

# Quantitative Insights on In-class Creation and Sharing of Knowledge

SLAM

Student Learning and Analytics at Michigan

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# Special thanks to...

- Caltech and PCC for iPads
- Helpful Dean/Vice Provost/Provost
- Interested faculty
- Willing students
- An awesome IRB

# Today's Outline

1. Background and Approach

Data

2. Participation Inventory

3. Behavior in Time

4. Modes of Learning

5. Motivation and Outcome

6. Future and Conclusions

7. Supplemental: CSA Outreach

# 1. Background and Approach

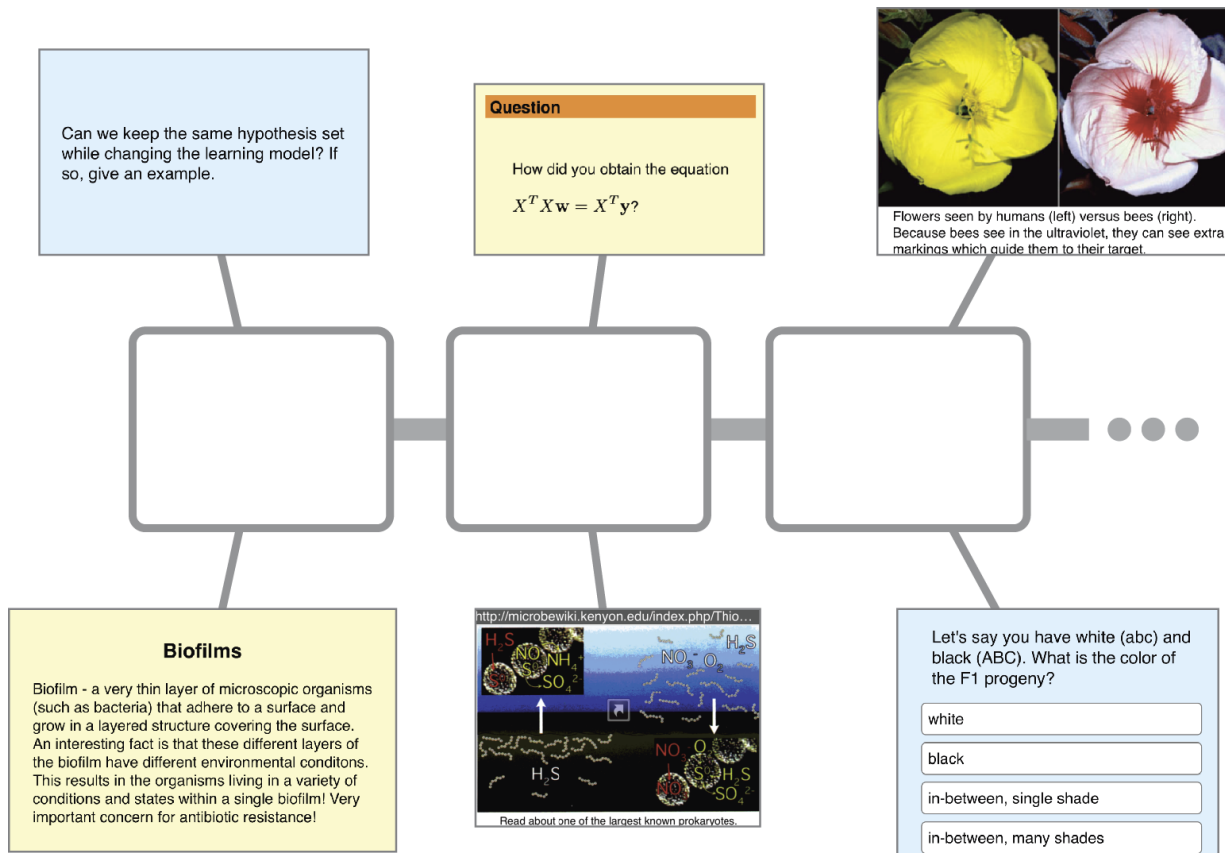
- Context and Goals
- Research Questions
- Tablet-based Collaborative Learning App
- Classes & Kinds of Data

# Improving learning & student engagement



Methods that work for students and faculty,  
and provide new evidence and insights.

# SKIES, a collaborative learning application

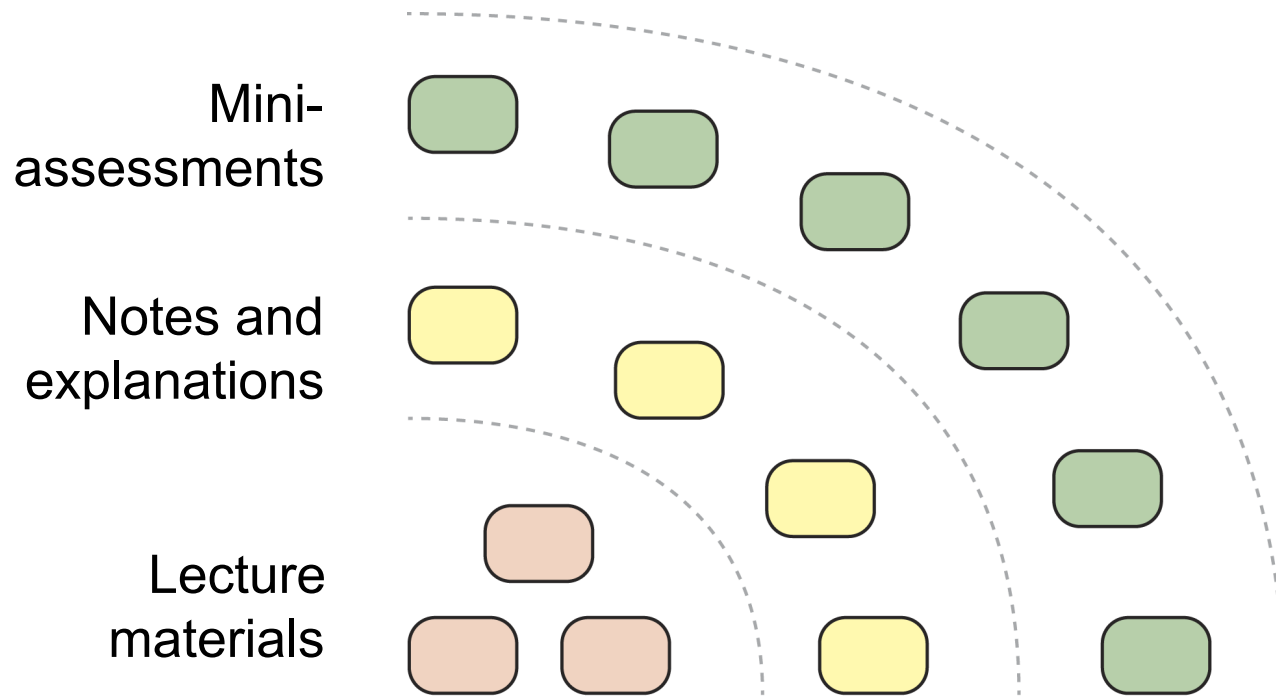


Notes  
Questions  
Self-quizzes

Equations  
Pictures  
Web links  
Videos

Teachers and students add branches to a class tree

## *Building cards atop other cards*



Many elements ranging from the flexible to the authoritative.



- 1 year ago

## Repair from a homologous chromosome

b allele serves as a template for repair. It keeps the cell from losing more DNA, but it also changes the original information.

1 of 2

1 year ago

## Homologous recombination can create chromosomal instabilities

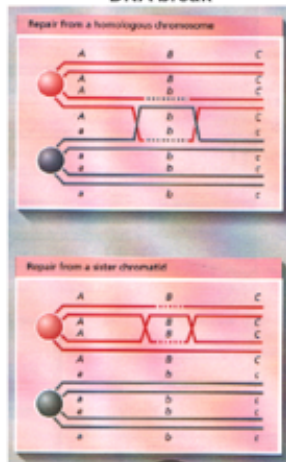
DNA with repetitive elements can become improperly modified as a result of homologous recombination. A linear chromosome with repeated sequences can end up looping back on itself, which upon recombination, can lead to excisions, inversions, and translocations.

2 of 2

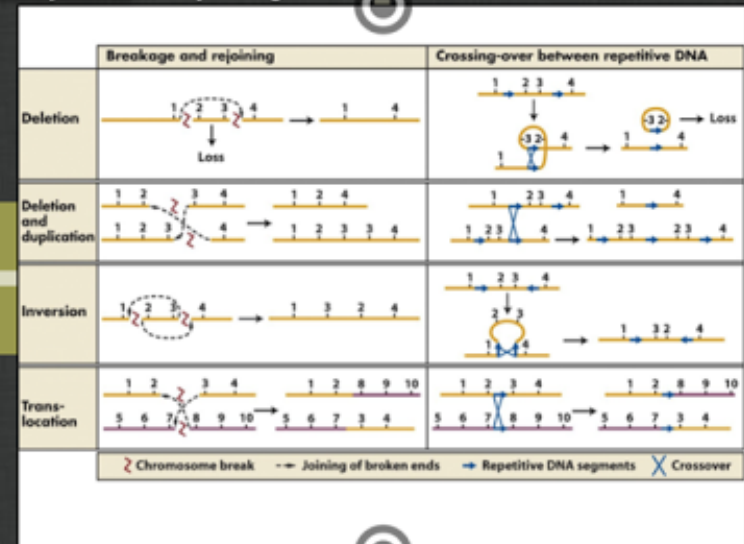
# Notes

- 1 year ago

### Homologous recombination: repair of a double strand DNA break



- 1 year ago





— 2 weeks ago

32%

**Death of Dolly marks cloning milestone**

Scientists have announced the death of Dolly the sheep, the first mammal ever cloned from an adult somatic cell. The sheep, which was born in 1996, died of a rare disease called scrapie. Her death marks a significant milestone in the history of cloning, as it shows that cloned animals can live and die like natural animals.

2 weeks ago

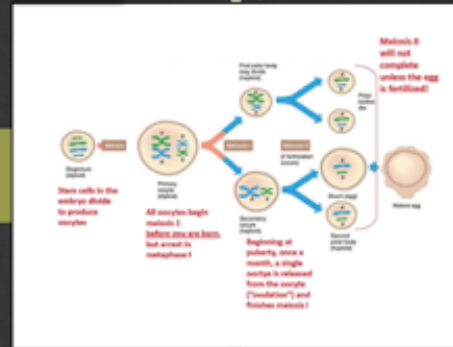
**LETTER**

**Telomerase reactivation reverses tissue degeneration in aged telomerase-deficient mice**

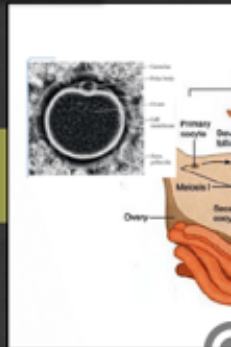
Researcher: Sheng C. Xiao et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2010; 107: 11111-11116

In aging mammals, telomerase activity is significantly reduced, leading to shortened telomeres and tissue degeneration. This study shows that reactivating telomerase in aged mice reverses these effects, restoring telomere length and improving tissue health. The findings suggest that telomerase reactivation could be a potential therapeutic strategy for age-related degenerative diseases.

2 weeks ago



— 2 weeks



— 2 weeks ago

<http://www.roslin.ed.ac.uk/public-interest/dolly-...>

Read about Dolly the sheep and whether she was "born old" in some ways.

— 1 week ago

Which cell does not have active telomerase activity?

— 1 week ago

Of the approximately two million follicles (immature eggs) that women have at birth how many end up actually maturing properly?

— 1 week

how can you learn present in an egg destroying it?

# Self-quizzes by students

ago

CGD for single-gene disorders—  
 on. The large circle represents  
 from heterozygous carrier of  
 (metaphase I, M1). Other seven  
 from the first (metaphase II, MII)  
 smaller circles show extruded  
 ts. N, represents normal; CF,  
 possible outcomes from heterozy-  
 otic division. Shaded circles rep-  
 resent gene. Upper portion shows  
 S1, resulting in affected oocyte,  
 (small circle), while left-hand  
 of events. Crossover situation  
 shown in middle, resulting in  
 y normal P62 extrusion) or  
 (normal P62 extrusion).

- 2 weeks ago

**Identifying large chromosomal aberrations in early embryos**

**Cytogenetics: Large indels (insertions, deletions), amplification, translocations**

**15;15 in women with repeated abortions**

- 2 weeks ago

**Identifying copy number variations in early embryos**

**Deletions and copy number increases**

- 2 weeks ago

**Hybridization intensities on DNA microarray following laser scanning**

- 1 week ago

Only considering the mutation involving chromosomes 6 and 15, what are the chances the offspring will be normal?

?

1 of 4

- 1 week ago

**Question**

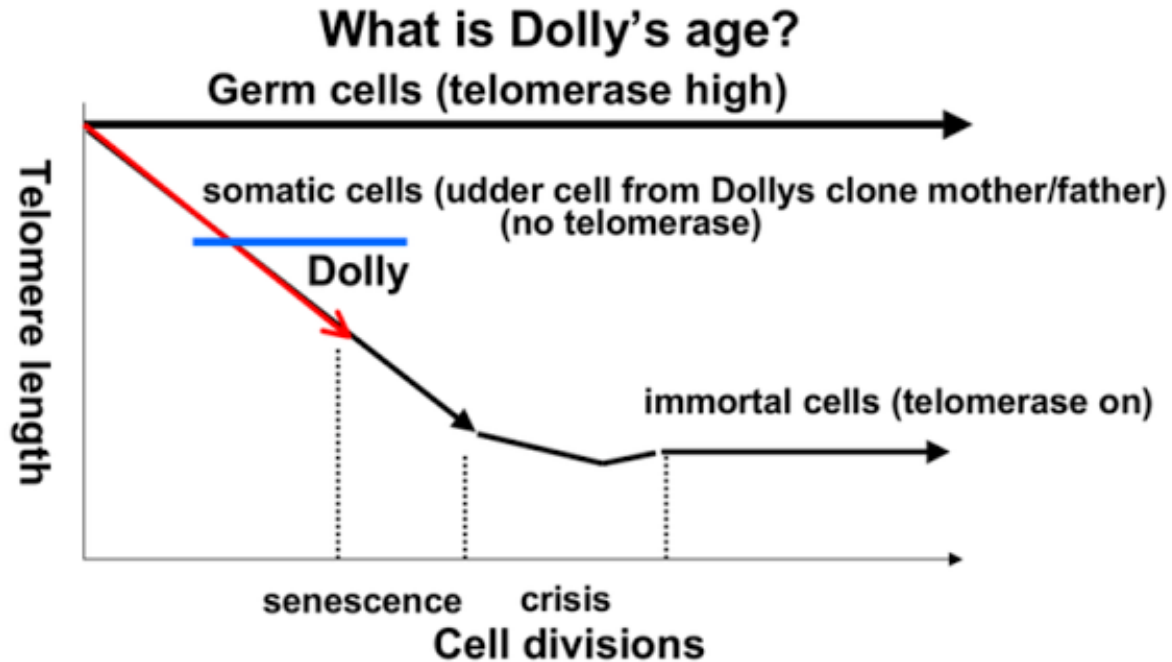
how many probes can a microarray hold and how are they made?

