



STUDENT LEARNING AND ANALYTICS AT MICHIGAN

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**September 13, 2013:**

**Learning Analytics at U-M: An Update and Agenda for 2013-15**

**Tim McKay**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Physics and  
Chair of the Provost's Learning Analytics Taskforce

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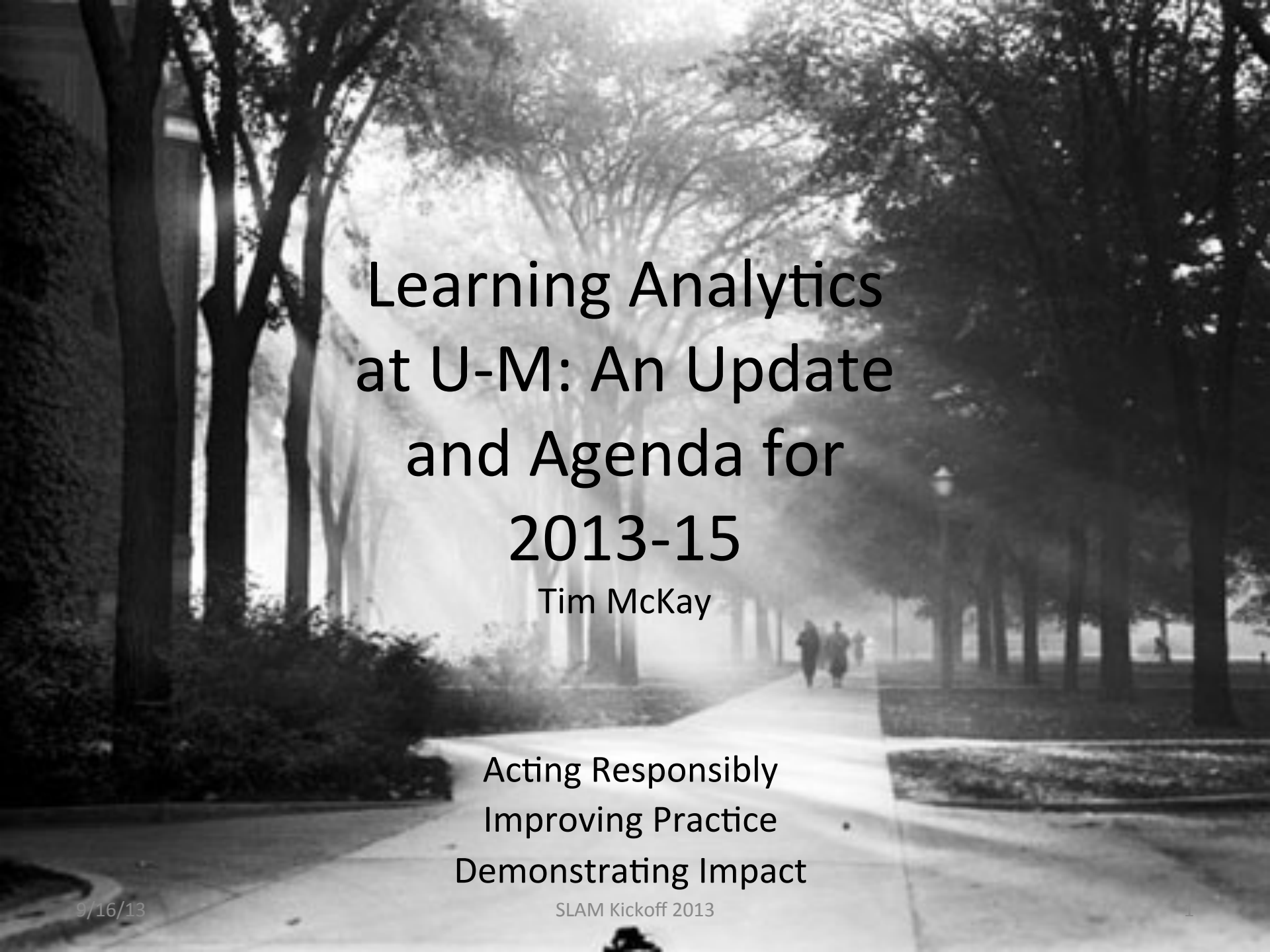
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STUDENT LEARNING AND ANALYTICS AT MICHIGAN

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[www.crlt.umich.edu/slam](http://www.crlt.umich.edu/slam)



