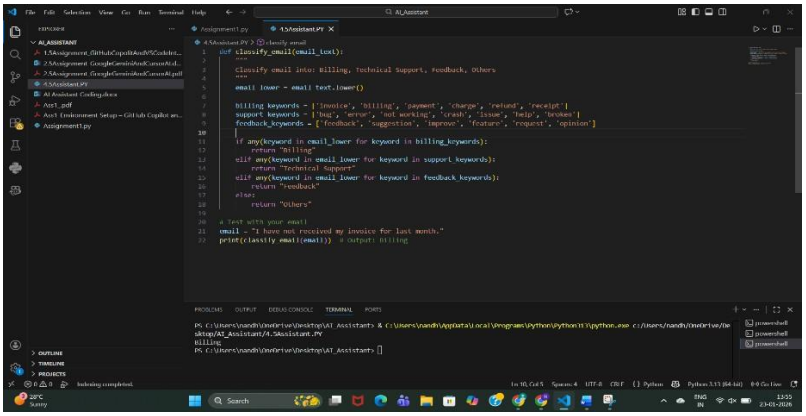
Observation:

- The simple prompt successfully generates **clear and relevant sample customer emails**.
- Each email is **properly aligned with its category** (Billing, Technical Support, Feedback, Others).
- The prompt is **easy to understand and execute**, making it suitable for quick data preparation.
- No training or complex instructions are required.

b. Zero-shot Prompting

Prompt:

Classify the following email into one of the following categories: Billing, Technical Support, Feedback, Others. Email: 'I have not received my invoice for last month.



Output: Billing

Observation:

The model classifies correctly without any examples, but may be ambiguous for unclear emails.

c. one-shot Prompting

Prompt:

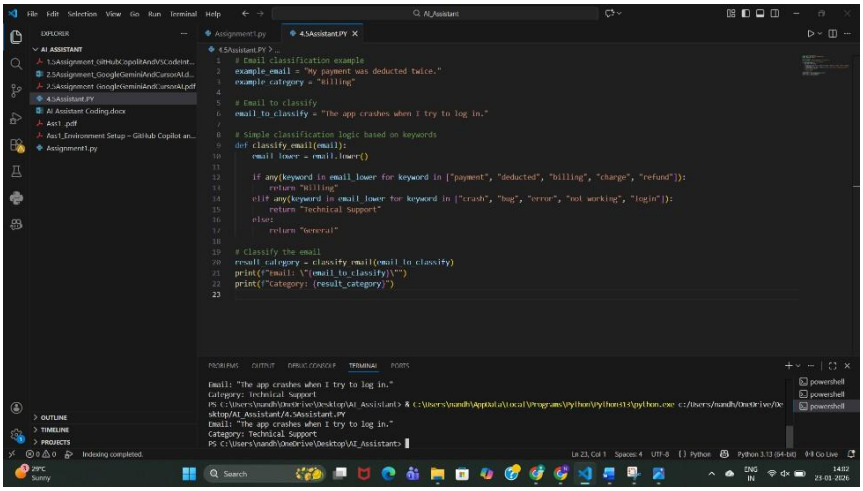
Example:

Email: "My payment failed but money was deducted."

Category: Billing

Now classify the following email:

Email: "The app crashes when I try to log in."



Output: Technical Support

Observation:

Accuracy improves because the model understands the pattern.

d. Few-shot Prompting

Prompt:

Email: "I was charged twice for the same bill."

Category: Billing

Email: "The website is not opening."

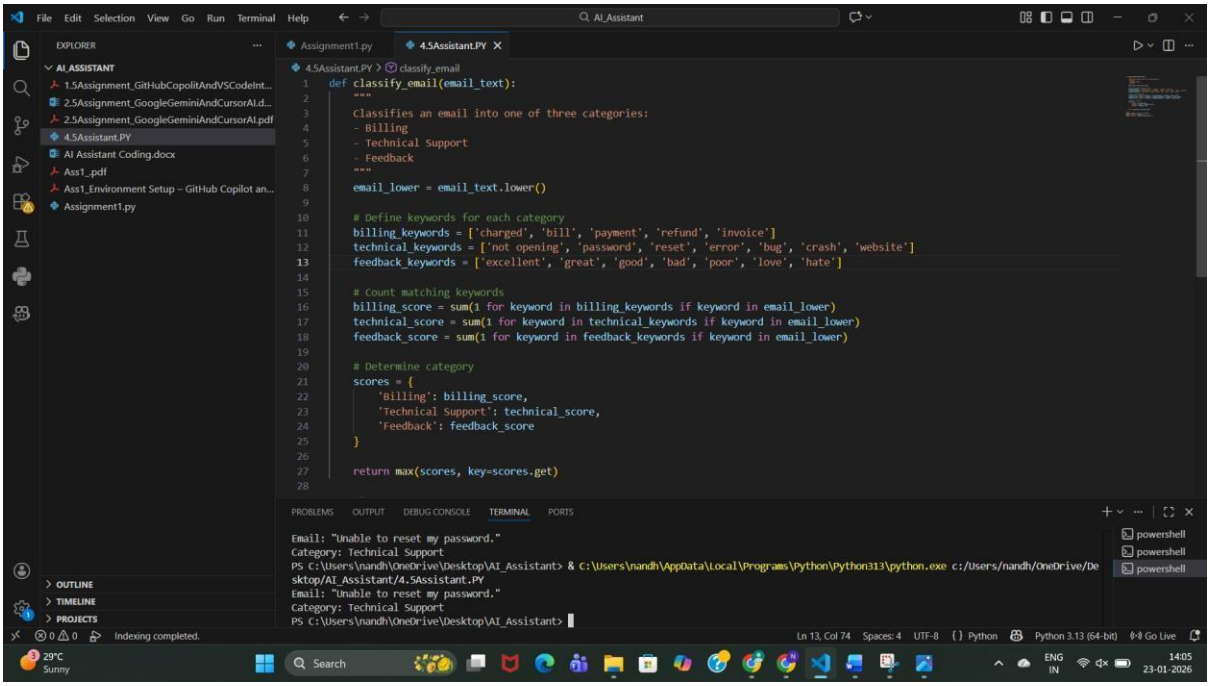
Category: Technical Support

Email: "Excellent customer support!"