- 1 week ago

**Answer**

Chips may hold from 10 probes up to 2 million depending on the application. Chips are created by machines that spot the DNA probes into the glass surface.

# Discussions



#### Telomere length of cells in Dolly?

- Comparable to that of a six year older control (sheep live to be about 12 normally) Nature 399:316-317

kevinyu



According to the researchers, although Dolly had shorter telomeres, they ...

aoneill

Q/A: What is another way Dolly's genetic material was likely different from that of ...

aone



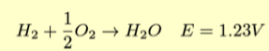
# Card ratings

- 1 day ago

## Hydrogen as a fuel



Hydrogen plus oxygen combines to form water in an exothermic process:



Since two electrons are involved in this reaction, there is a net production of 2.46 eV per molecule of water made.

2 of 2

## Answer

It absolutely can, and this is a major research effort at Caltech (Lewis, Gray, Roberts, Agapie, Goddard, Miller, Peters, etc.)

- 1 day ago

## Question

Is this similar to the process of electron transfer that occurs in photosynthesis? Could electron carriers or enzymes that are used in photosynthesis be adapted for this process?

1 of 2

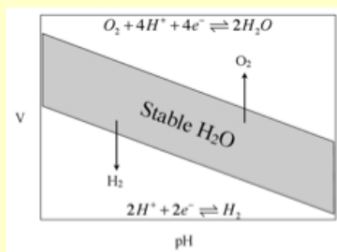
- 1 day ago

Why does higher voltage make it less favorable to generate  $O_2$ , but more favorable to generate  $H_2$ ?



- 1 day ago

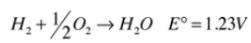
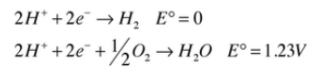
## Pourbaix diagram



Using the Nerst equations derived previously, we can plot out the regions where  $O_2$  and  $H_2$  are spontaneously generated, as a function of applied voltage and pH.

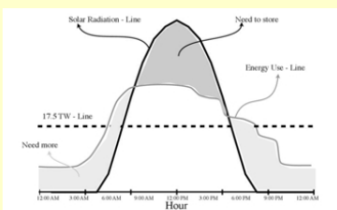
- 1 day ago

Hydrogen may be an ideal energy storage device



1 day ago

## Solar needs to be coupled to energy storage

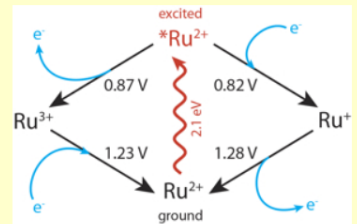


Because people like to work before sunrise and after sunset, there will be periods where there isn't enough sunlight available to provide energy.

Thus we need a way to store solar energy for later.

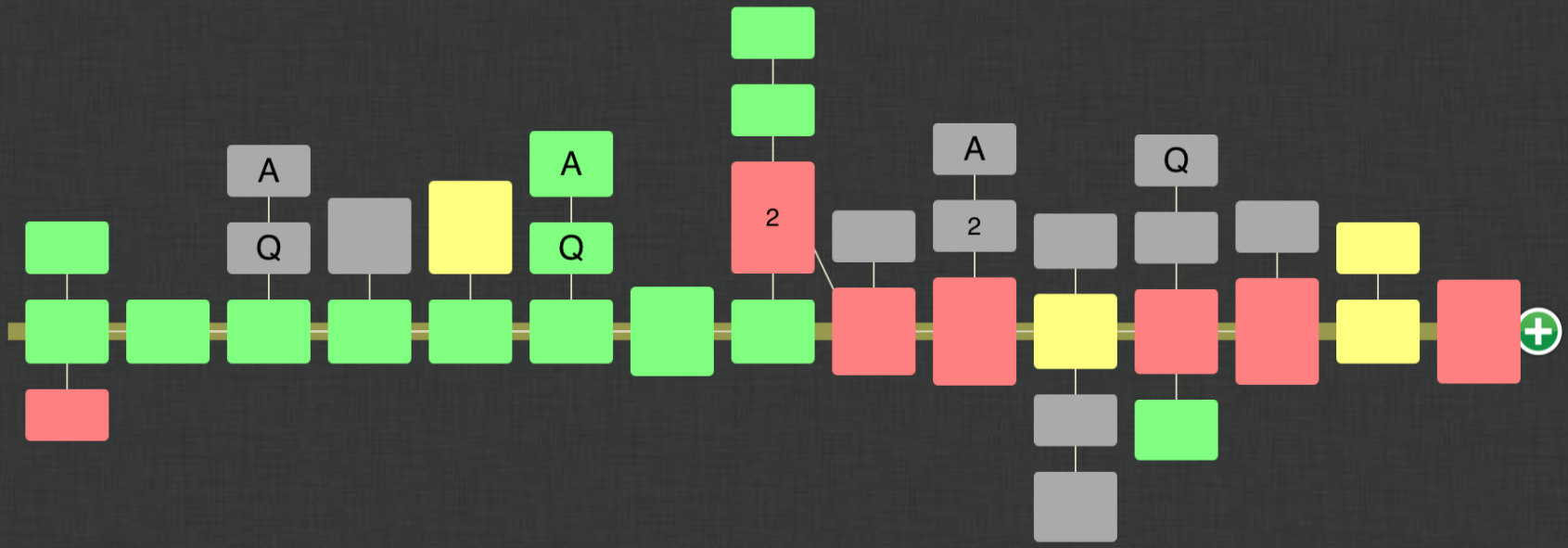
- 1 day ago

## Coupling light to fuel production



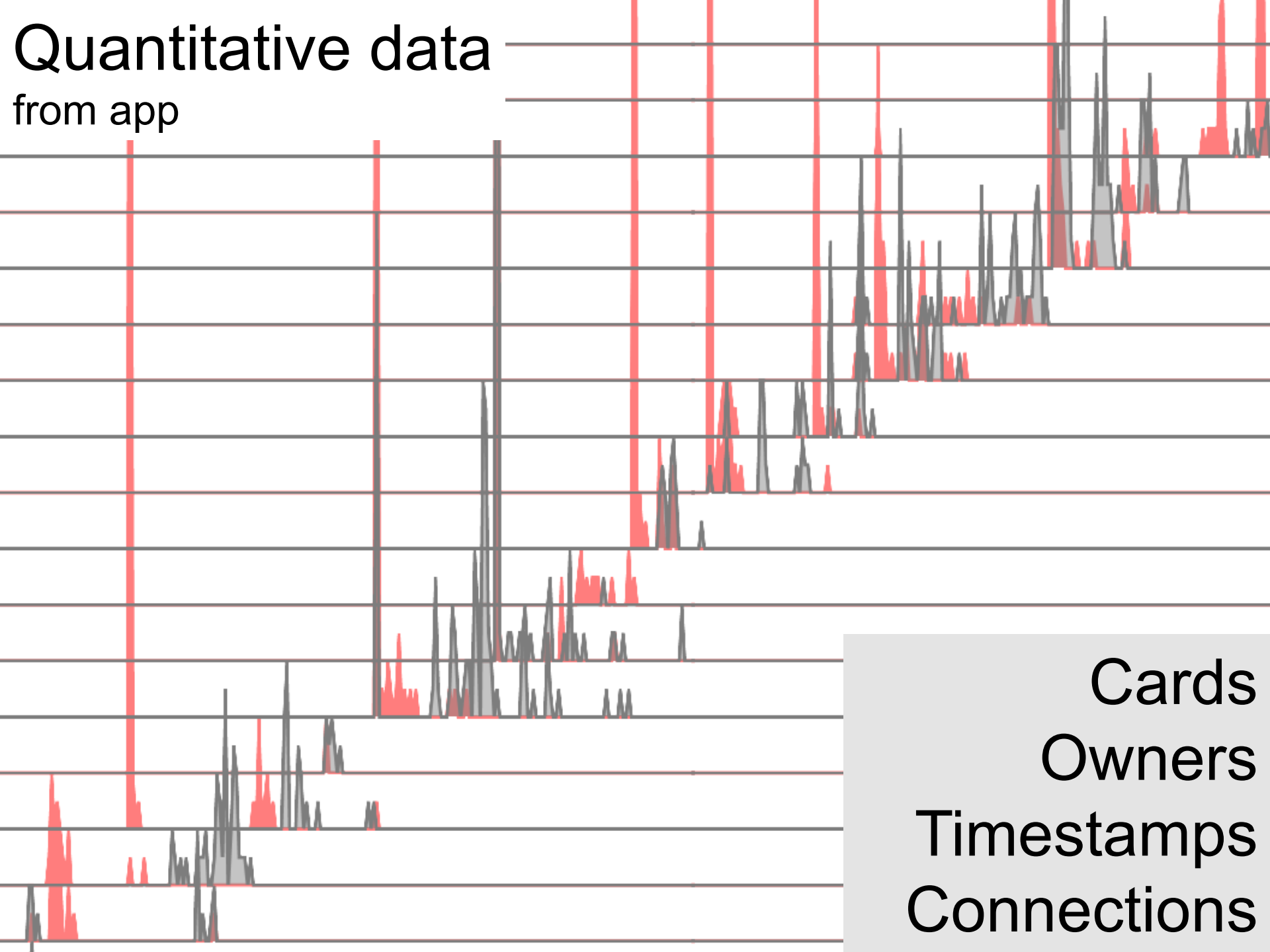
When  $Ru^{2+}$  is excited by light, it becomes an active species which can either donate or accept an electron to become lower in energy. The electron can then hop back on/off to recreate  $Ru^{2+}$ .

We can couple this oxidation/reduction to the electrolysis half-reactions. The 0.87 V reduction potential is strong enough to produce  $H_2$ , but the 0.82 V oxidation potential is too weak to produce  $O_2$ .



# Card ratings

# Quantitative data from app



Cards  
Owners  
Timestamps  
Connections

# Qualitative data

from surveys

to view the professor's course material.  
to view material contributed by students/TAs.  
to move forward, backward, or zoom in/out on material.  
to add quiz questions and/or flashcards.  
to add notes (e.g., clarifications, definitions, explanations)  
to ask questions for others to answer.

How and why do you think SKIES was more helpful to your learning than others

How and why do you think SKIES was more helpful to your learning than others

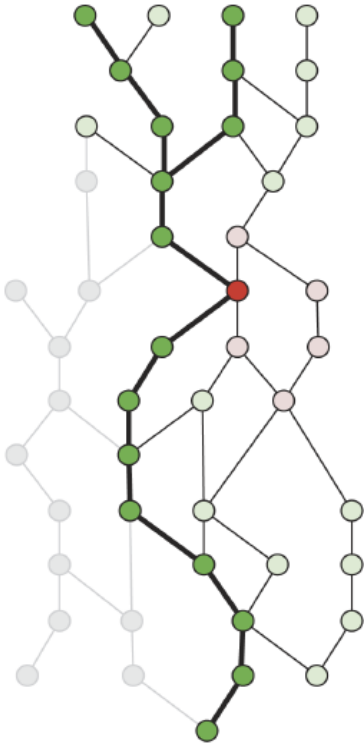
How was your experience using SKIES for this class different from other classes you have used (e.g., laptops, note-taking programs, word processors, browser-based learning systems)?

Access to helpful material from students/TAs  
Improved studying  
My own enhanced learning  
A sense of contributing to the class  
Other motivation:  
Other motivation:

Motivation  
Usage  
Efficacy



## *Answer questions about classroom active learning*



How do students choose to participate?

How can we quantify in-class engagement?

What motivates students? Faculty?

App provides a durable record of learning in the classroom

# Research Questions

- What are the **observable patterns of real-time student engagement** during class, under open (student choice) and directed conditions, for individual students and group behaviors?
- What **types and levels of complexity are present in student engagement** during class, both self-reported and independently observed?
- What **relationships exist between student engagement, student learning, student motivation, and faculty experience** adopting active learning methods?

# Administrative and technology logistics



Research &  
coordination



Programming &  
teaching support



100 iPads

*Provost's Innovation in  
Education Fund (Caltech),  
Bechtel Foundation (Caltech),  
CTE Funding (PCC)*

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**Caltech**

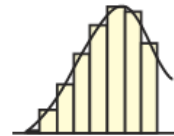


Genetics



Chemistry

+ 3 others



Calculus

+ 6 others

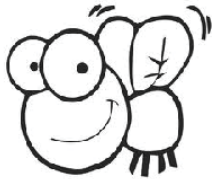
This talk: two classes at Caltech and one at Pasadena City College

Degree of structure  
& change to existing  
instruction



**Low**

35 students



Genetics



Chemistry

**Medium**

53 students



Calculus

**High**

45 students

# Solar chemistry

## Ch 3X

Student — 1 week ago

### Question

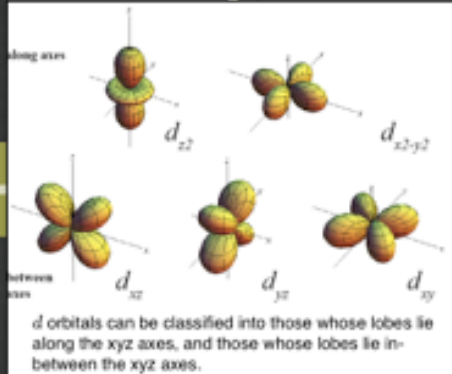
why would the other d orbitals not get destabilized in a tetrahedral structure (esp the  $x^2-y^2$  one)

Teacher — 1 week ago

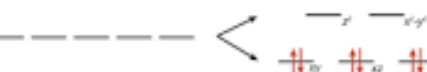
Which levels would be destabilized if the ligands bound in tetrahedral fashion?

?

Teacher — 1 week ago



Teacher — 1 week ago



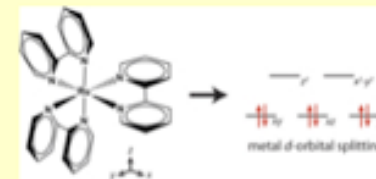
Student — 1 week ago

### Energy Splitting due to d-orbital Interference

The molecule has so many electrons near each other that the electron orbitals interact with each other and change their energies. d-electrons all fall into  $xy$ ,  $xz$ , and  $yz$  orbitals (the lower energy d-orbitals).

Teacher — 1 week ago

### Electronic states of Ru(bpy)<sub>2</sub>



Normally the  $d$  orbitals of Ru have the same energy (are degenerate).

However, when the bpy ligands bind, they do so in an octahedral fashion, e.g. along the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  axes. This causes the energy of the  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  and  $d_{z^2}$  orbitals to be pushed upward. The 6 electrons of  $Ru^{2+}$  end up occupying the  $d_{xy}$ ,  $d_{yz}$ , and  $d_{xz}$  orbitals.

