

At the end of the Spring semester, the Physics Department holds an Undergraduate Research Symposium which provides a forum for undergraduates to present their research. The presentations were reviewed by two faculty members. The possible responses to questions were 5 (high) through 1 (low). Additionally, some questions had a possible 0 (Not Applicable) response. The scores from the two reviewers were averaged.

The data on whether the students gave an effective oral presentation are shown in Figure 1. The data show that most students gave effective oral presentations.

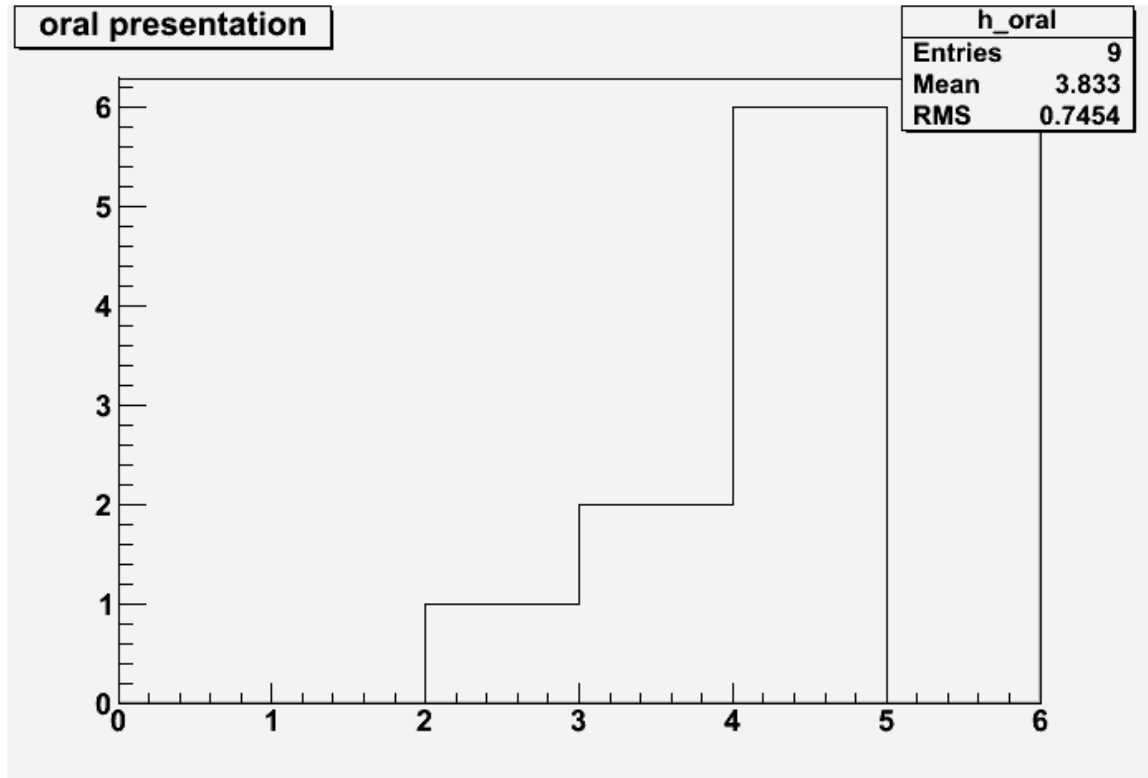


Figure 1. Scores on the effectiveness of student oral presentations.

The data on whether the students employed mathematical or computational techniques as part of their research are shown in Figure 2. The data show that 66% of the students employed mathematical or computational techniques as part of their research.

The data on whether students showed an ability to design and conduct experiments are shown in Figure 3. The data show 44% of the students demonstrated this ability. That this number is not higher is not troubling since not all research involves the design and running of laboratory experiments.