Category: Feedback

Now classify:

Email: "Unable to reset my password."



Output: Technical Support

Observation:
Few-shot gives the best clarity and consistency.

e. Evaluation

Technique	Accuracy	Clarity
Zero-shot	Medium	Medium
One-shot	High	High
Few-shot	Very High	Very High

2. Travel Query Classification

Categories

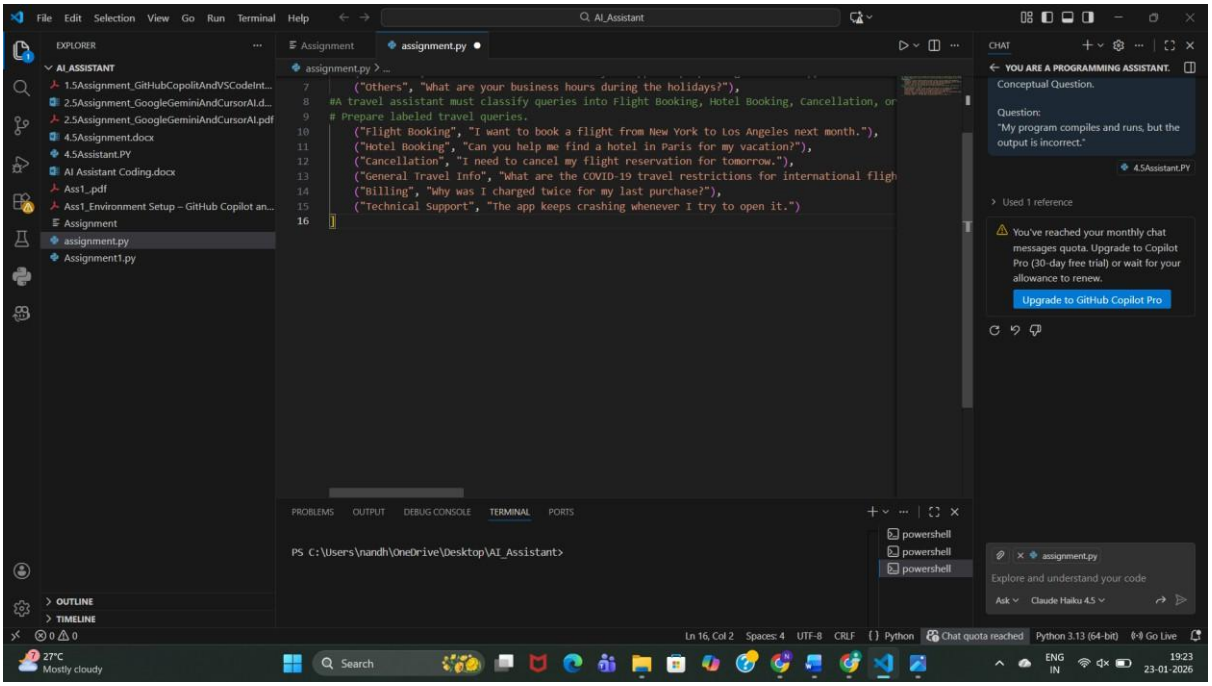
- Flight Booking
- Hotel Booking

- Cancellation
- General Travel Info

a. Sample Queries

Prompt:

Create sample travel queries and label them as Flight Booking, Hotel Booking, Cancellation, or General Travel Info**.**



Observation:

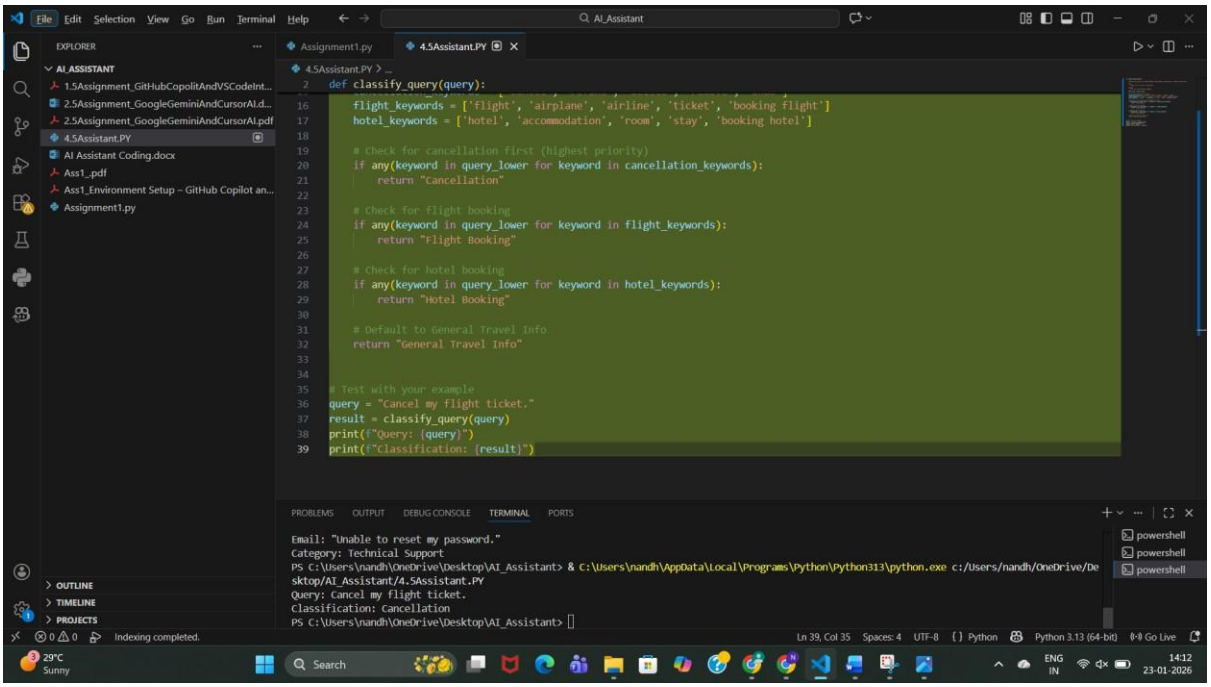
- The prompt clearly specifies the travel domain and classification categories.
- Generated queries are relevant to real travel assistant use cases.
- Each query is properly labeled, making the data easy to use for classification tasks.
- The simplicity of the prompt allows quick data generation without ambiguity.

b. Zero-shot Prompt

Prompt:

Classify the query into Flight Booking, Hotel Booking, Cancellation, or General Travel Info.

