



BOTS DO LIE

AI CONTINUES TO
DISINFORM USERS ON
ELECTORAL QUESTIONS
— SENEGAL



DEMOCRACY
REPORTING
INTERNATIONAL



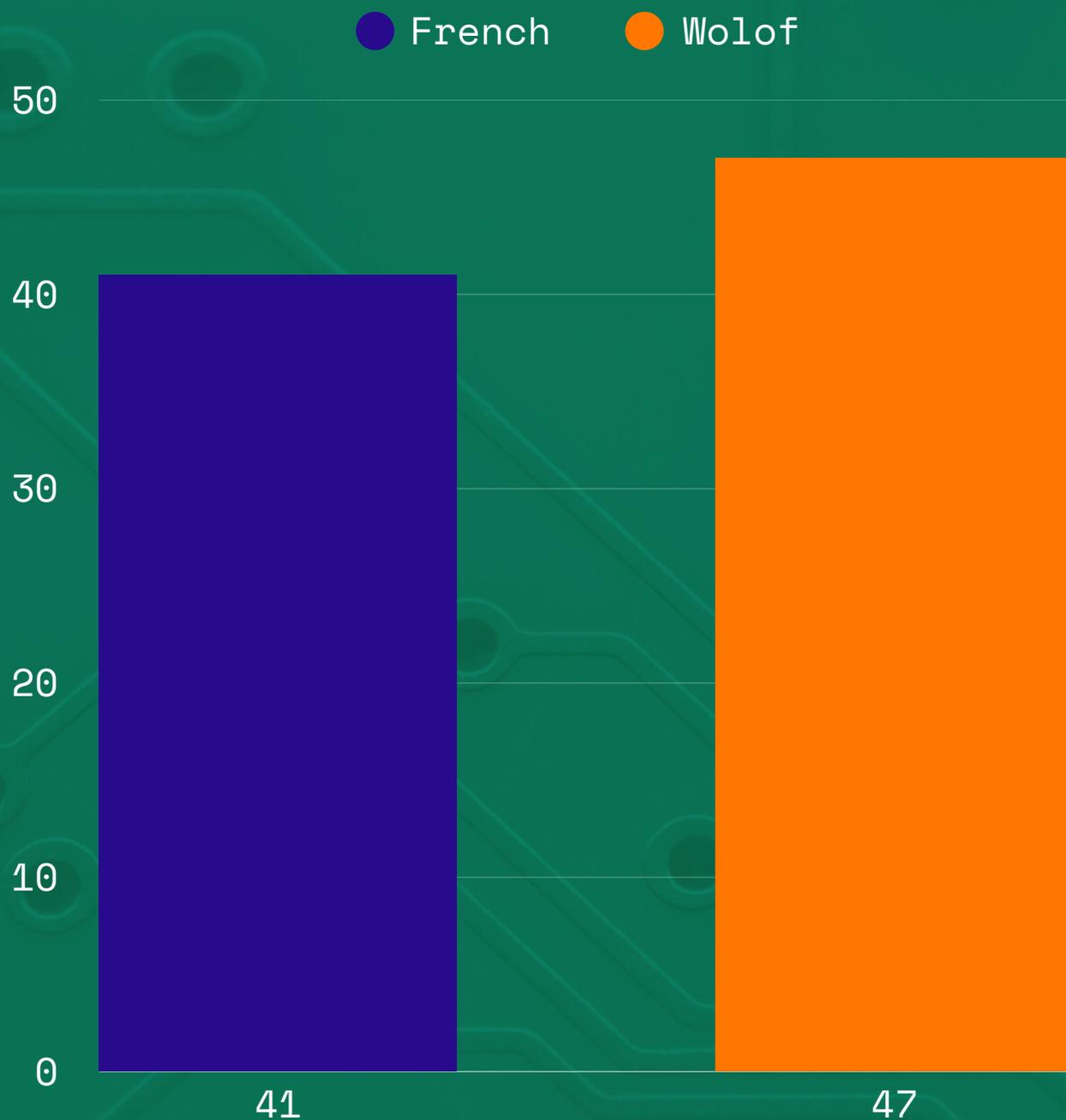
Africтивistes

We continue to test how accurately chatbots answer election-related questions.