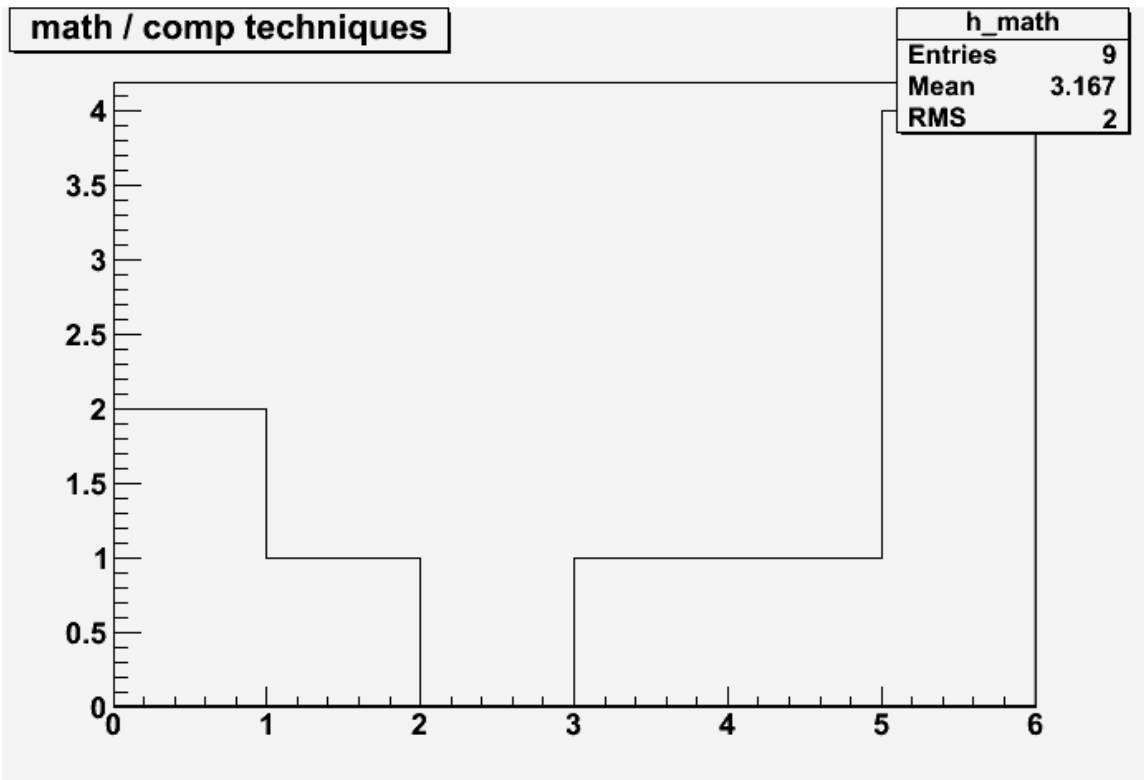


Figure 2. Scores indicating whether students employed mathematical or computational techniques as part of their research.