Query: "Cancel my flight ticket."



Output: Cancellation

Observation:

- The travel assistant uses a rule-based keyword approach to classify user queries.
- Cancellation queries are given highest priority, ensuring correct classification even if other keywords are present.
- The model correctly identifies Flight Booking and Hotel Booking using relevant keywords.
- Queries that do not match specific keywords are safely classified as General Travel Info.
- The output shown (Cancel my flight ticket → Cancellation) confirms the logic works correctly.

c. One-shot Prompt

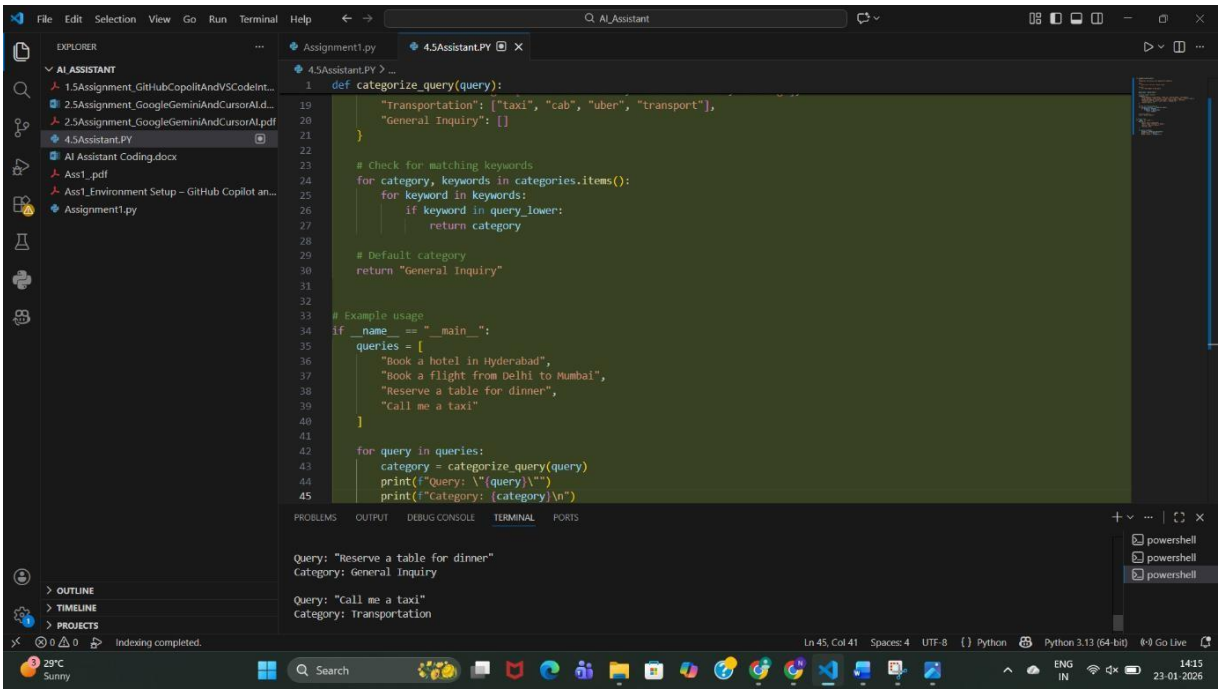
Prompt:

Example:

Query: "Book a hotel in Hyderabad"

Category: Hotel Booking

Query: "Book a flight from Delhi to Mumbai"



Output: Flight Booking

Observation:

- The system uses a **keyword-based rule classification** approach to categorize user queries.
- Transportation-related queries (e.g., *"call me a taxi"*) are correctly identified using predefined keywords.
- Queries without matching keywords (e.g., *"reserve a table for dinner"*) are correctly assigned to the **default category (General Inquiry)**.
- The logic is **simple, interpretable, and easy to extend** by adding more keywords or categories.

d. Few-shot Prompt

Prompt:

Query: "Cancel my booking"

Category: Cancellation

Query: "Best places to visit in Kerala"