Student — 1 week ago

What is it called if the electron immediately falls down to lower energy photons?

Teacher — 1 week ago

### Electronic excitation



Light of 400 nm can excite metal to the  $\pi^*$  orbital of

The splitting between  $d$  orbitals is small compared to the energy of the  $\pi^*$  orbital energy.

Student — 11 months ago

What does the integral look like after substituting u and du?



Student — 11 months ago

**Question**

What is the answer to the integral with respect to du and what is the answer after use substitute x back in?

Student — 11 months ago

**Definite Integrals - now we lose the constant, C.**

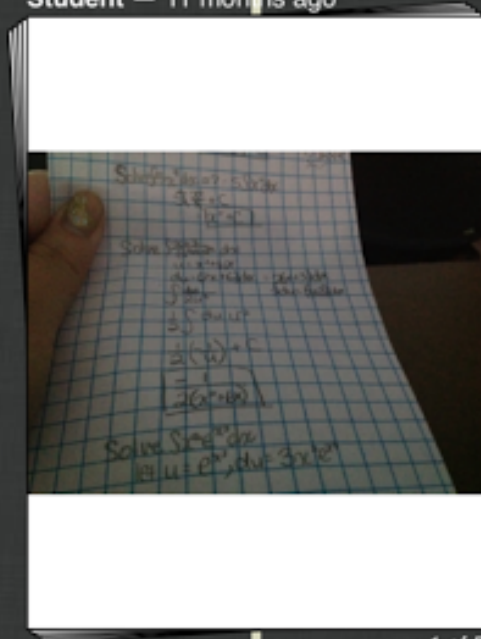
$$f(x) = 2x + 4$$
$$\int_1^2 2x + 4 dx = F(2) - F(1)$$

Student — 11 months ago

**Definite Integrals - now we lose the constant, C.**

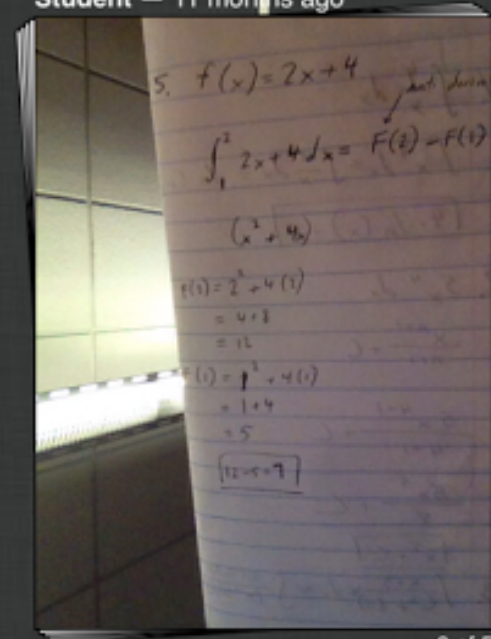
$$f(x) = 2x + 4$$
$$\int_{-1}^2 2x + 4 dx = F(2) - F(-1)$$

Student — 11 months ago



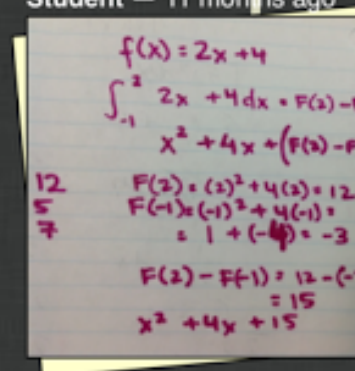
1 of 5

Student — 11 months ago



3 of 5

Student — 11 months ago



Student — 11 months ago

## 2. Participation Inventory

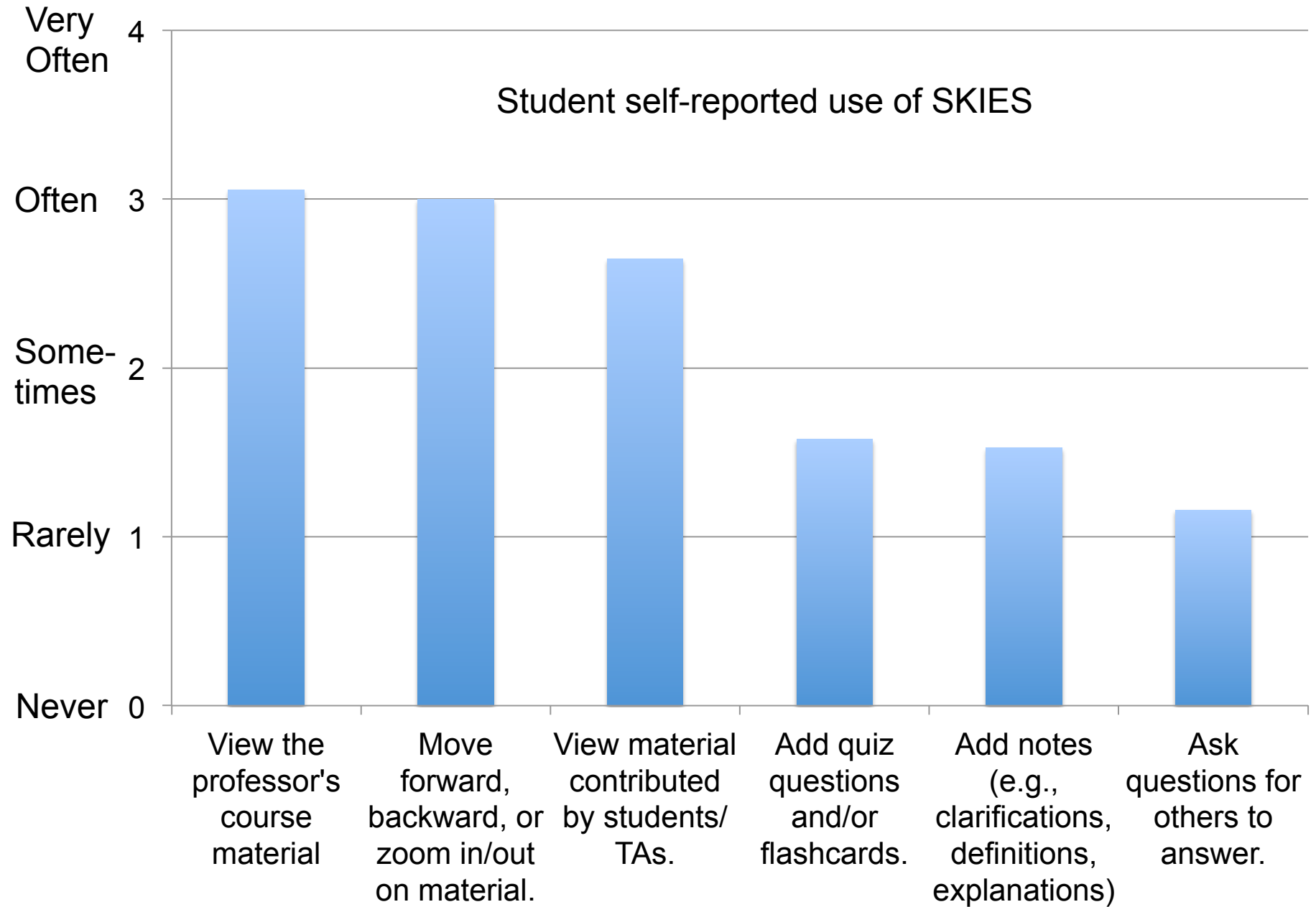
- Counting Cards
- Self report vs. App data
- Student, TA, and Faculty contributions



# Counting cards



### Student self-reported use of SKIES



*In genetics, how many cards were added?*

Slides for 14 lectures	<b>834</b>
<hr/>	
Added year 1	843
+ added year 2	1036
= Total added	<b>1879</b>

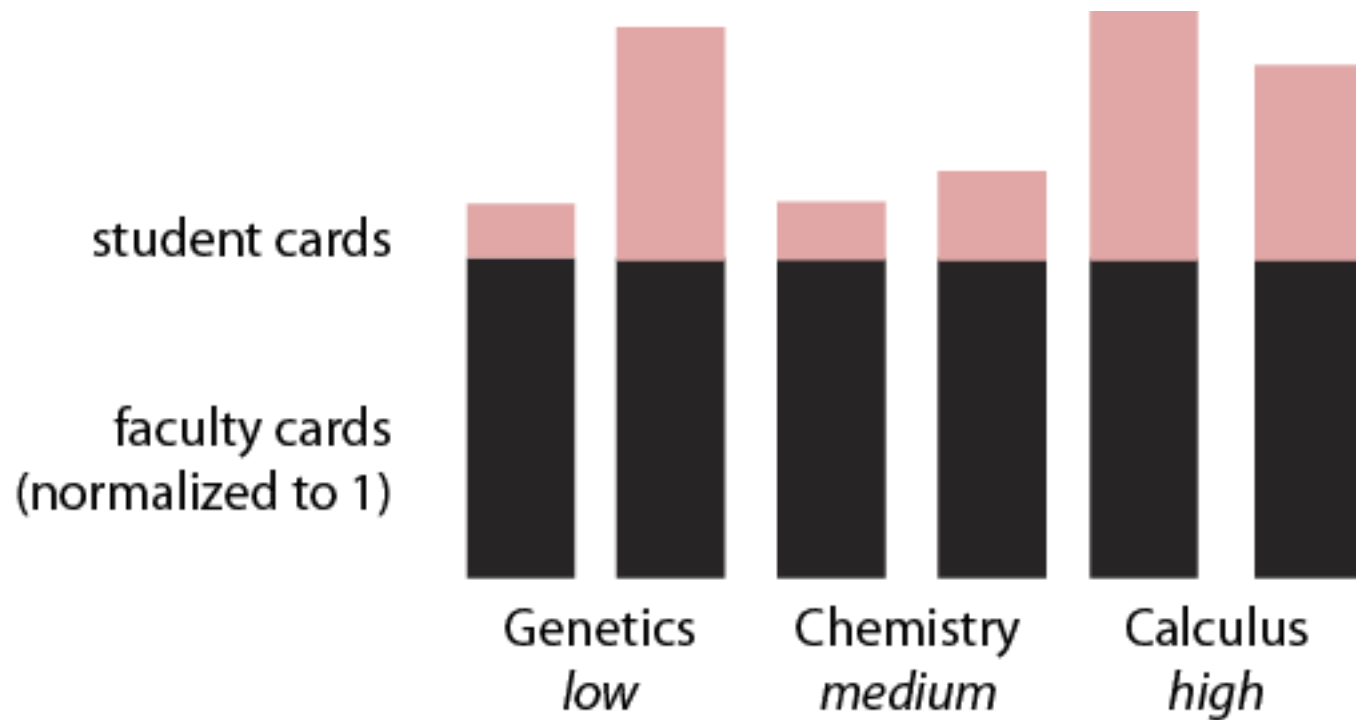
>2.2 additions, quiz questions, papers etc. per slide

*In genetics, who makes cards?*

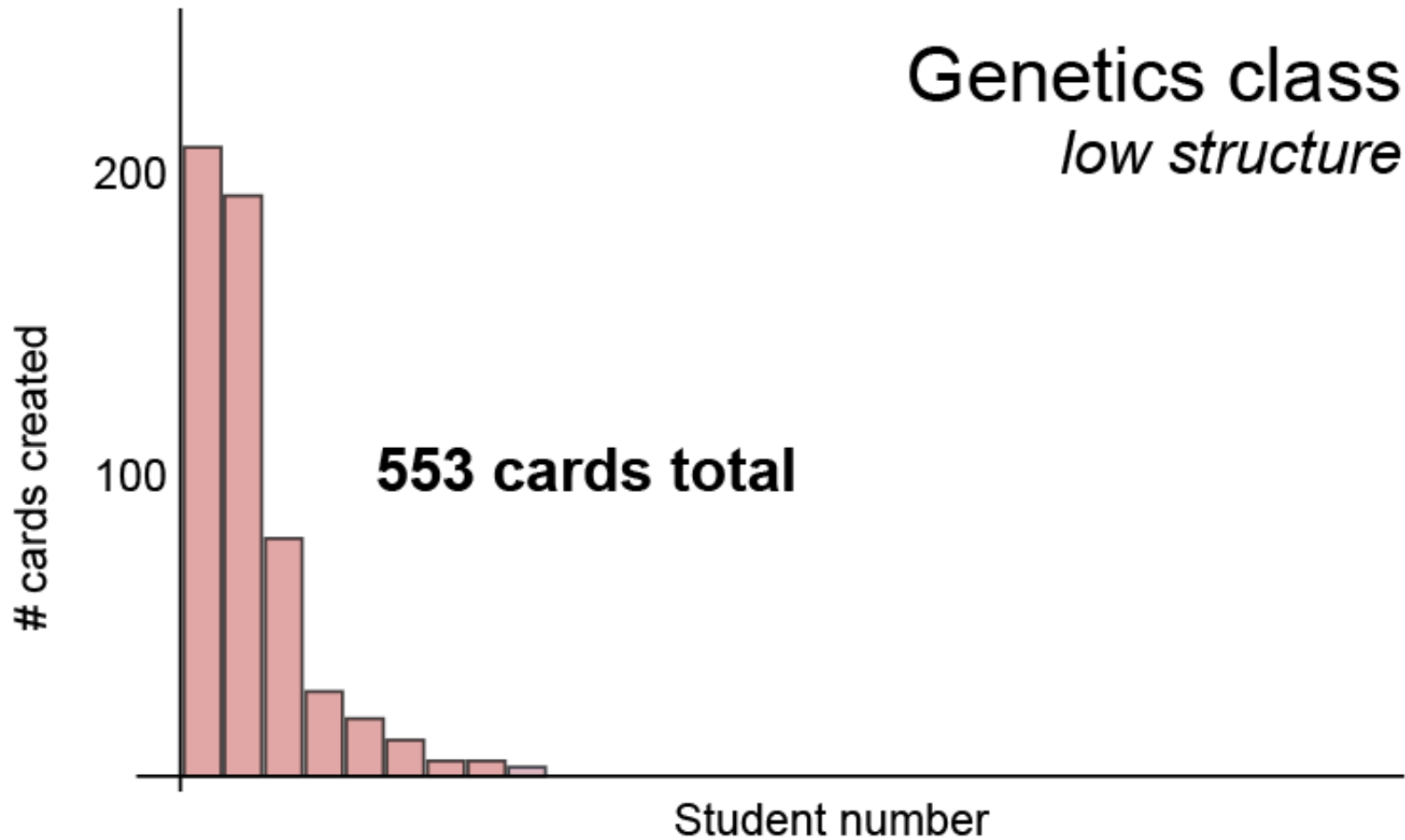
	Year 1	Year 2
TAs	<b>696</b>	430
Students	147	<b>606</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>1063</b>

