Rexx Community Questionnaire
(Preliminary Results)

General Overview → Usage → Requirements → Open-Source Community

General Overview

- **Average age:**
  - 65.3 years

- **Professional Background:**
  - Computer Science, Software Engineering, ...

- **Years with Rexx:**
  - 32.1 years
  - IBM / Mainframe

- **Programming per week**
  - 39.8% between 1 to 10 hours
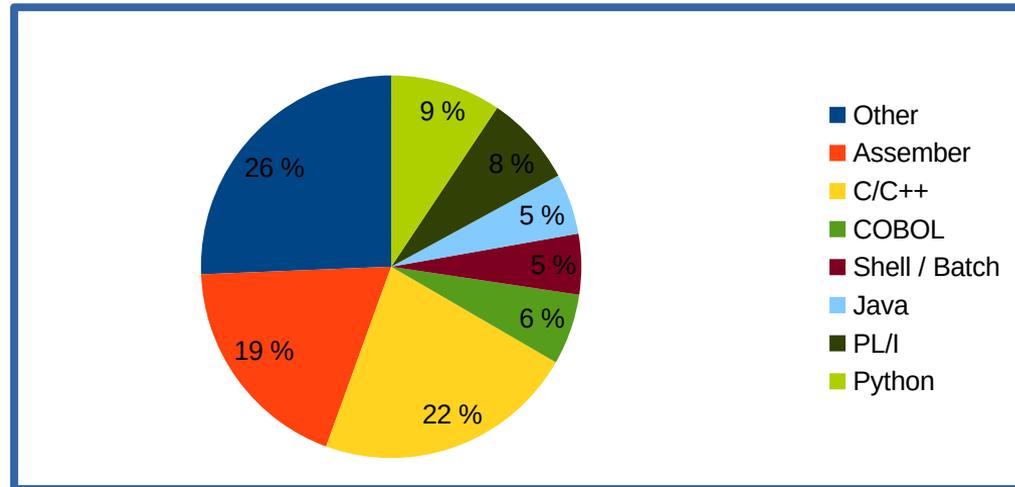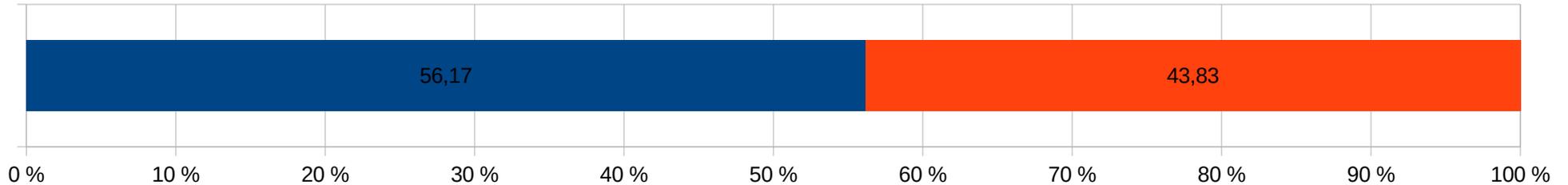 - 29.6% between 11 to 20 hours