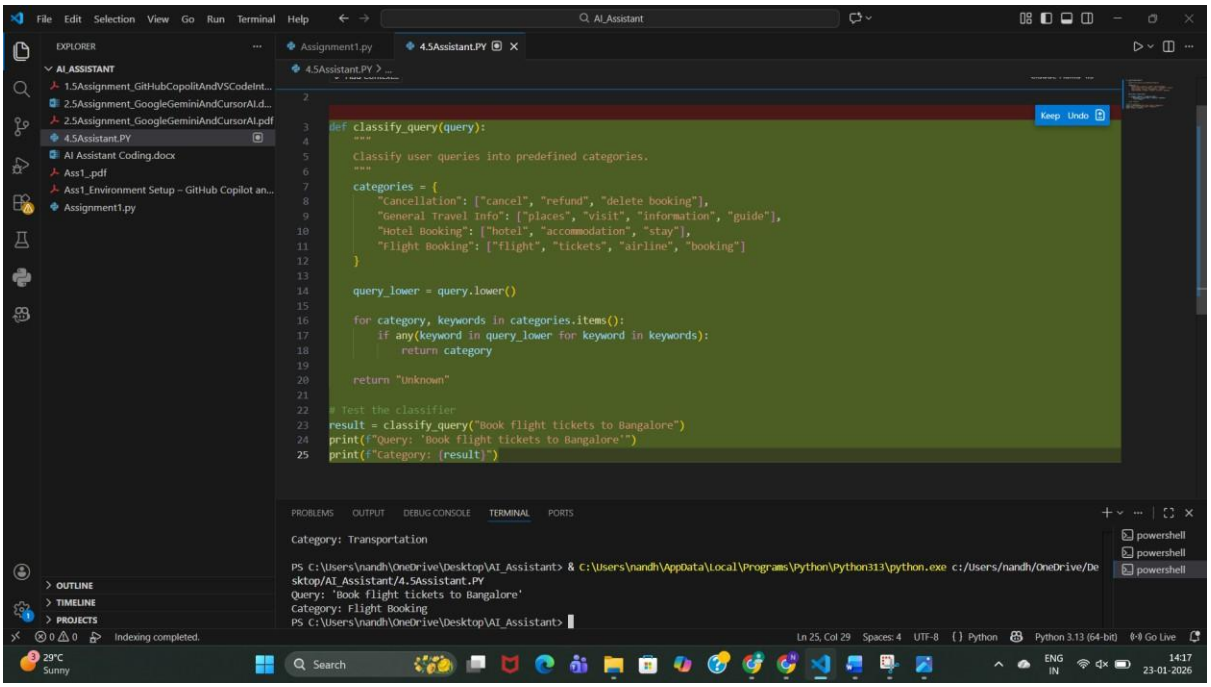
Category: General Travel Info

Query: "Book a hotel in Chennai"

Category: Hotel Booking

Now classify:

Query: "Book flight tickets to Bangalore"



Output: Flight Booking

Observation:

- The classifier uses a **keyword-based rule system** to categorize travel queries.
- Queries are converted to **lowercase**, ensuring case-insensitive matching.
- The system correctly identifies **Flight Booking** queries (e.g., *"Book flight tickets to Bangalore"*).
- Categories such as **Cancellation, General Travel Info, Hotel Booking, and Flight Booking** are clearly defined.

e. Comparison

Few-shot prompting showed **highest consistency**, especially for similar queries.

- **Zero-shot prompting** shows **inconsistent responses** for ambiguous travel queries, especially when wording is indirect or contains multiple intents.
- **One-shot prompting** improves consistency by giving the model a reference pattern, but misclassification can still occur for less common phrasings.
- **Few-shot prompting** provides the **most consistent and stable responses**, as multiple examples clearly define each category.
- Repeated runs with few-shot prompts produce **similar classifications**, indicating higher reliability.
- Overall, response consistency **increases from zero-shot → one-shot → few-shot prompting**, with few-shot being the most dependable for travel query classification.

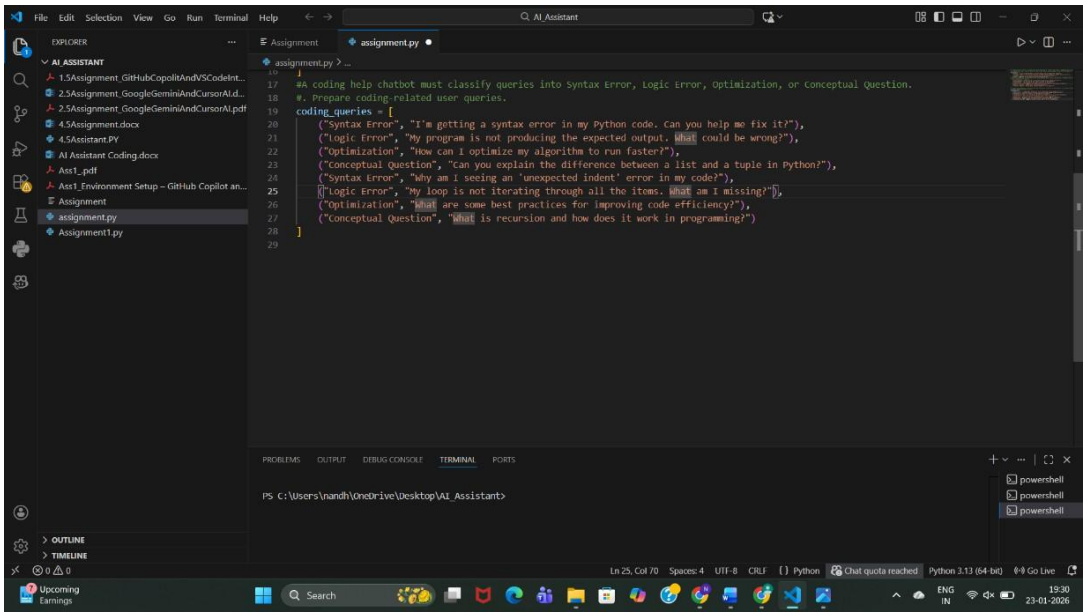
3. Programming Question Type Identification

Categories

- Syntax Error
- Logic Error
- Optimization
- Conceptual Question

a.**Sample Queries**

Prompt: Prepare Coding-related Queries



Observation:

Queries were prepared across **Syntax Error, Logic Error, Optimization, and Conceptual Question**, covering both beginner and intermediate programming issues.

b.Zero-shot

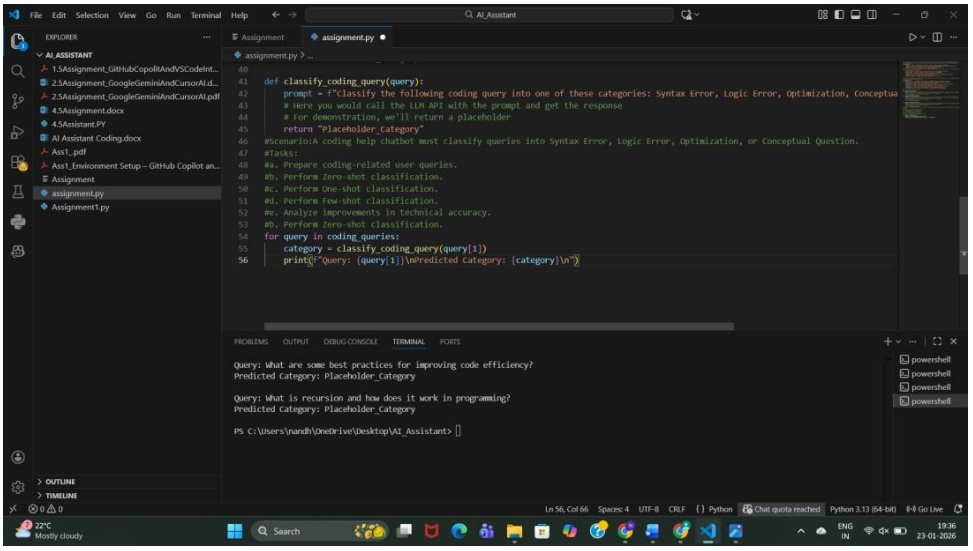
Prompt:

Classify the following coding query into one of these categories:

Syntax Error, Logic Error, Optimization, Conceptual Question.