Students contributed more cards than TAs by Year 2

## *Class structure affects student participation*



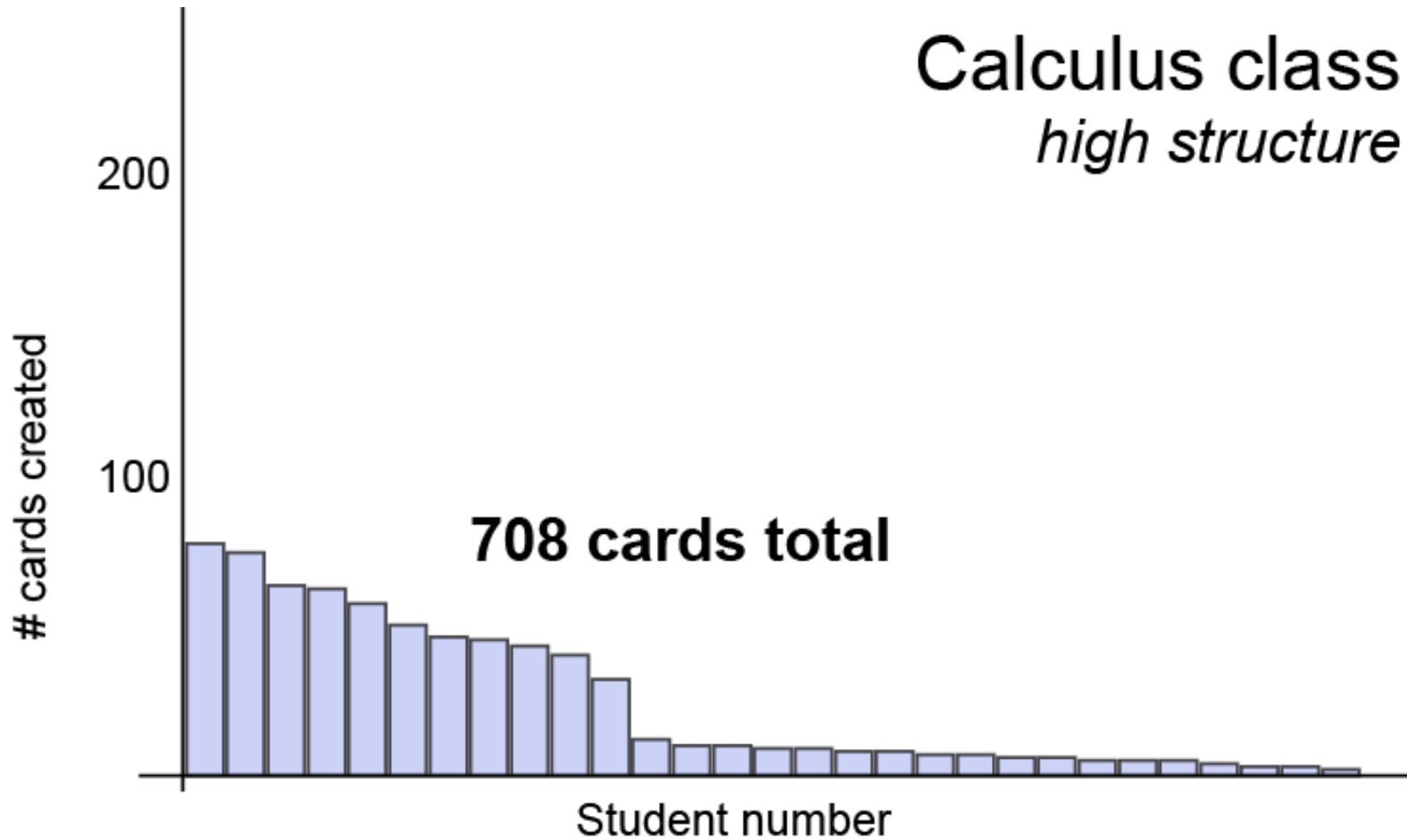
Students add many cards in the low and high structure extremes



In the low structure class, a few students add most of the cards

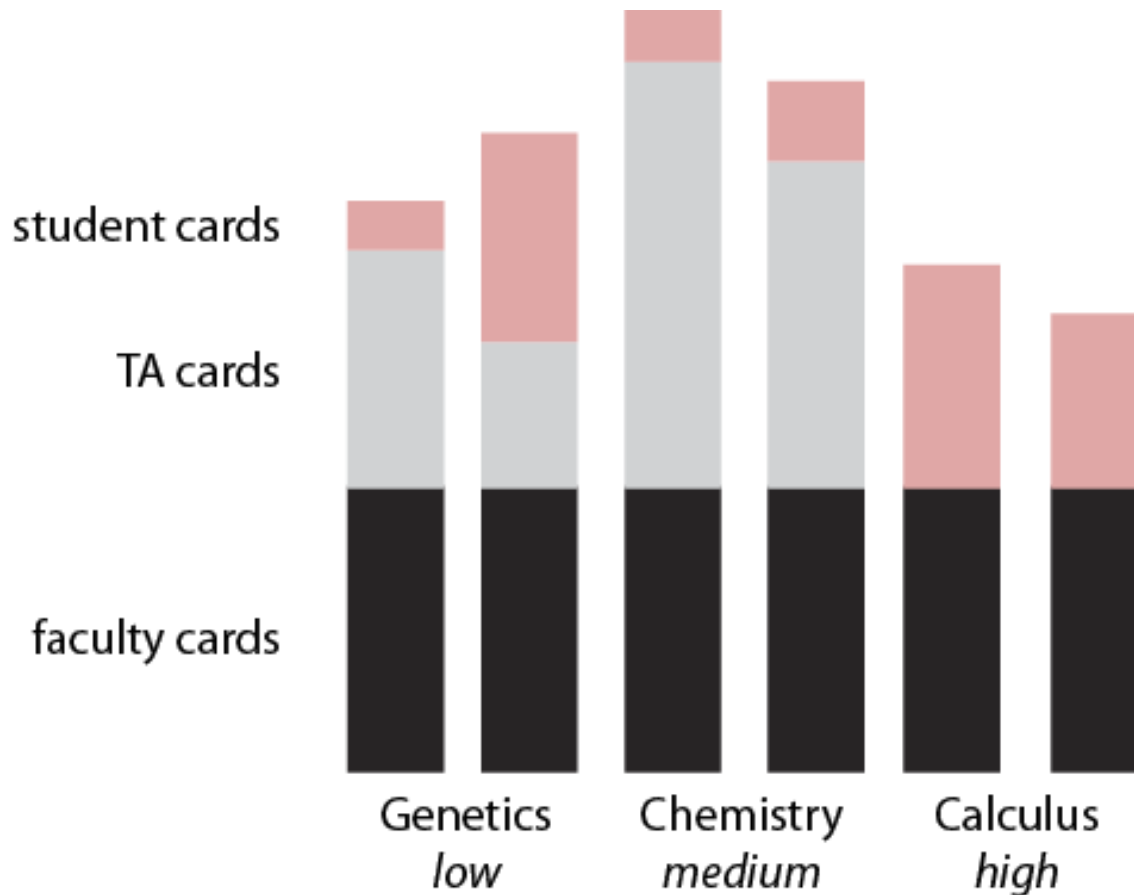
# Calculus class

*high structure*



In the high structure class, many students add a few cards

## *Contributions from teaching assistants*



TAs were particularly active in the medium structure class

## *Student participation: Conclusions*

The most participation came from classes with **low** or **high** degrees of structured tablet use.

In the **low** structure case, a subset of students became very active teachers/contributors.

In the **high** structure case, a broader range of students contributed more uniformly.



# 3. Behavior in Time

- In-class time lapse
- Learning Curve
- Waiting Time

jsu — 2 months ago

**Mutations and cancer**

10<sup>13</sup> cell in human body  
10<sup>23</sup> cell divisions (DNA replication events)/day  
The mutation rate per nucleotide/DNA replication event is 10<sup>-8</sup>

Every possible single nucleotide mutation occurs in our genome hundreds of times each day.  
Mitotic recombination can convert heterozygous cells into homozygotes. Rates range from 10<sup>-1</sup> - 10<sup>-2</sup> per individual/generation

jsu — 2 months ago

If the mutation rate per nucleotide is 10<sup>-8</sup>, why are there so many mutation events in our body every day?

jsu — 2 months ago

**Genetic Alterations in Cancer**

- Mutations
  - Missense - Affecting
  - Nonsense - Promoter
  - Frameshift - Activation
- Deletions
- Rearrangements
- Amplifications
- Epigenetic Events (Methylation)

jsu — 2 months ago

**Epigenetic alterations to the DNA sequence**

Epigenetics: Heritable changes in gene expression that do not involve changes to the underlying DNA sequence.

Epigenetic marks are chemical groups that attach to DNA or histone proteins, influencing gene activity without changing the DNA sequence.

Epigenetic marks can be passed on to daughter cells during cell division.

Epigenetic marks can be influenced by environmental factors, such as diet, stress, and lifestyle.

Epigenetic marks can be used to study disease and development.

jsu — 2 months ago

**Spontaneous**

**Induced**  
chemicals  
ionizing radiation

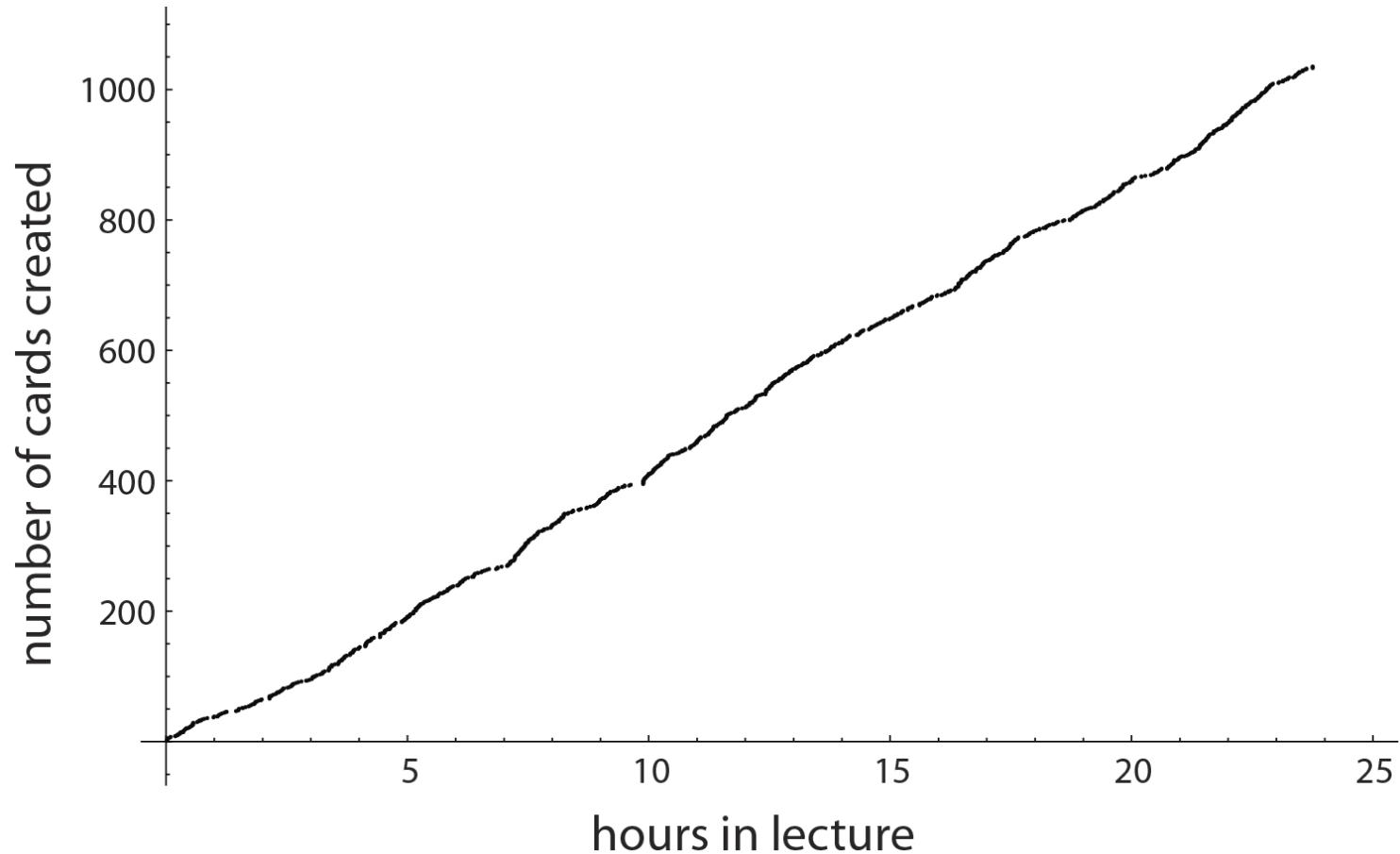
Transitions:  
purine to purine or pyrimidine to pyrimidine changes