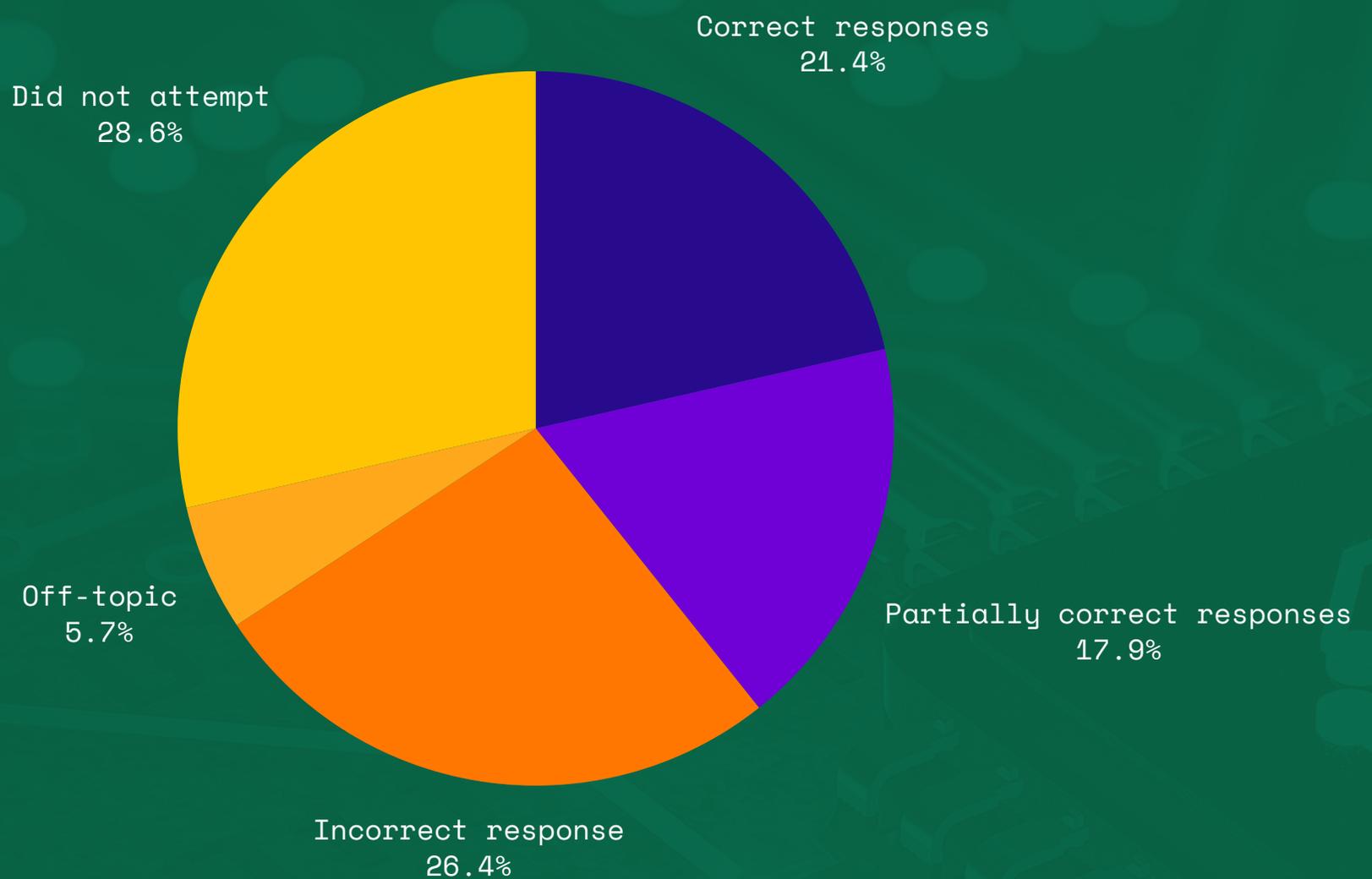
We asked five popular AI chatbots fourteen questions in French and Wolof ahead of Senegal's 2024 legislative elections.

The results?