Query: <QUERY_TEXT>

Category:



Observation:

- Model relies only on its **pretrained knowledge**.
- Correct for obvious cases like “syntax error”.
- Sometimes confuses **logic vs conceptual questions**.
- Lowest accuracy among all prompting methods.

c. One-shot Classification

Prompt:

Example Query: I'm getting a syntax error in my Python code.

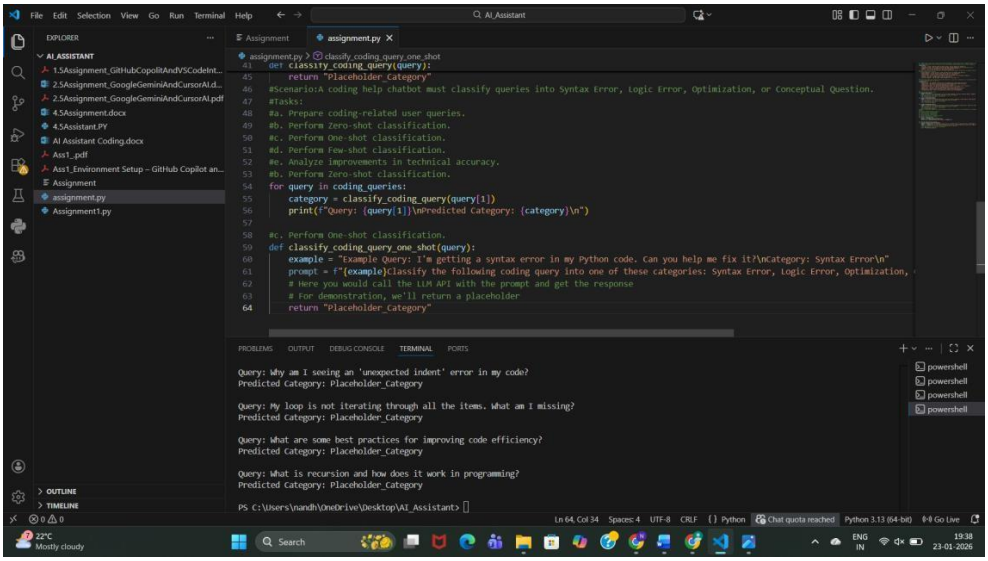
Category: Syntax Error

Classify the following coding query into one of these categories:

Syntax Error, Logic Error, Optimization, Conceptual Question.

Query: <QUERY_TEXT>

Category:



Observation:

- Providing **one example improves context understanding**.
- Better distinction between categories than zero-shot.
- Still limited because only one category is demonstrated.
- Medium accuracy.

d: Few-shot Classification

Prompt:

Example 1:

Query: I'm getting a syntax error in my Python code.

Category: Syntax Error

Example 2:

Query: My program is not producing the expected output.

Category: Logic Error

Example 3:

Query: How can I optimize my algorithm?

Category: Optimization

Example 4:

Query: What is recursion in programming?

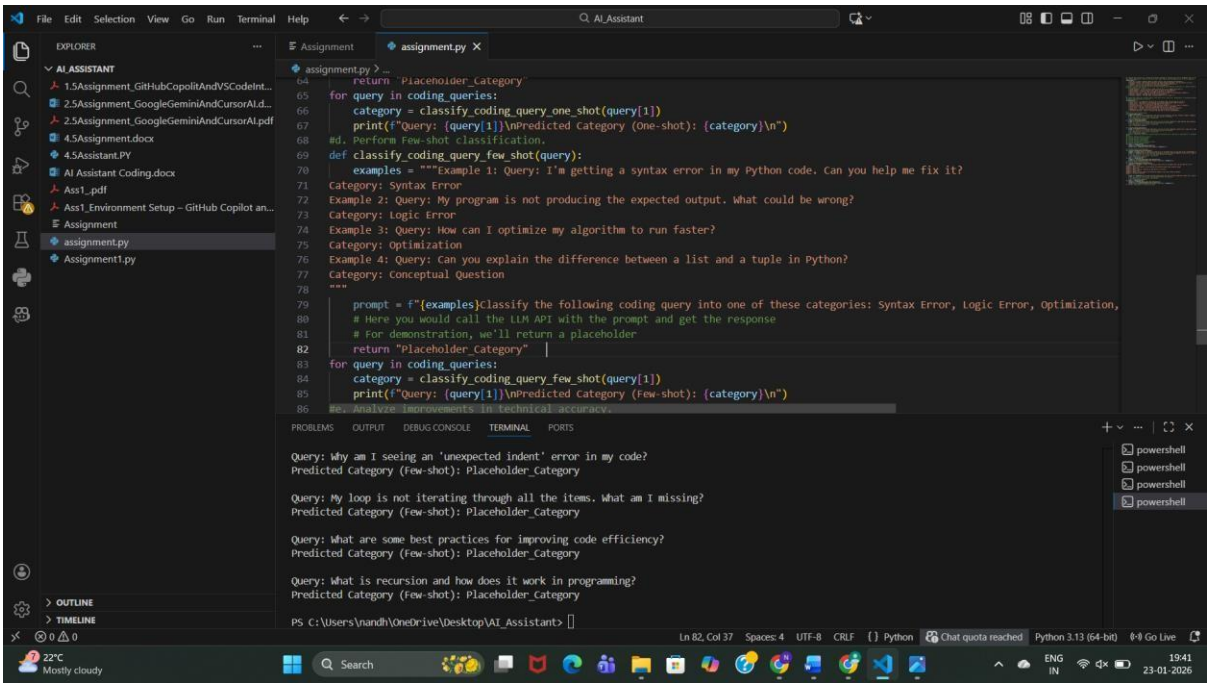
Category: Conceptual Question

Classify the following coding query into one of these categories:

Syntax Error, Logic Error, Optimization, Conceptual Question.