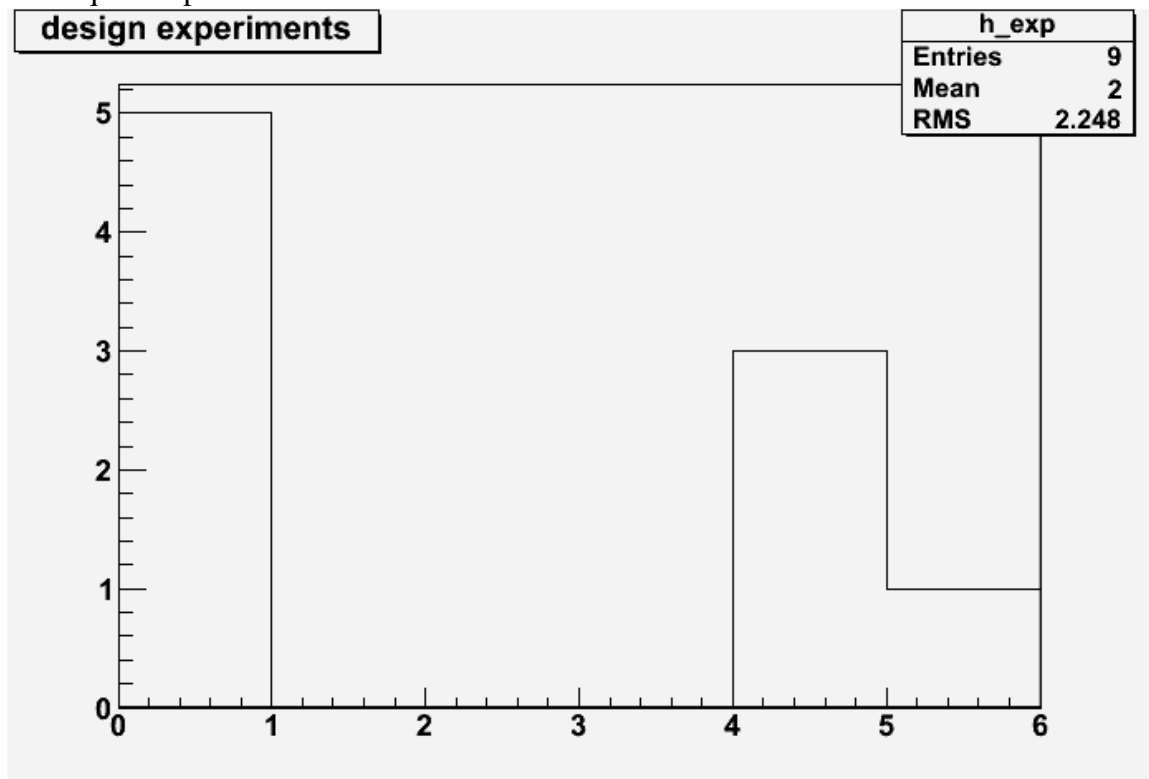


Figure 3. Scores indicating whether the students showed an ability to design and conduct experiments.

The data on whether the students showed an ability to analyze data are shown in Figure 4. The data show that most students exhibited a moderately high ability to analyze data.