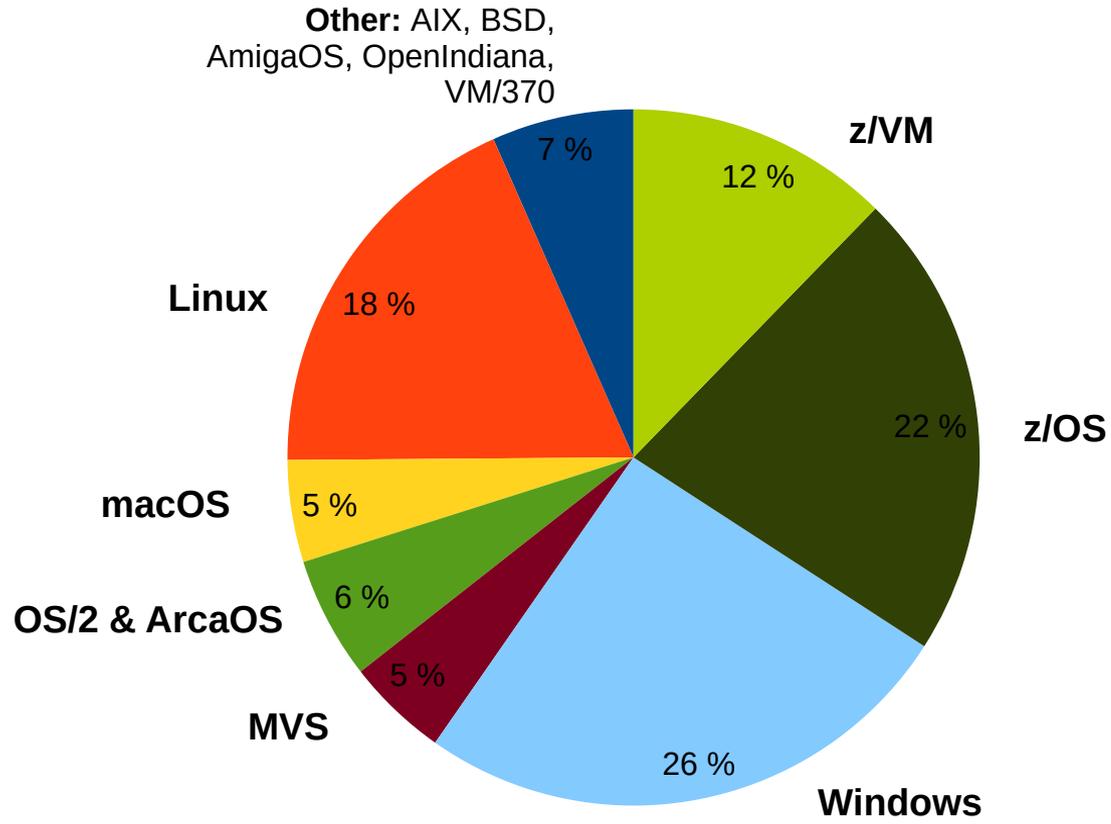39.2 %

54.5 %

0.9 %

0.9 %

4.5 %

North America

Europe

Asia

Africa

South America

Oceania
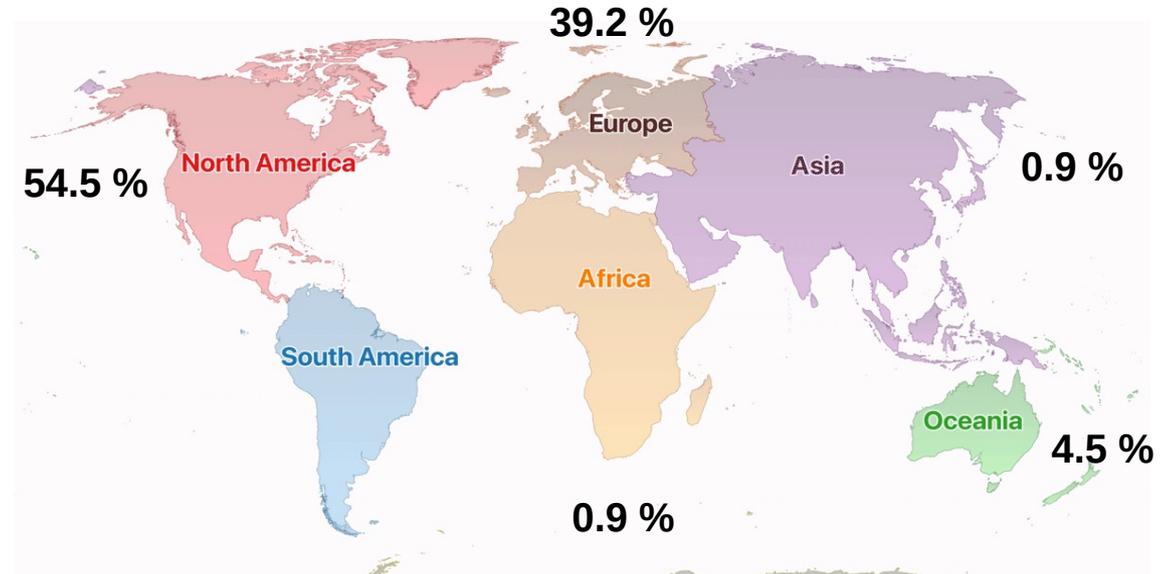
Programming

Rexx Language Family | **Other Languages**

Operating Systems

Pie chart "Operating Systems" showing:
- **Other:** AIX, BSD, AmigaOS, OpenIndiana, VM/370 — 7 %
- z/VM — 12 %
- z/OS — 22 %
- Windows — 26 %
- MVS — 5 %
- OS/2 & ArcaOS — 6 %
- macOS — 5 %
- Linux — 18 %