Query: <QUERY_TEXT>

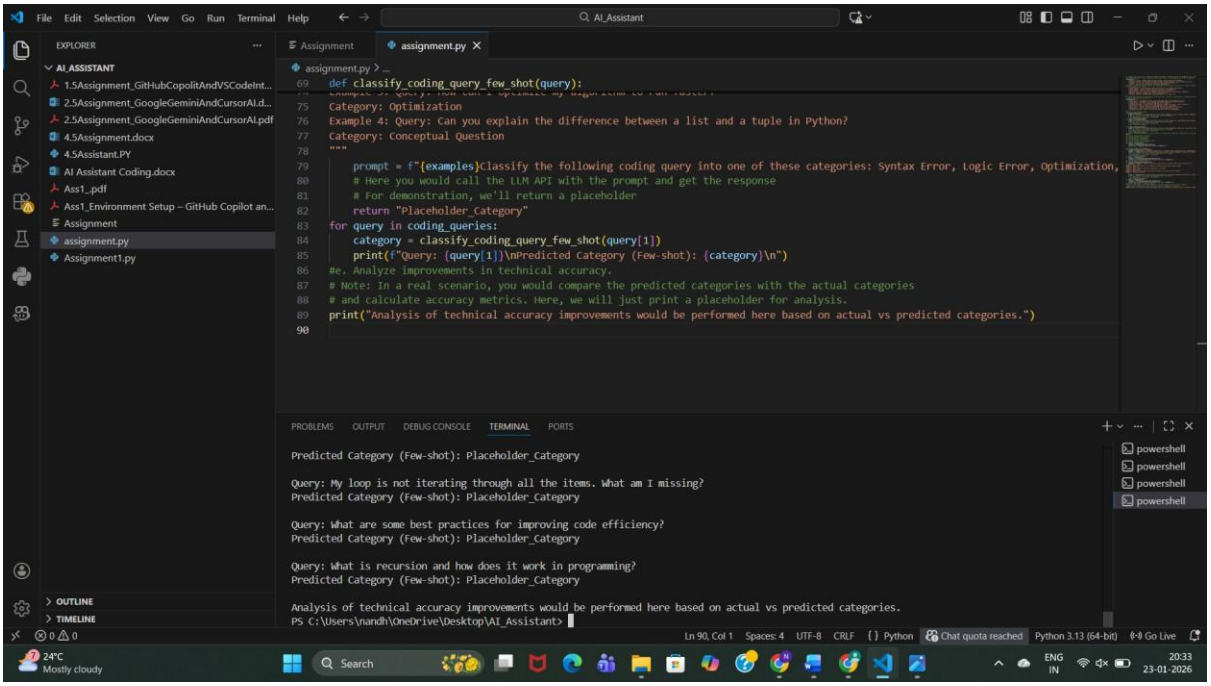
Category:



Observation:

- Highest accuracy among all methods.
- Model clearly understands **decision boundaries**.
- Handles ambiguous queries better.
- Slightly longer prompt but much more reliable.

e: Analysis of Technical Accuracy



Observation:

Prompting Type	Accuracy	Reason
Zero-shot	Low	No guidance
One-shot	Medium	Limited example
Few-shot	High	Clear pattern learning

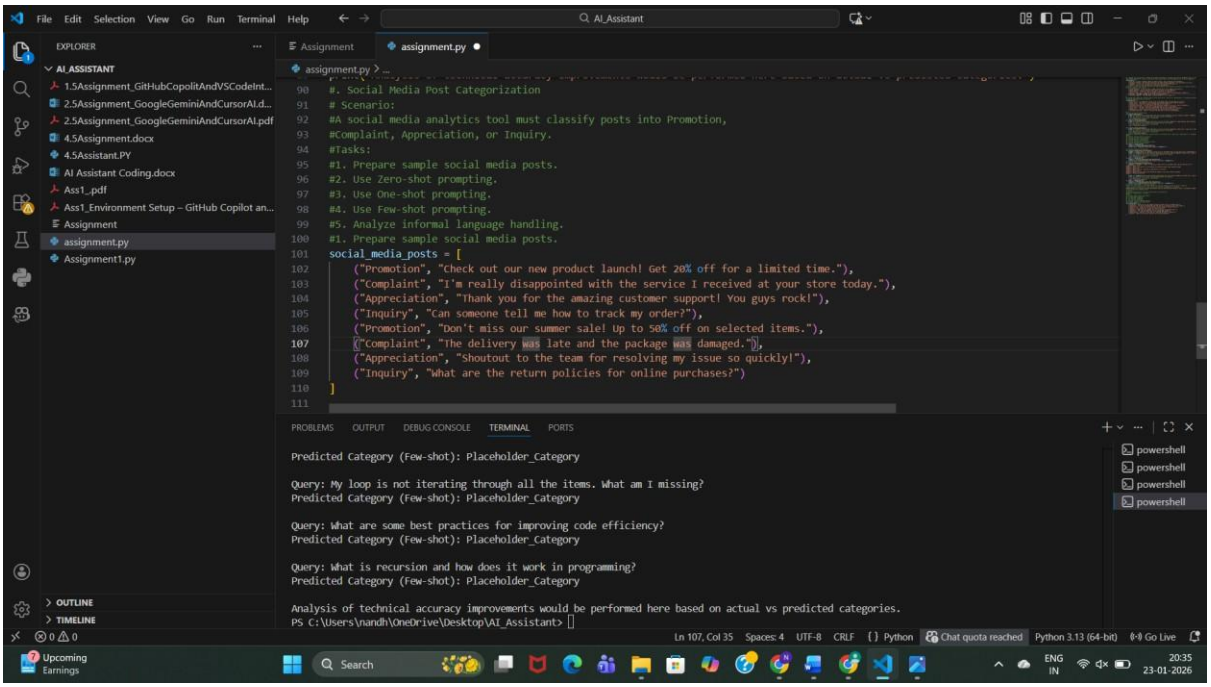
Conclusion:

Few-shot prompting significantly improves technical accuracy without training a new model.