Transversions:  
purine to pyrimidine or pyrimidine to purine changes

purines = guanine and adenine  
pyrimidines = cytosine, thymine and uracil

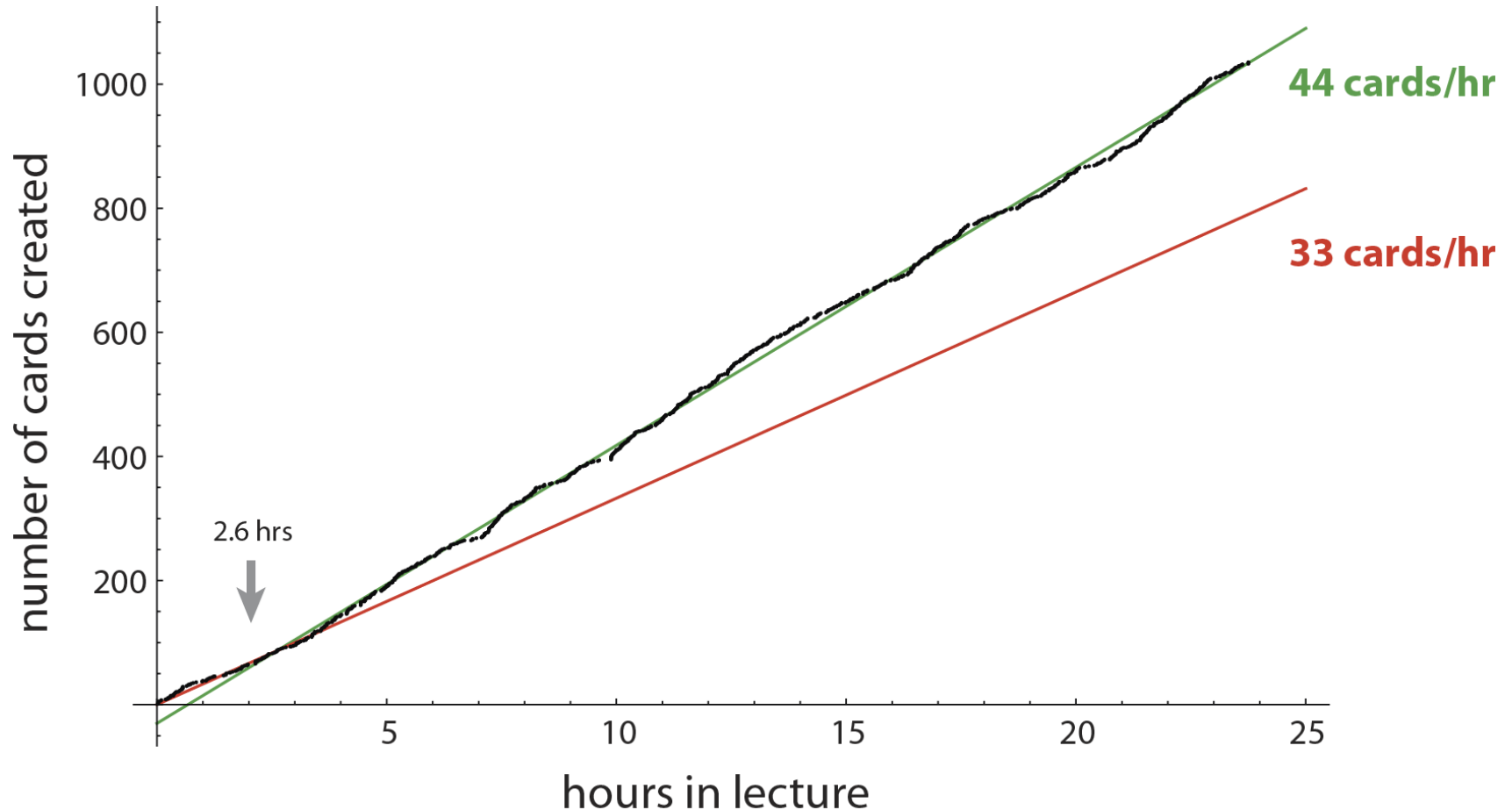


## *Card creation over time: IC1 Genetics*



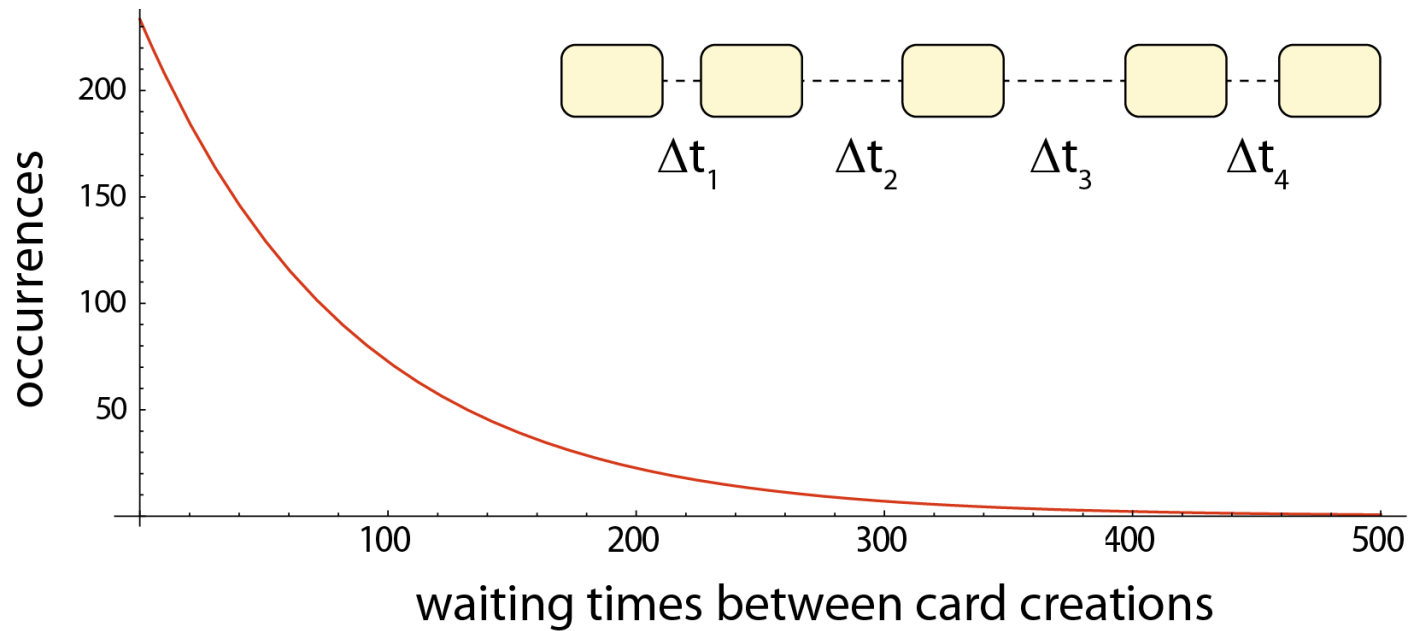
Students + TAs make cards steadily over the term

## Card creation over time: IC1 Genetics



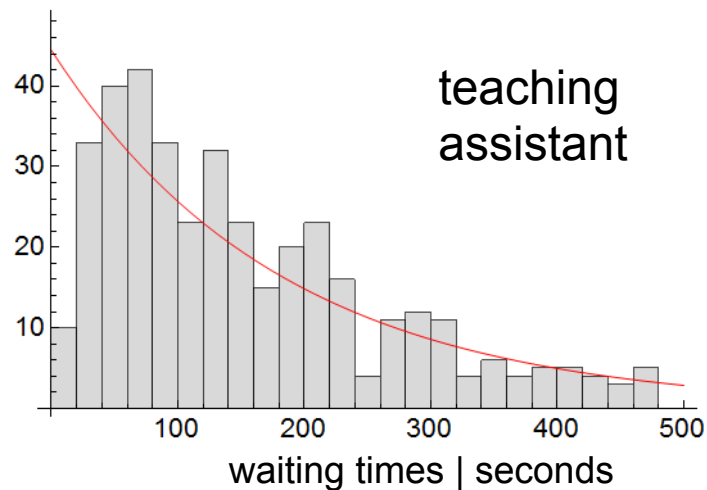
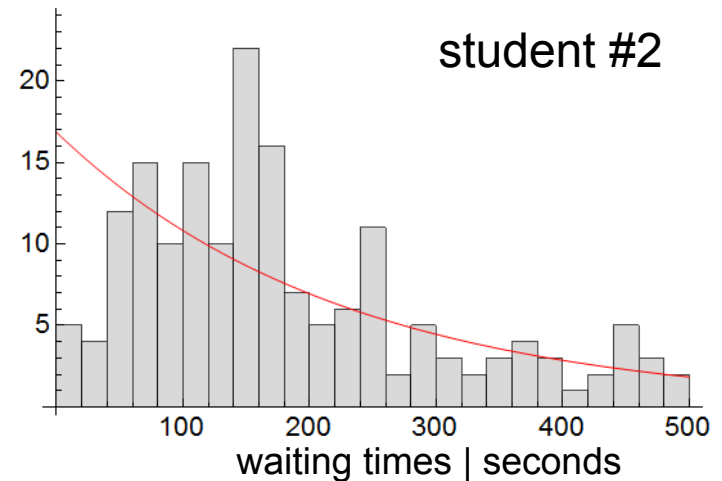
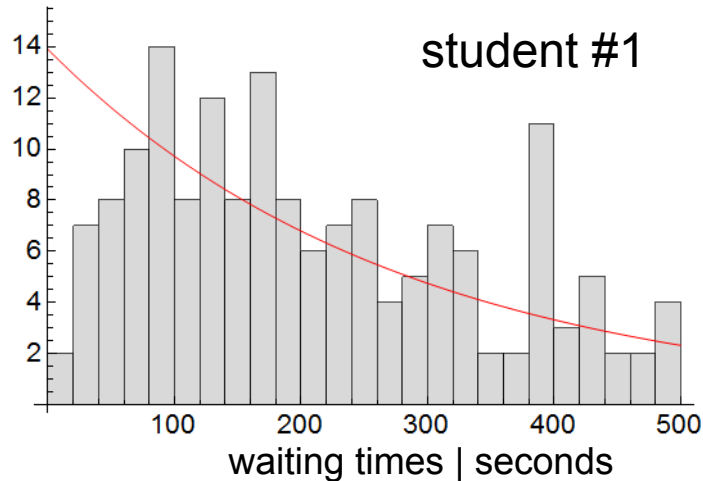
After an initial learning curve, rises to a steady-state 44 cards/hr

## Card creation by a “model student”



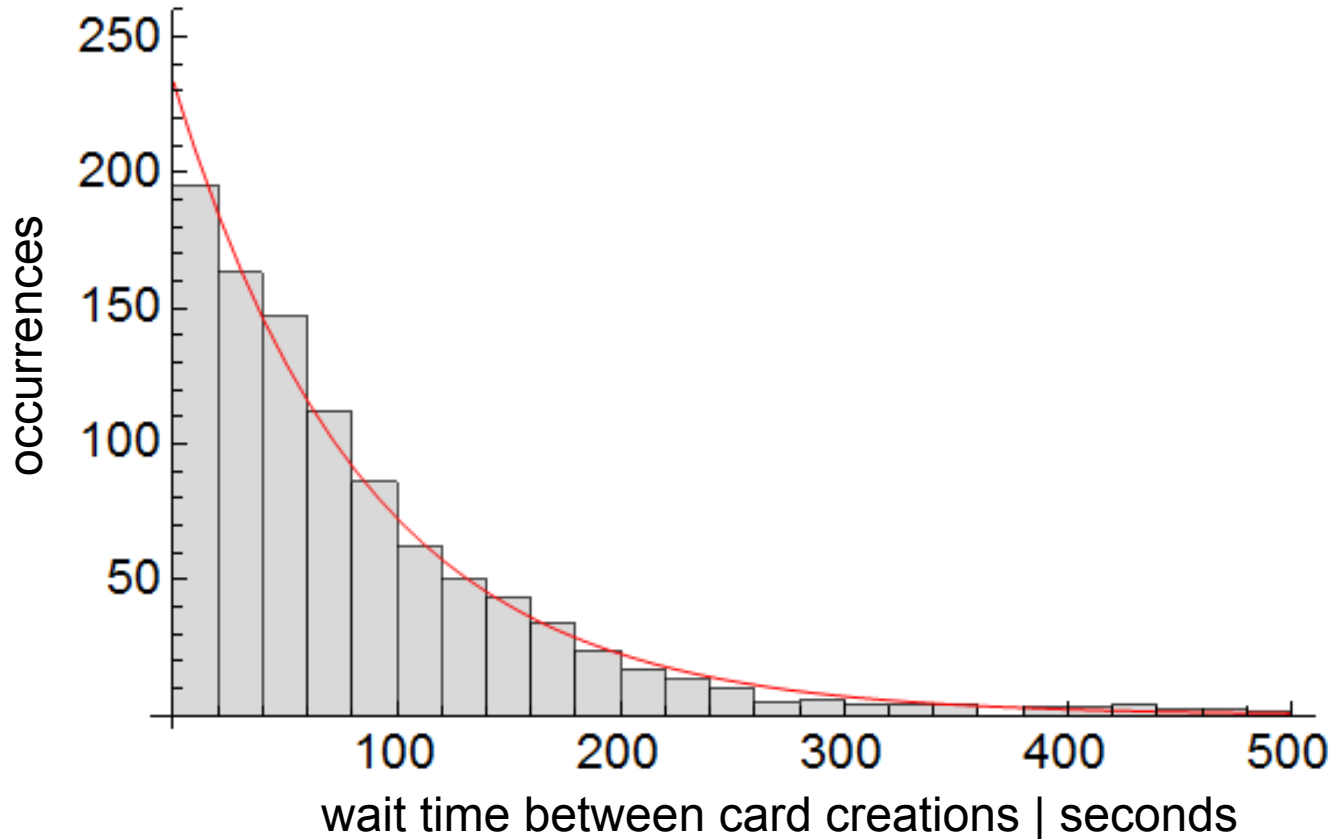
Exponential distribution if inspired to create at a constant rate

# *Individuals are not model students though*

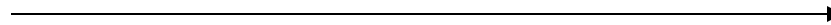
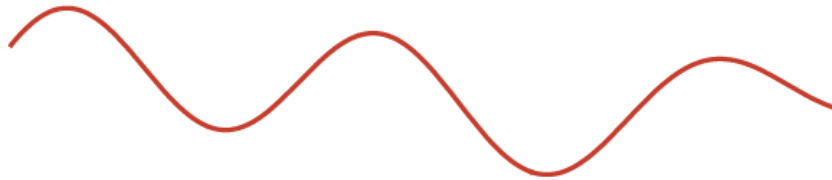


Creation rate observed to flag right after making a card

*Collectively, though, the class acts as a model student*



Taken together, the class is attentive and creating constantly



engagement versus time

## *Principle of collaborative learning*

Palm-Khintchine theorem;  
superposition of non-Poisson processes

Sharing combines attention spans, to everyone's benefit



## *Behavior in Time: Conclusions*

Attention span ebbs and flows add up:  
collectively, class may behave like an “ideal  
student.”

This may shift instructional views of  
“engagement”:  
the class may be engaged,  
just not all equally at the same time.