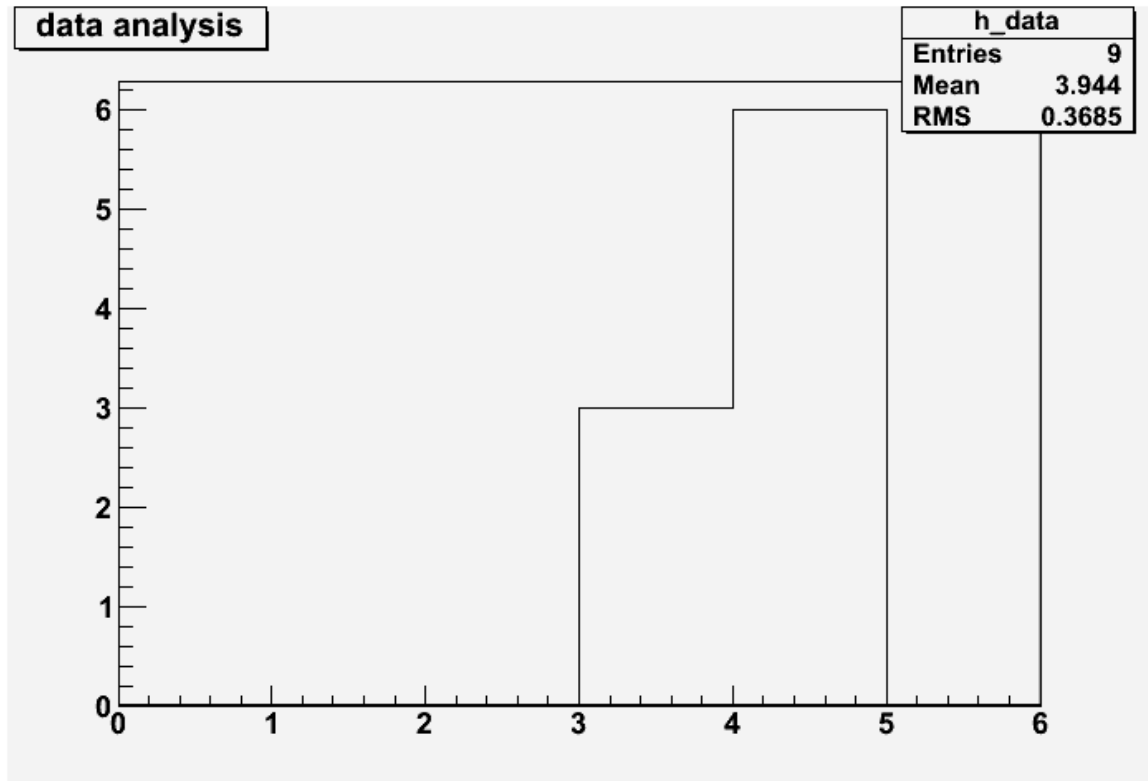


Figure 4. Scores indicating whether the students showed an ability to analyze data.

The data on whether the students demonstrated critical thinking skills are shown in Figure 5. The data show that most students exhibited moderately high critical thinking skills. However we might have hoped for somewhat higher scores in this area. This finding might be transmitted to students preparing for next year's symposium.

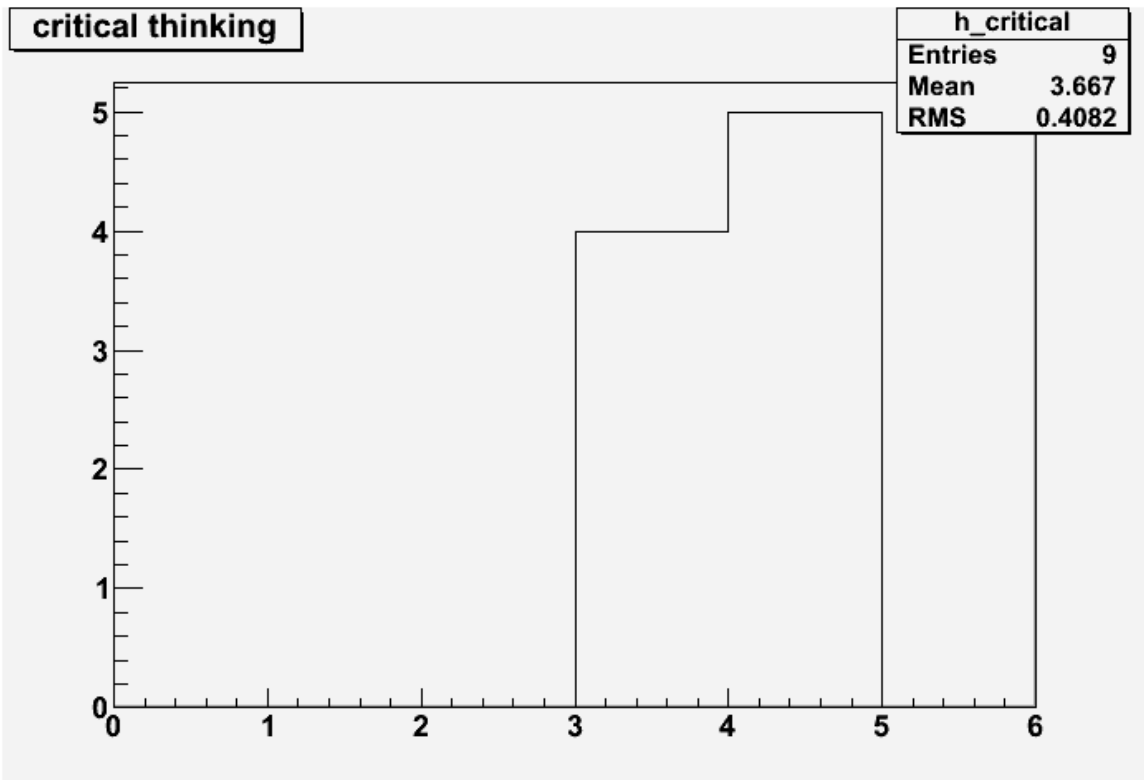


Figure 5. Scores indicating whether students demonstrated critical thinking skills in their research.