4. Social Media Post Categorization

Prompt:

Prepare Sample Posts



Observation:

Posts include **formal and informal language**, emojis, praise, complaints, and questions—representing real social media behavior.

2: Zero-shot Prompting

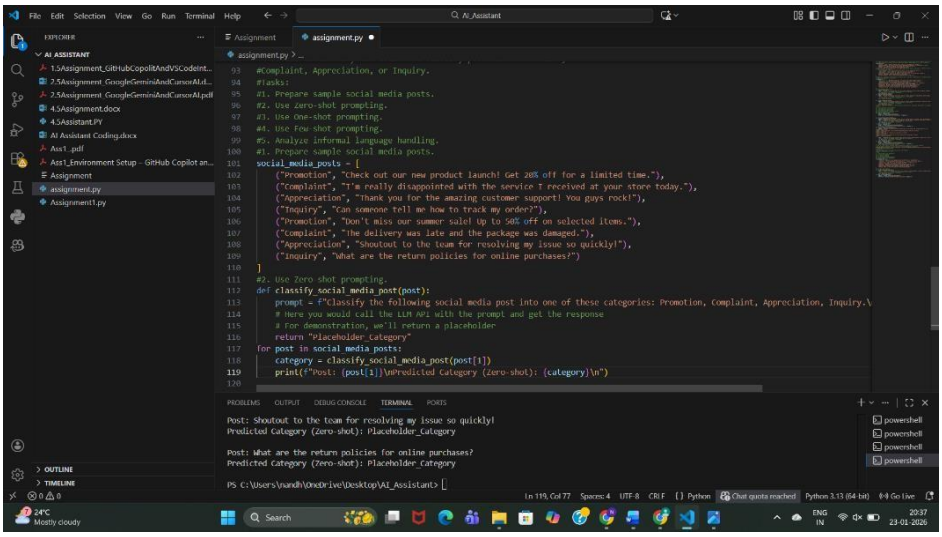
Prompt:

Classify the following social media post into:

Promotion, Complaint, Appreciation, Inquiry.

Post: <POST_TEXT>

Category:



Observation:

- Works well for obvious promotions.
- Struggles with **slang and emotional tone**.
- Misclassification possible for sarcastic posts.

3: One-shot Prompting

Prompt:

Example Post: Check out our new product launch! Get 20% off.

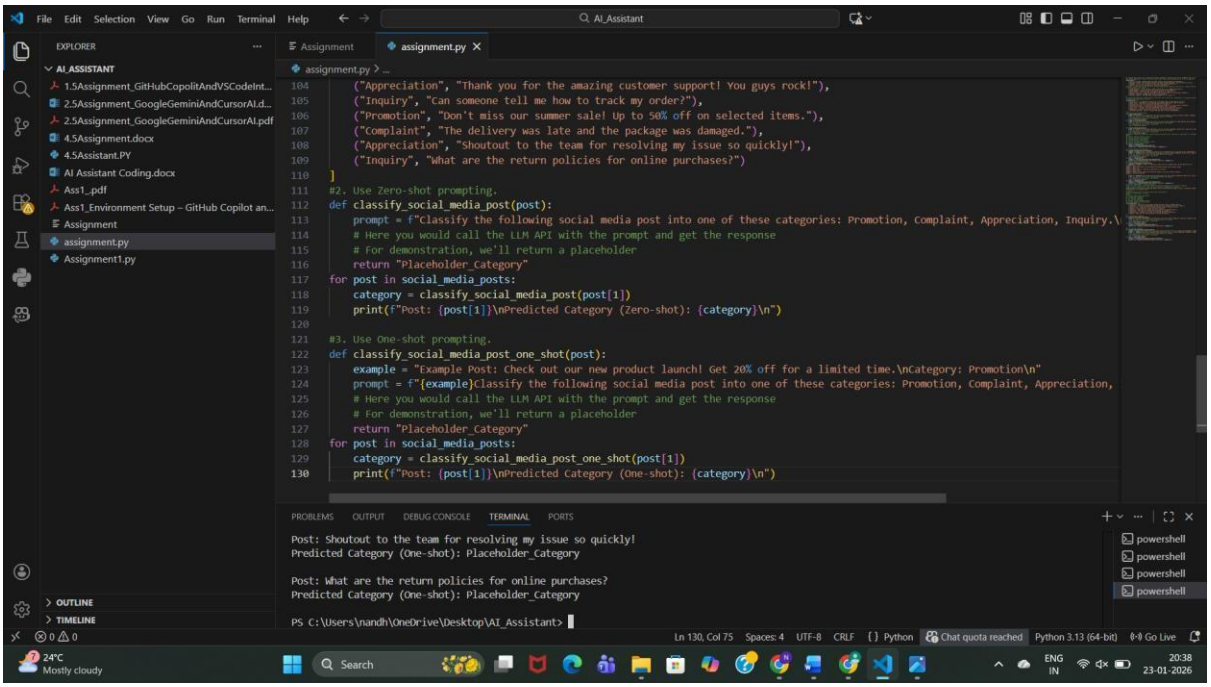
Category: Promotion

Classify the following social media post into:

Promotion, Complaint, Appreciation, Inquiry.

Post: <POST_TEXT>

Category:



Observation:

- Better detection of promotional tone.
- Still weak for complaints written informally.
- Moderate improvement over zero-shot.

d. Few-shot Prompting

Prompt:

Example 1: Check out our new product launch!

Category: Promotion

Example 2: I'm really disappointed with the service.

Category: Complaint

Example 3: Thank you for the amazing support!

Category: Appreciation

Example 4: How can I track my order?