Till Winkler

Usage

- **Together with: (unordered)**
  - Rexx/SQL, Rexx/Curl, OLE, BSF4ooRexx, CMS/TSO Pipelines, ooSQLite, GCI, rexxodbc, rxsock, rexxutil, Rexx/WS, Rexx/DW, Rexx/EEC, Rexx/JSON, rxmath, rxMUI, ooDialog, ...
  - <u>A lot of self-created libraries & frameworks</u>

- **Some examples: (unordered)**
  - Utilities, Adhoc scripts, automation, web development, data processing and visualization, testing, UIs, Marko language with Compiler, XEDIT family ...

Requirements

- Top 5 pre-formulated requirements
    1. **Readability** (Easy to maintain)
    2. **Simplicity** (Easy to learn)
    3. **Consistency** (Uniformity in syntax and semantics)
    4. **Features** (Wide range of built-in functions)
    5. **Documentation** (Manuals, learning material, ...)

- Some stated requirements:
    - **Multiple mentions:** Open-Source, IDE like VisPro/REXX or Visual Studio, Backward Compatibility, ooRexx in Browser, Regular Expressions, Concurrency, ...
    - **Single mentions:** Geometrical computation, UTF-8, Native window/screen management (UI), ...

Programming Paradigm

- Which programming paradigms are most important to you?
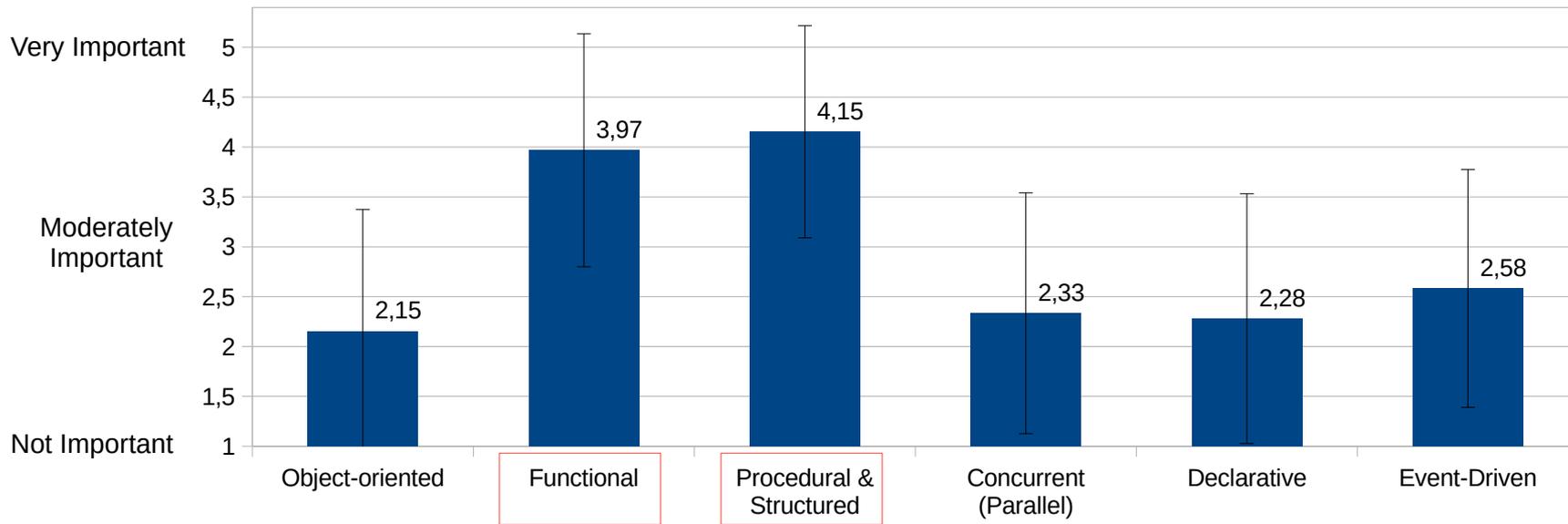
- **Object Model:** 1. Encapsulation, 2. Inheritance, 3. Interfaces/Abstract Classes, ...
  - Polymorphism & Reflection were considered as relative unimportant