# 4. Modes of Learning

- Types of Contributions
- Cognitive Complexity of Contributions
- Complementarity and Knock-on Effect
- Wait Time for Different Complexities

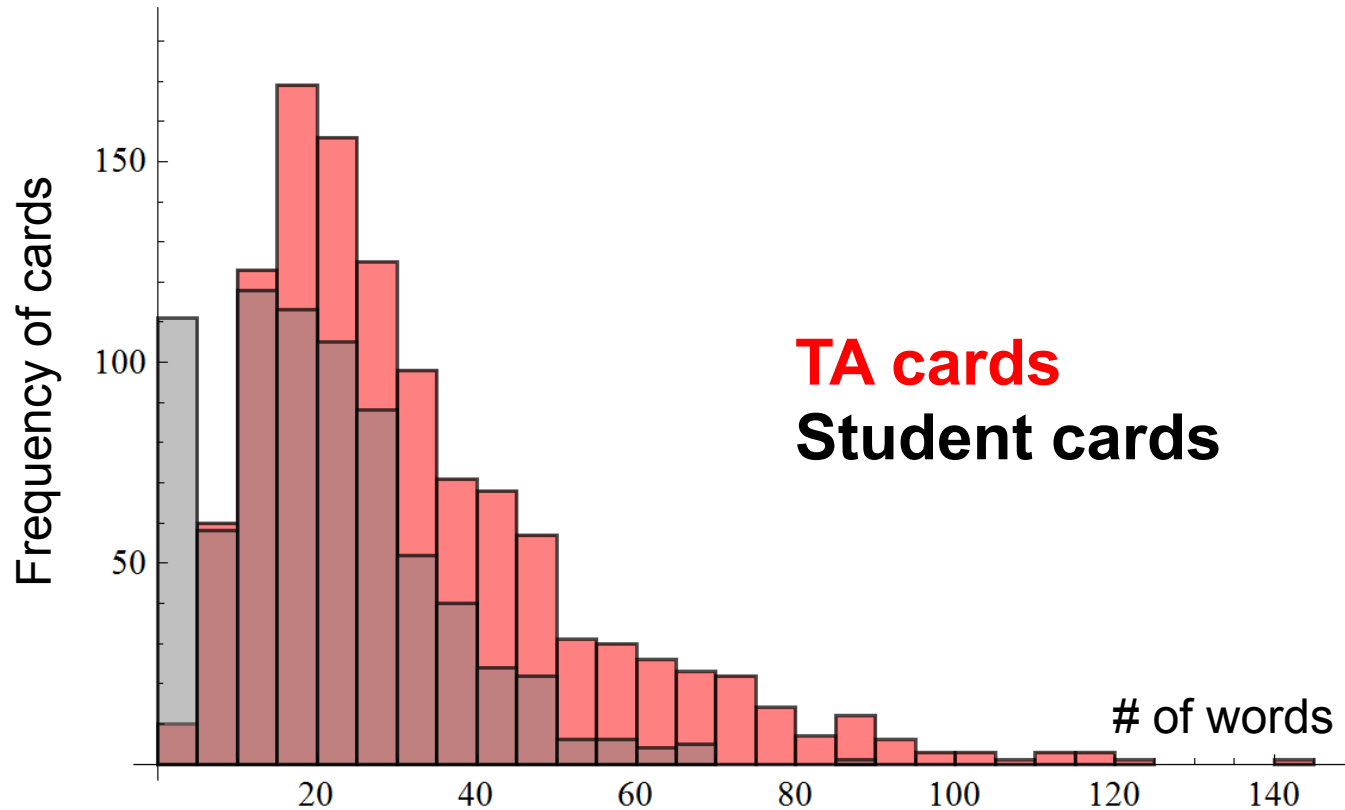
*Detailed analysis of Genetics*

*What kinds of cards are made?*

	information	assessment
TAs	497	<b>629</b>
Students	<b>645</b>	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>1142</b>	<b>737</b>

TAs like to make questions; students like to make notes.

## *How many words are in each card?*

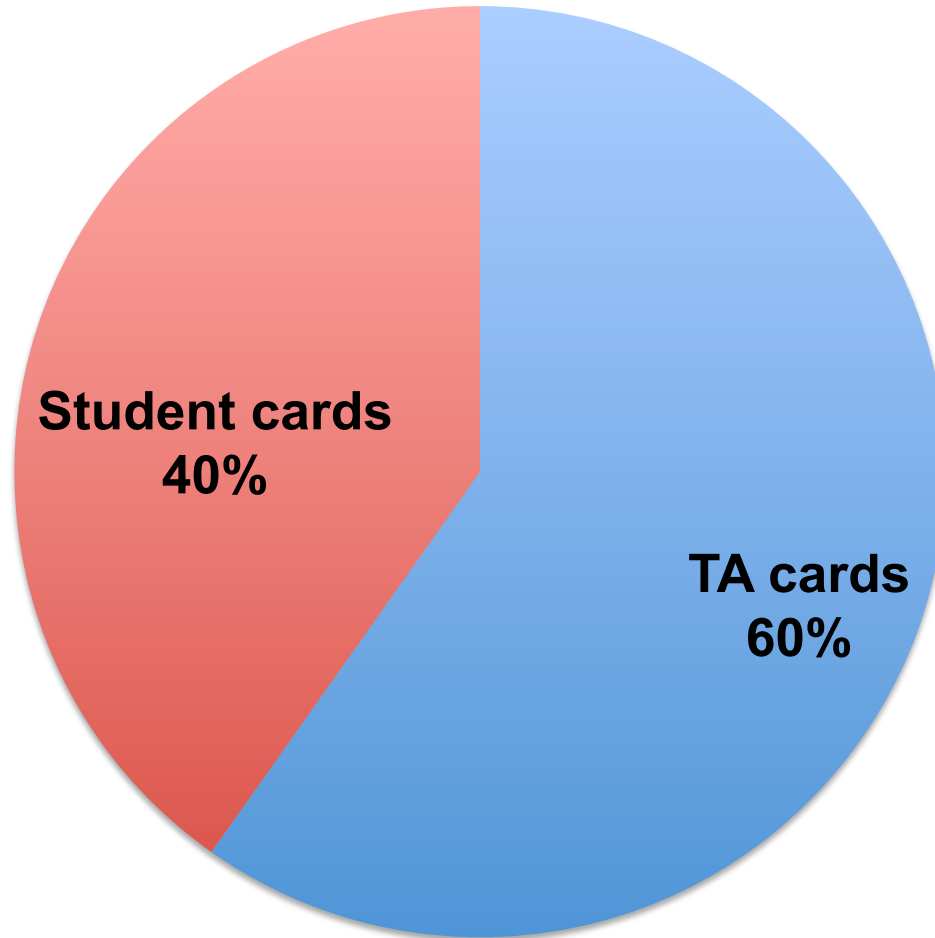


TAs are more verbose than students (~32 vs 20 words per card)

*Genetics Coded Card Set*  
*838 Cards, Lectures 1 thru 8 (out of 14)*

<b>Code</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<b>N-F</b>	Note—Fact	<i>Definitions, terms, short factual materials</i>
<b>N-S</b>	Note—Summary, Synthesis	<i>Boiling down, bringing together, connecting material</i>
<b>N-I</b>	Note—Insight	<i>Elaborating, clarifying, interpreting, concluding</i>
<b>Q-R</b>	Question—Recall	<i>Self/peer quiz asking simple facts, definitions, information</i>
<b>Q-T</b>	Question—Thinking	<i>Self/peer quiz asking complex question requiring thought</i>
<b>Q-O</b>	Question—Other	<i>Open-ended questions, answers to other students' questions</i>
<b>O</b>	Other	<i>Supplemental and related material from outside sources; “Human Interest” tangents, stories, humor, etc.</i>

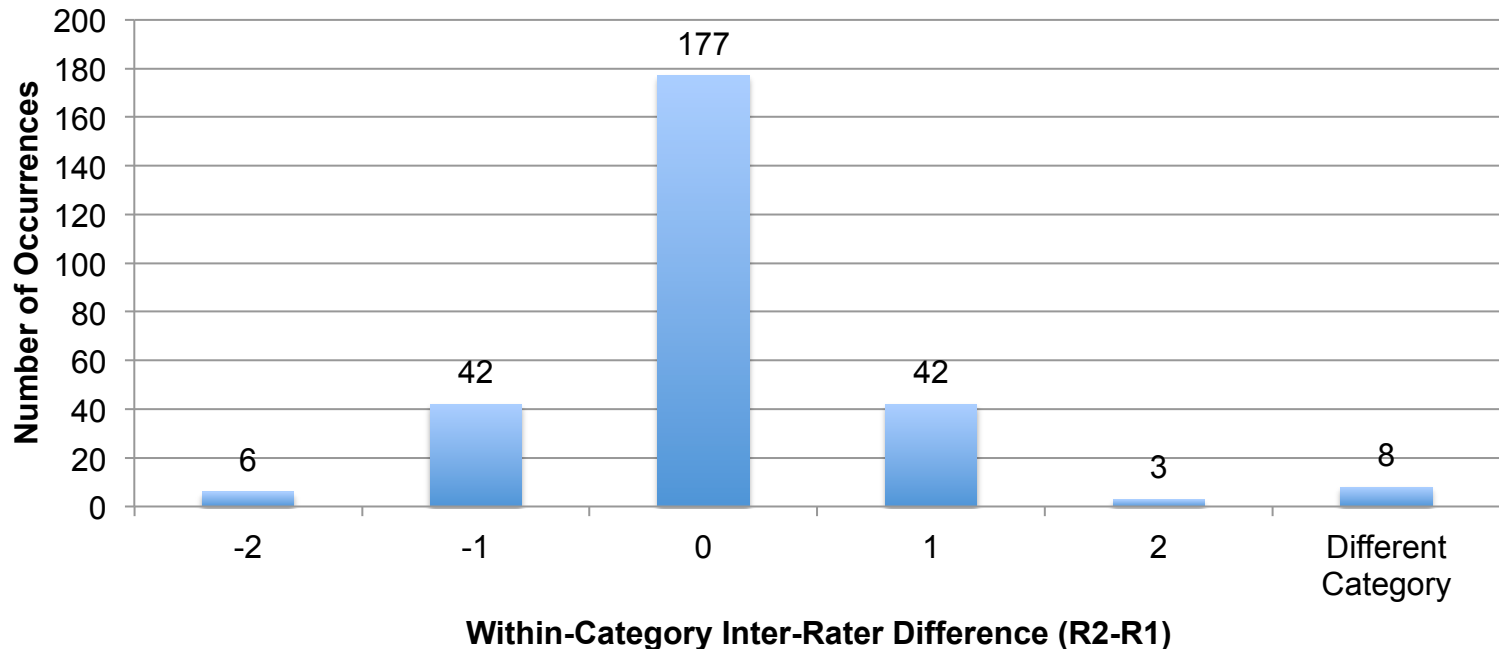
*Who made cards in the coded set?*



Coded cards were made by students & TAs in the same proportion as all genetics class cards.

# Inter-rater Reliability

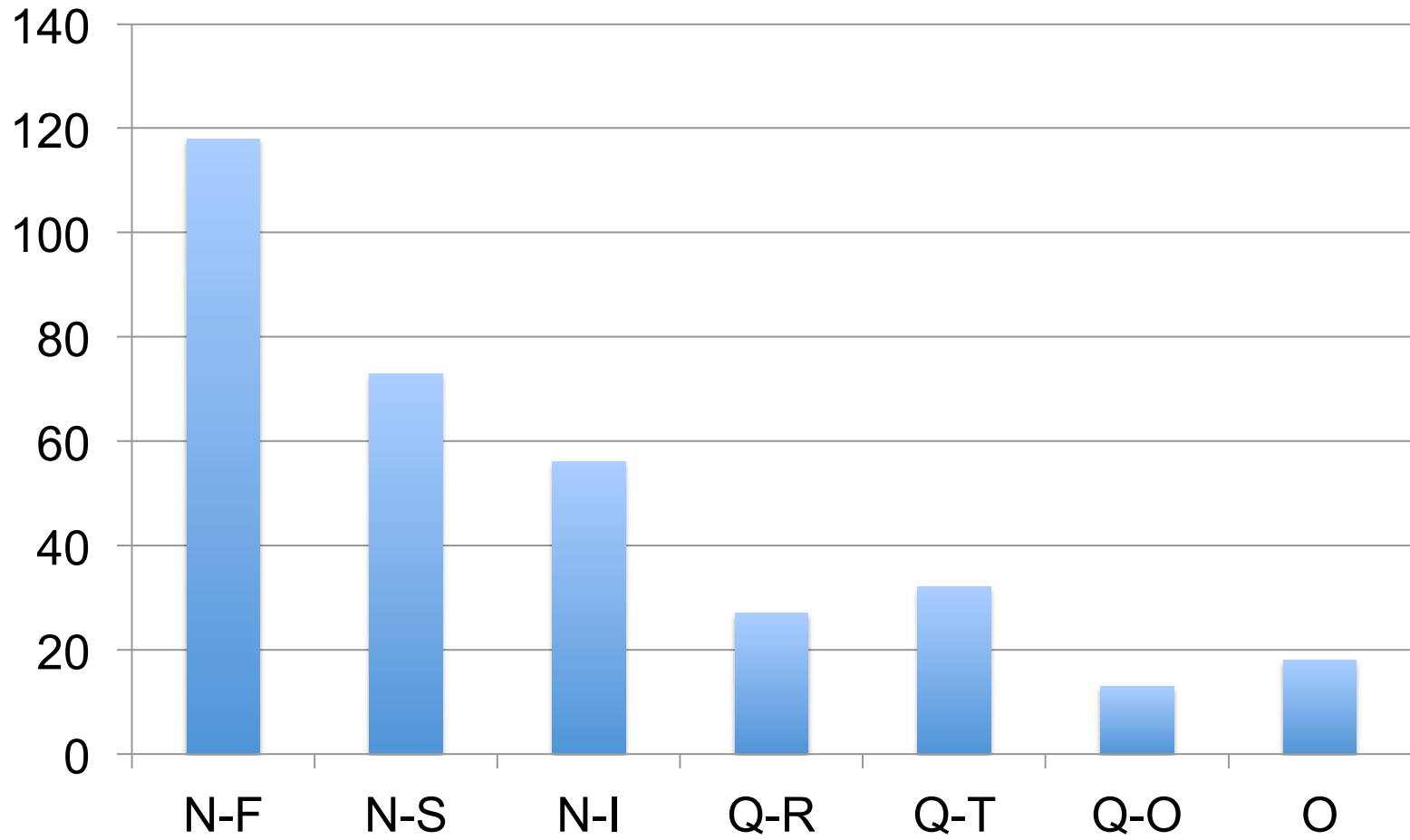
- Twice-coded 1/3 of coded set



- Cohen's Kappa = **0.53** (moderate)
- Pearson's  $r = 0.92$ ; 0.99 for within-category