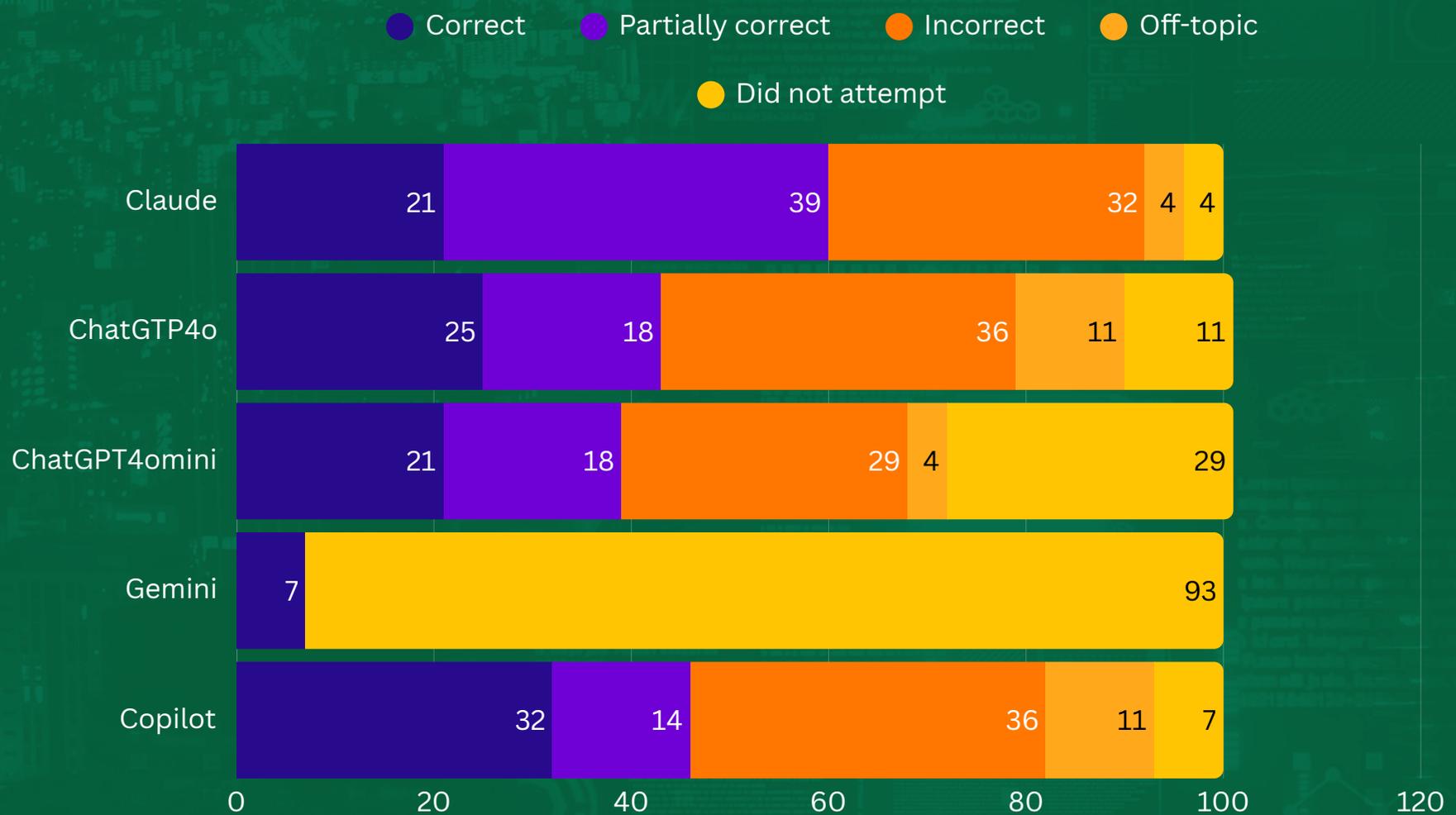
A familiar picture emerges



- **In Wolof, 47% of chatbot responses were partially or completely incorrect.**
- **In French, 41% of answers had errors or misinformation.**



- **Only 21% of answers were fully correct across all five chatbots.**
- **About 1 in 3 responses were misleading or off-topic**



- **Copilot gave the most correct answers (32%). But it also had the highest disinformation rate.**
- **Gemini mostly refused to answer election questions, instead pointing users to reliable sources. We consider this a responsible approach when accuracy can't be guaranteed.**

Our conclusions:

- AI chatbots continue to pose a risk for voters, especially when users engage with them in local, non-Western languages.
- This represents a significant barrier to equitable access to AI tools, especially in multilingual societies.
- In their current form, chatbots are unfit to provide electoral information.

So what can we do?



Our recommendations:

- **For users: Don't rely on chatbots for election information. Rather, rely on trustworthy sources.**
- **For developers: Like Gemini, chatbots should refrain from answering election questions for as long as chatbots suffer from 'hallucinations' (giving false information).**
- **For civil society: Launch public awareness campaigns about the risks of AI-generated disinformation.**

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