Open-Source Community

- Open source software is generally regarded as important

- 52.4% of participants contribute to further development
    - Most between 1 and 10 hours per week
    - Most frequent forms of contribution: Discussion, Bug reporting, Code development, User support, …

Comments
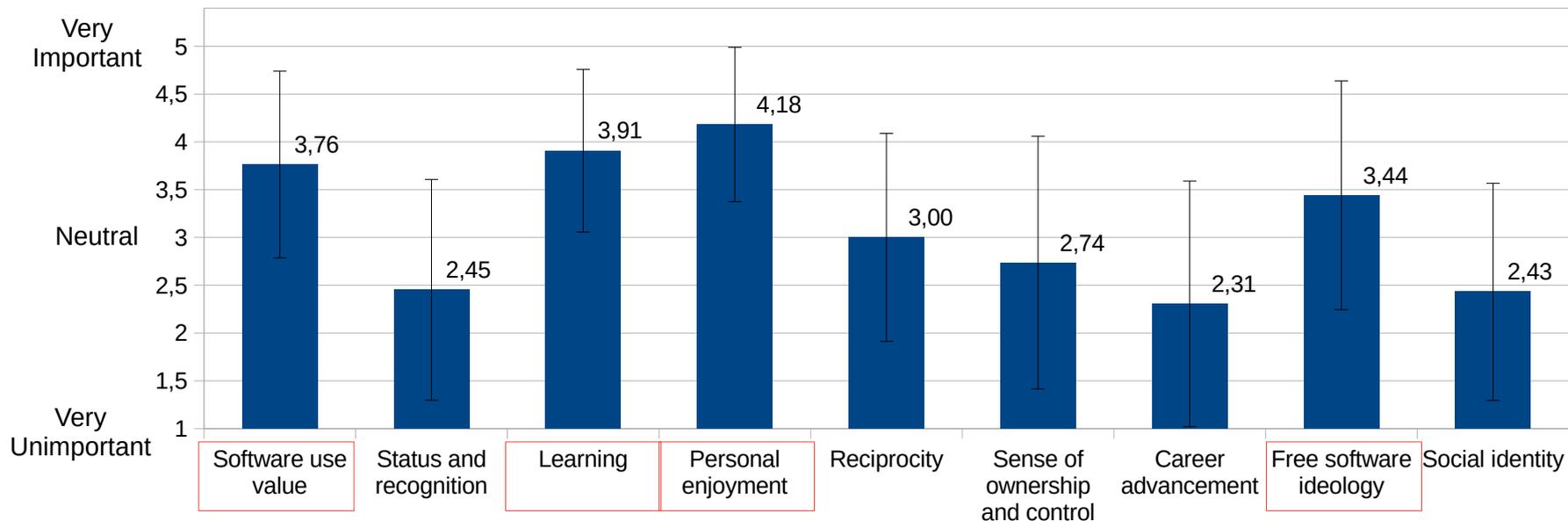
- A lot of gratitude:
    - "REXX Rocks!"
    - "I am very happy that a small group of very competent people continues to evolve ooRexx"
    - "Just thanks to the open source REXX community for all the time and effort they've invested. I've benefited a lot from it."
    - "THANK YOU for continued efforts to promote the language. "

- Suggestions for the future:
    - Attract young people
    - Improve education and lower entrance barrier
        - ToDo-List / wanted & needed skills to support community
    - Release more samples, programmes and archives
    - Include more target environments:
        - OS/2, z/OS, z/VM, macOS installer (Regina REXX), Linux Distributions