*How do students actively engage in card-making?*

## Student Cards

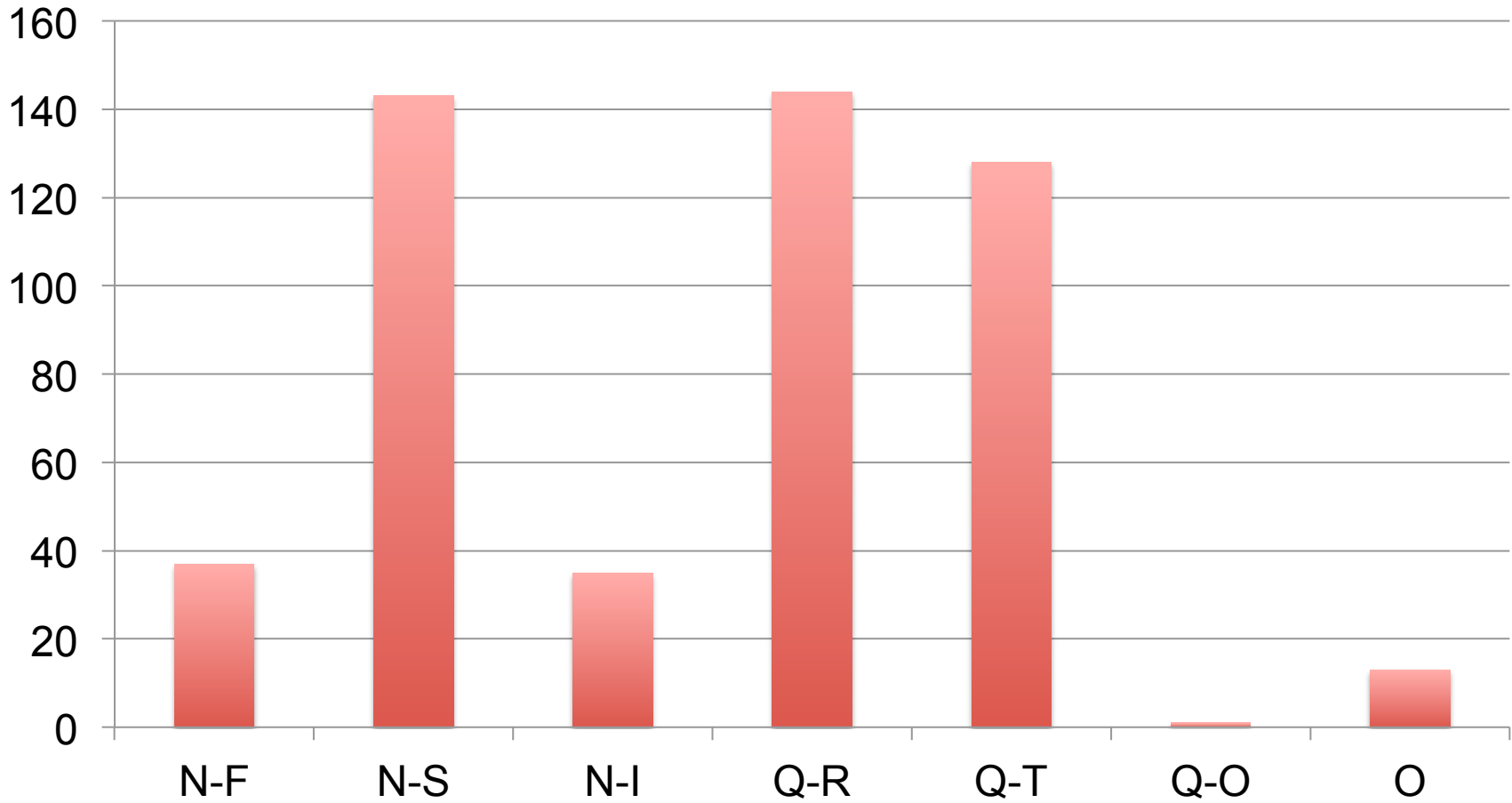


Students lean toward notes and facts.



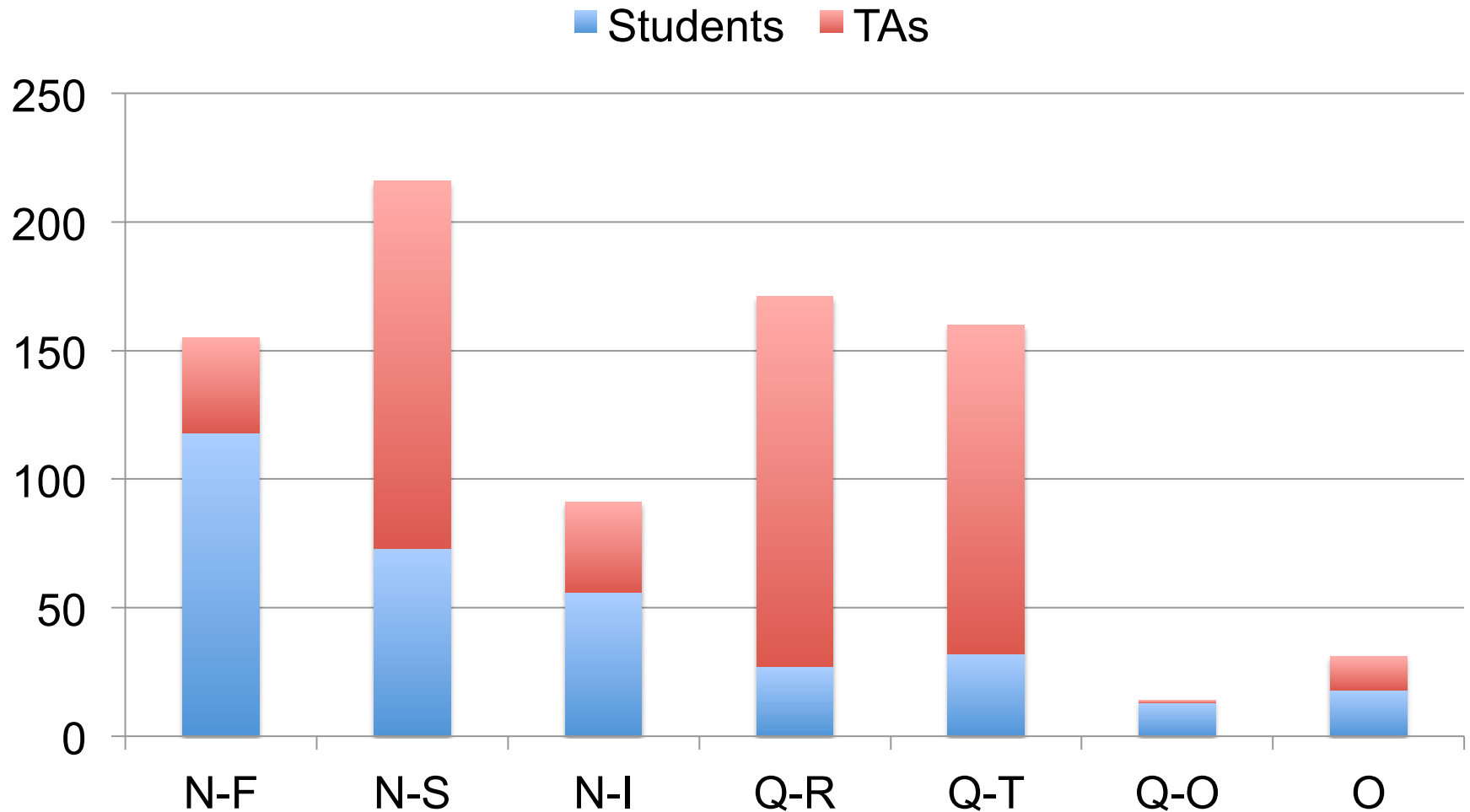
## *How does TA card-making differ?*

### TA Cards



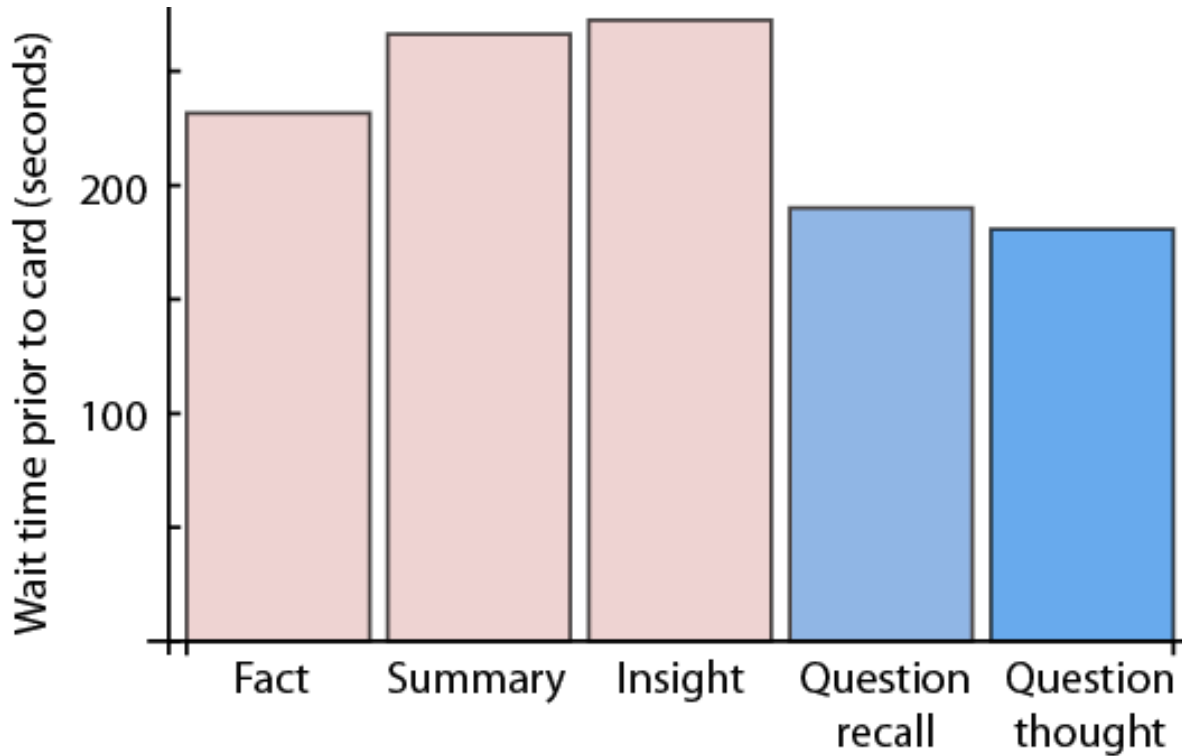
TAs add more complex notes and substantially more questions.

# *Overall, how does the student/TA collaboration look?*

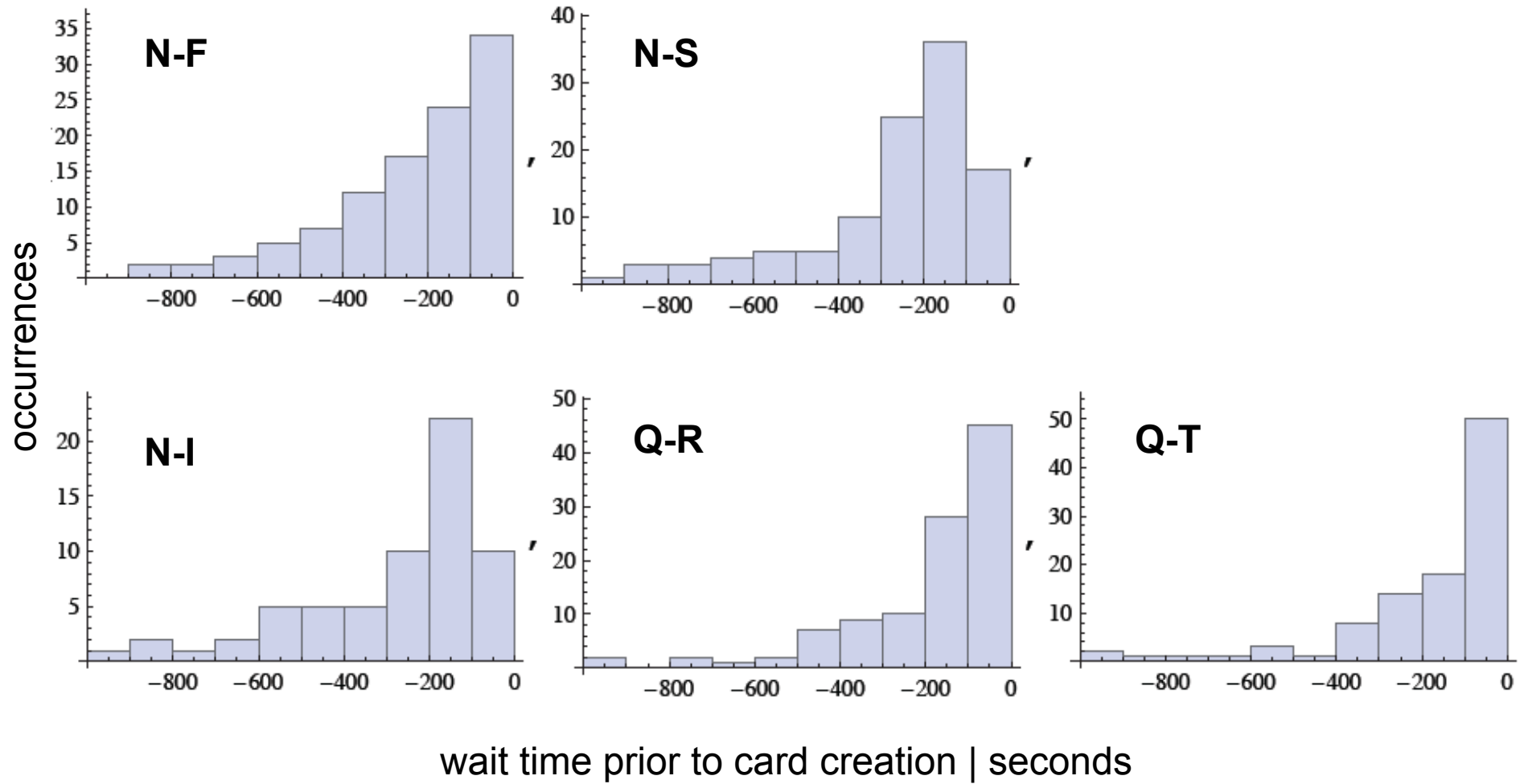


Students and TAs together create a varied set of learning resources.

*Some cards take longer to make than others*



Shorter wait times associated with question type cards



# *Complexity and Modes of Engagement*

Students and TA contributions differ in type and cognitive complexity

It takes students longer to do more complex tasks

The overall result is rich and complementary

“Knock-on effect” of increasing overall engagement

# **Consider & Contribute:**

**How does classroom  
teaching change when it is  
visibly collaborative?**

# 5. Motivation and Outcomes

- Student motivation
- Faculty self-report
- Student learning
- Student self-report

## *Encouragement and in-class rewards*

“Reading is a good way to learn; teaching is a great way to learn. We encourage everyone to contribute flashcards to the class tree (and any other kind of card as well).

Top contributors will be recognized at the end of each lecture.”

– e-mail to students

Various incentives provided to encourage participation



*Su-Kam Intelligent  
Education Systems  
and Caltech thank*

**a wonderful student**

FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BI 122 CLASS TREE

Julius Su, SKIES

Bruce Hay, Caltech





## *Why do students report using SKIES?*

### **Self-reported as most important**

1. Access to helpful material from students/TAs
2. My own enhanced learning
3. Improved studying
4. Making class time more engaging
5. Enhancing my ability to focus

**More intrinsic**

### **Self-reported as least important:**

6. Having my questions answered
7. A sense of contributing to the class
8. In-class rewards
9. Recognition by the professor
10. A sense of competition with others

**More extrinsic**

Students say intrinsic motivations are most important

## *Faculty outcomes (self-reported)*

SKIES was a **great benefit to my class**... This activity by the students may have **helped to draw people out** a bit since it provided a **forum in which to shape the class and participate** rather than just sit and absorb.

One other thing about this class that made it **remarkable was the number of questions** the students asked. Sometimes it was difficult to make it through the lectures, there was so much querying going on. SKIES is likely to be a part of it, **allowing students to quickly go back through the slides and links**.