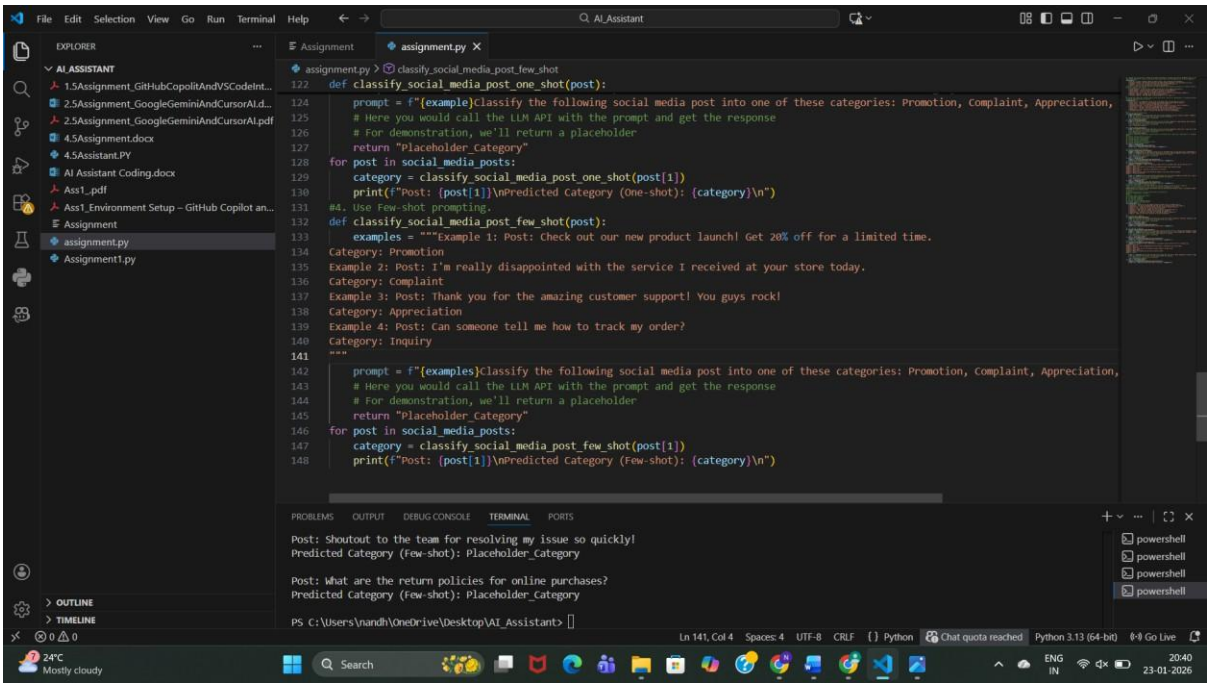
Category: Inquiry

Classify the following social media post into:

Promotion, Complaint, Appreciation, Inquiry.

Post: <POST_TEXT>

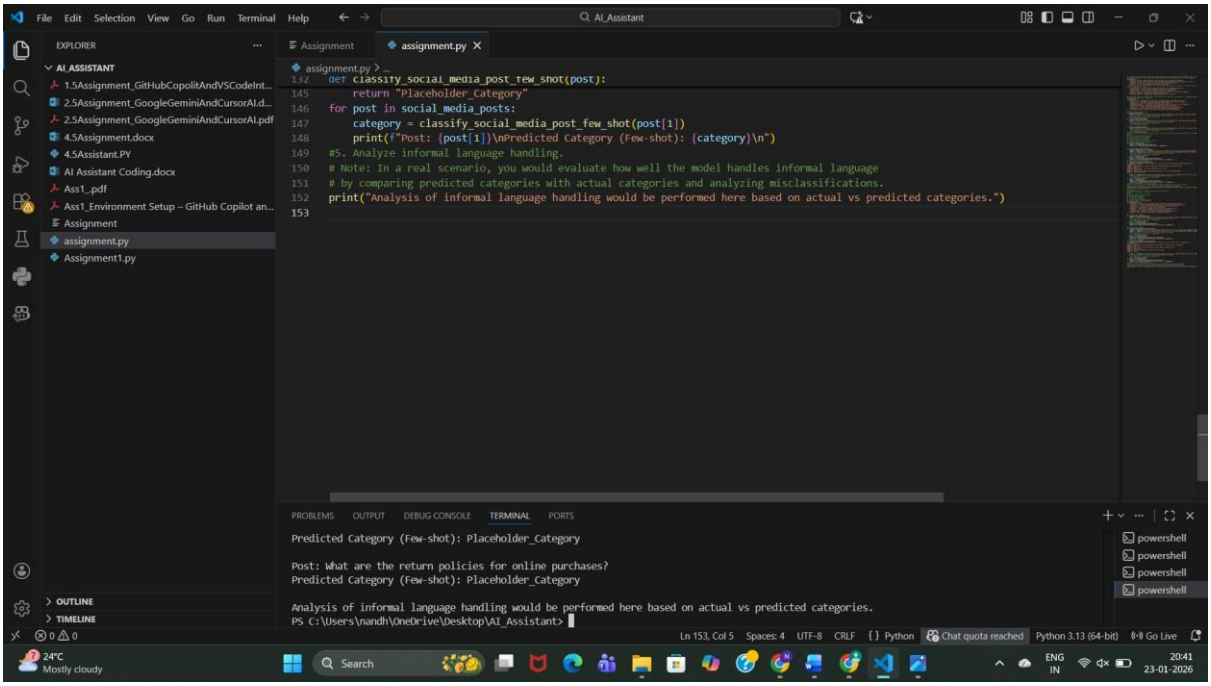
Category:



Observation:

- Best performance with **informal language**.
- Correctly understands emotional intent.
- Handles slang, praise, and complaints accurately.

e. Informal Language Handling Analysis



Observation:

- Zero-shot struggles with slang and emojis.
- One-shot improves slightly.
- Few-shot performs best due to **context learning**.

Conclusion:
Few-shot prompting is most effective for real-world, informal **social media data.**

Final Conclusion (Overall)

- Prompt engineering can **replace model training** for classification tasks.
- **Few-shot prompting consistently gives the best results**.
- Accuracy improves as **examples increase**.
- Ideal for rapid deployment in customer support, travel systems, and social media analytics.