SKIES also helps in a more general way in that it provides a way to get them... **comfortable in the idea that they are a part of creating [the class]**. This then makes them generally **more engaged & inquisitive**.

## *Faculty outcomes (self-reported)*

The one other data point we have is just how well the students did overall. Here I am a bit embarrassed and shocked. The **average grade this year was astonishingly!!!!!!!!!!!!!! higher than in all previous years I have taught the course**. It really was quite a change.

Usually this is **considered one of the hardest required ... courses** because it focuses on tricky problem solving. It normally serves as a bit of a weed out course.

# Average GPA (learning) jumped with SKIES

*Problem sets, exams + extra credit problems to boost score*

**2009 Ave = 85**

**2010 Ave = 88**

**2011 Ave = 86**

# Average GPA (learning) jumped with SKIES

*Problem sets, exams + extra credit problems to boost score*

2009 Ave = 85

2010 Ave = 88

2011 Ave = 86

**+SKIES 2012 Ave = 98.2**

# Average GPA (learning) jumped with SKIES

*Problem sets, exams + extra credit problems to boost score*

2009 Ave = 85

2010 Ave = 88

2011 Ave = 86

**+SKIES 2012 Ave = 98.2**

**+SKIES 2013 Ave = 89.6 Extra credit eliminated**

## *Self-reports of how SKIES helped learning*

SKIES was very engaging and allowed me to remain more focused in class.

SKIES was very helpful for supplementing the lecture slides. Often, it is difficult to pick up on what material is being presented in the slides, and the cards were very helpful for figuring out what material we learned.

Interactiveness helped a lot. made it fun.

It was helpful to be able to manipulate the notes during lecture, I could go back and check things

Writing things/typing things down is a good way of repetition of material, especially material heard audibly. It strengthens learning in that manner.

# 6. Conclusions and Future Directions

## *Conclusions*

- SKIES-based active and engaged learning benefits student learning and faculty teaching practices.
- Actionable analytics emerge from real-time student behavior available as a result of SKIES.
- Benefits are evident across a range of use cases; SKIES is a gateway drug for teaching transformation.

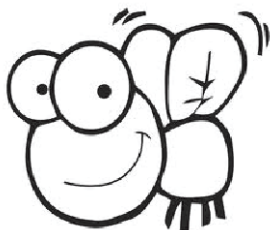


# 6. Conclusions and Future Directions

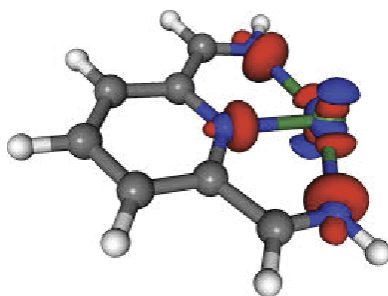
## *Now under investigation*

- Self-efficacy with respect to technology, content, general student experience.
- Role of teaching assistants in changing teaching practices.
- Role of immediate access to learning analytics: Faculty, TAs, Students.
- Synthesis of learning analytics data: e.g., weekly engagement report with recommendations.

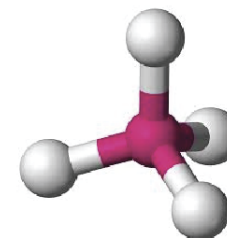
*Spread at Caltech: 3 classes in Year 1 (2012)*



Genetics  
Bi 122

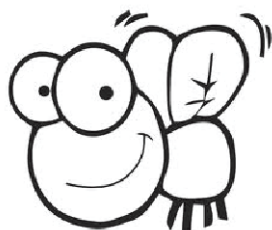


Computational  
chemistry  
Ch 121



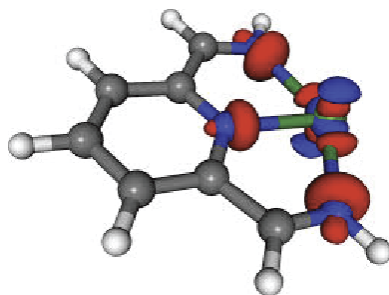
Theoretical  
chemistry  
Ch 120

*Spread at Caltech: 5 classes in Year 2 (2013)*



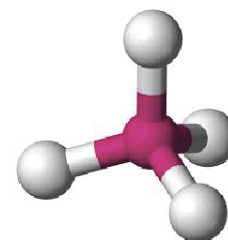
Genetics

Bi 122



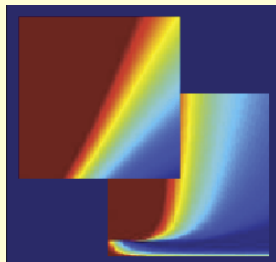
Computational  
chemistry

Ch 121



Theoretical  
chemistry

Ch 120



Machine learning  
*In-class part of flipped MOOC*  
*(>200,000 students)*

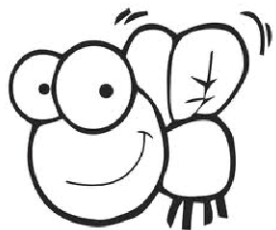
CS 156



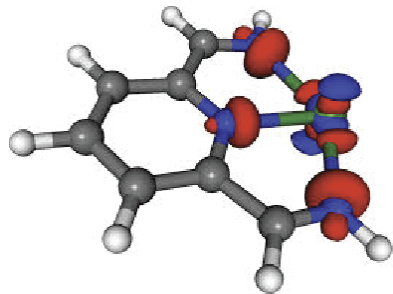
Solar lab  
chemistry

Ch 3X

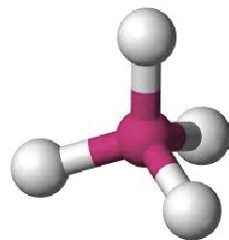
*Proposed at Caltech: 9 classes in Year 3 (2014)*



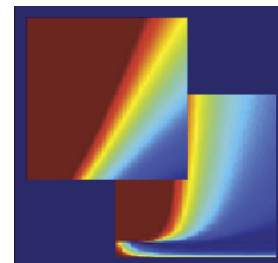
Genetics  
Bi 122



Computational  
chemistry  
Ch 121



Theoretical  
chemistry  
Ch 120



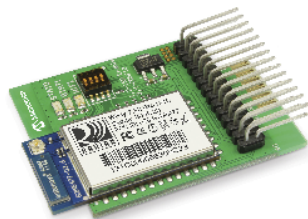
Machine  
learning  
CS 156



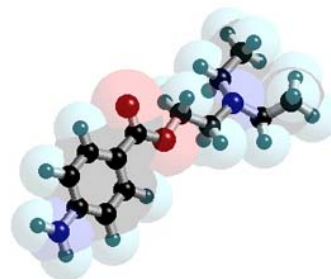
Solar lab  
chemistry  
Ch 3X



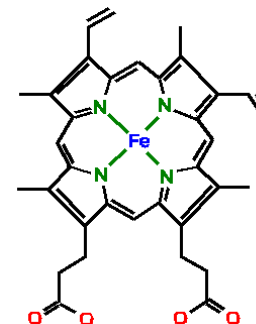
Freshman lab  
chemistry  
Ch 3A



Digital  
ventures  
EE 150



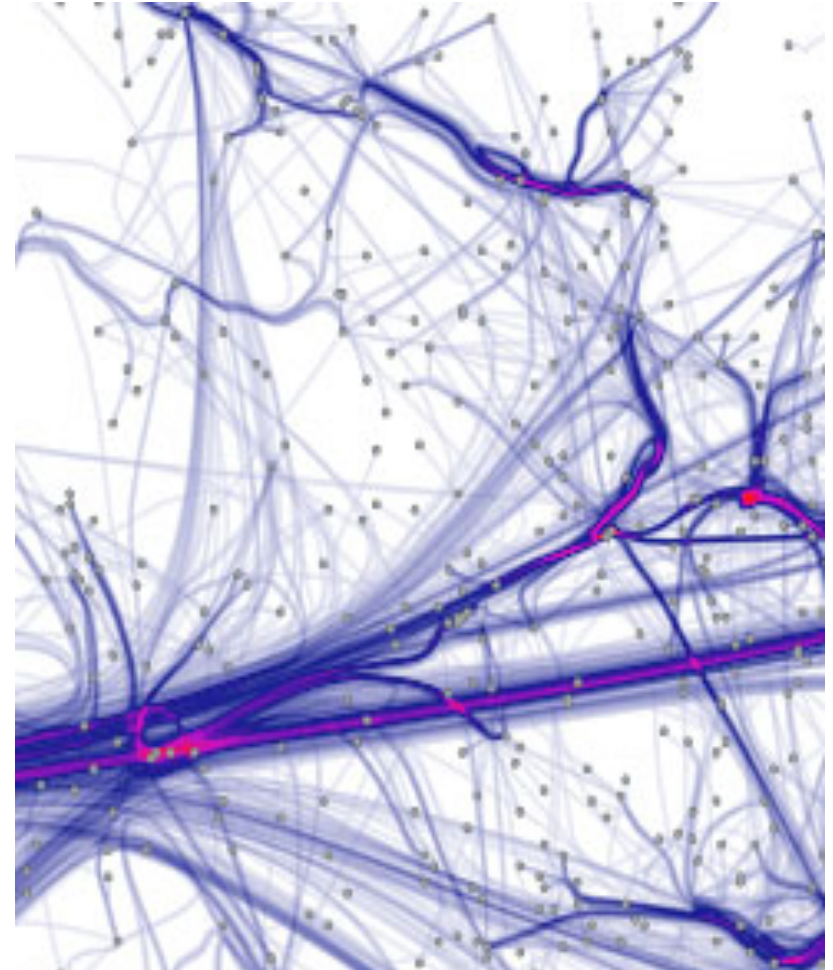
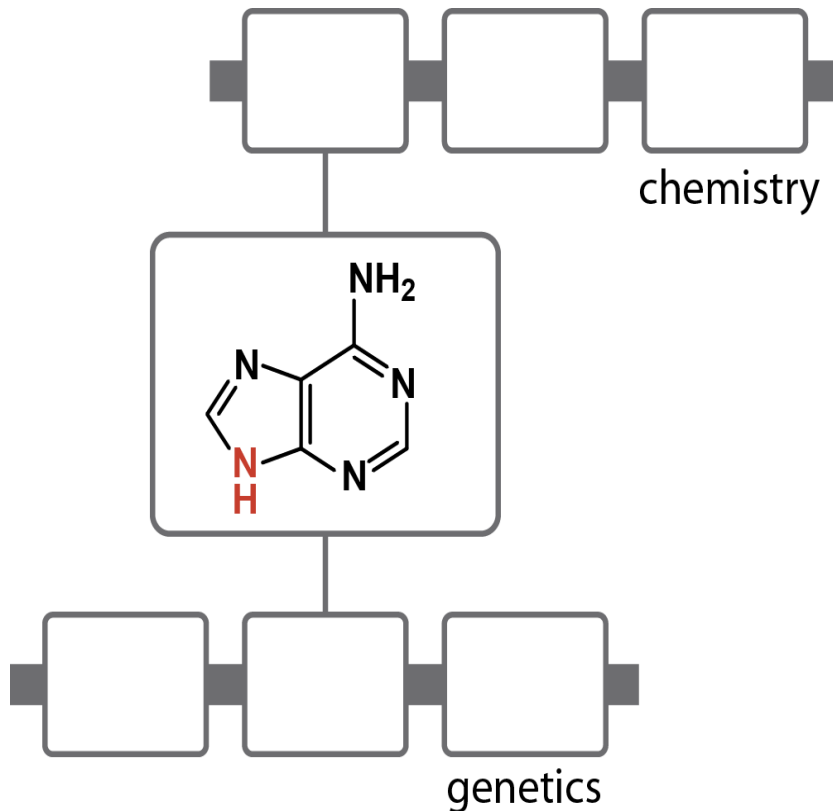
Orgo/Physical  
chemistry  
Ch 1



Inorganic  
chemistry  
Ch 102

# *The next step*

*Interlinking Caltech courses across levels & disciplines*



***Connecting it all into a large-scale knowledge graph***

# *A GPS for learning*

What you **know**  
What you **don't know**  
What you **want to know**

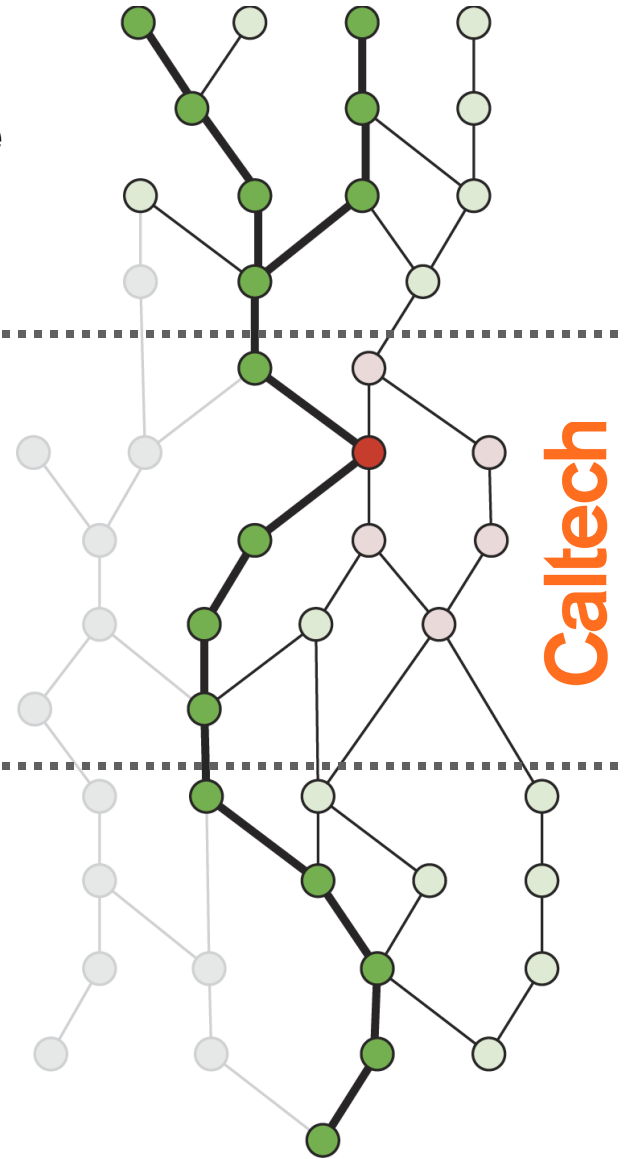
**Traverse real or virtual classrooms on the way to goals & aspirations**

initial knowledge

class 1

class 2

goal



# *Democratizing teaching, research, and exploration*



**... to achieve an impact far disproportionate to our size.**

# 6. Conclusions and Future Directions

## *Ultimate objectives*

- Break down silos, interlinking material across core classes; and ultimately between universities, schools, and other organizations.
- Use detailed engagement and micro-assessment data on a global knowledge graph to create personalized learning paths.
- Learning paths guide students through classes and online resources to distant learning goals and aspirations.