# Learning Analytics at U-M: An Update and Agenda for 2013-15

Tim McKay

Acting Responsibly  
Improving Practice  
Demonstrating Impact

# LA Task Force Charge

1. Explore the UM information environment and optimize for learning analytics
  2. Fund a series of the best proposed LA projects at UM
  3. Review the metrics used to assess teaching and learning at UM
- LATF will operate for three years
  - Year 1
    - Began ELA grants program
    - First LA Fellows program
    - Continued SLAM
  - Years 2 and 3
    - Final ELA grants
    - Continued SLAM and LA Fellows
    - Tool building and dissemination

# LATF Membership

- **Anne Ruggles Gere:** Arthur F Thurnau and Gertrude Buck Collegiate Professor of Education, Director Sweetland Center for Writing
- **Barry Jay Fishman:** Associate Professor of Education, School of Education and Associate Professor of Information, School of Information
- **Hosagrahar V Jagadish:** Bernard A Galler Collegiate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- **Mika LaVaque-Manty:** Arthur F Thurnau Professor of Political Science and Philosophy
- **William J Gehring:** Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Professor of Psychology
- **Stephanie Teasley:** Research Professor of Information, Director of the USE Lab in the University Library Digital Media Commons
- **Susan Marie Dynarski:** Associate Professor of Public Policy, Associate Professor of Education, and Associate Professor of Economics
- **Timothy A McKay (Chair):** Arthur F Thurnau Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Director of the Honors Program
- **Victor J Strecher:** Professor of Health Behavior & Health Education and Director for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, School of Public Health, Professor of Family Medicine
- **Joanna Mirecki-Millunchick:** Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

Date	Presenter(s)	Title	Materials
9/14	Tim McKay, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Physics and Chair of the Provost's Learning Analytics Task Force	An Introduction to Student Learning and Analytics (SLAM) at U-M	 Slides  Video
9/21	George Siemens, Associate Director, Technology Enhanced Knowledge Research Institute, Athabasca University, Edmonton, Canada	Multi-Dimensional Learning Analytics	 Slides  Video
10/12	Learning Analytics Task Force members	U-M Resources for Learning Analytics Projects: Grants and Fellows Program	 Slides  Video
10/19	Krishna Madhavan, Assistant Professor, School of Engineering Education, Purdue University	Interactive Large-Scale Data Analyses and Visualization for Learning	 Slides  N/A
11/19	Marsha Lovett, Director of Carnegie Mellon University's Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Associate Teaching Professor in the Department of Psychology	Next-Generation Analytics with the Learning Dashboard	 Slides  Video
11/19	Bill Gering, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Psychology	Lessons Learned from Data Analytics in Psychology and the Bridge Program	 Slides  Video
1/18	Dr. Krisian Dunley, Provost, Austin Peay State University	Degree Compass: A Course Recommendation System	 Slides  Video
1/25	Dr. Joanna Mirecki Millunchick, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, U-M College of Engineering	High Return on Faculty Investment: Addressing Diverse Student Needs in Large Lectures Through Screencasting	 Slides  Best Practices
2/8	Dr. David Niemi, Vice President of Measurement and Evaluation, Kaplan, Inc.	Learning Analytics, Learning Metrics, and Learning Science	 Slides  Video
2/15	Nancy Kerner, Lecturer in Chemistry Brenda Gunderson, Lecturer in Statistics Ginger Shultz, Lecturer in Chemistry	Online Learning Resources in Chemistry and Statistics	 Slides  Video
3/15	Vince Kellen, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Planning, Analytics and Technologies, University of Kentucky	OMG! The Future of Teaching	 Slides  Video
4/12	Dr. Mika LaVaque-Manty, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Political Science and Philosophy; Dr. Barry Fishman, Associate Professor of Education and of Information; Stephen Aguilar, Ph.D. student in the School of Education; Caitlin Holman, Ph.D. student in the School of Information	GradeCraft: Exploring Online Use Data to Uncover Student Engagement	 Slides  Video

# SLAM Seminar Series from 2012-2013 Academic Year

# Exploring Learning Analytics Grants

- 16 proposals – 8 funded

- Exploring LA grants:
  - Funding for one or two years, typically at the \$50-150k/year level
  - Consultation on what data is available and how to access it
  - Technical assistance for extraction of data sets
  - Consultation on statistical approaches to analysis
  - Help with applying for IRB approval for projects which require it

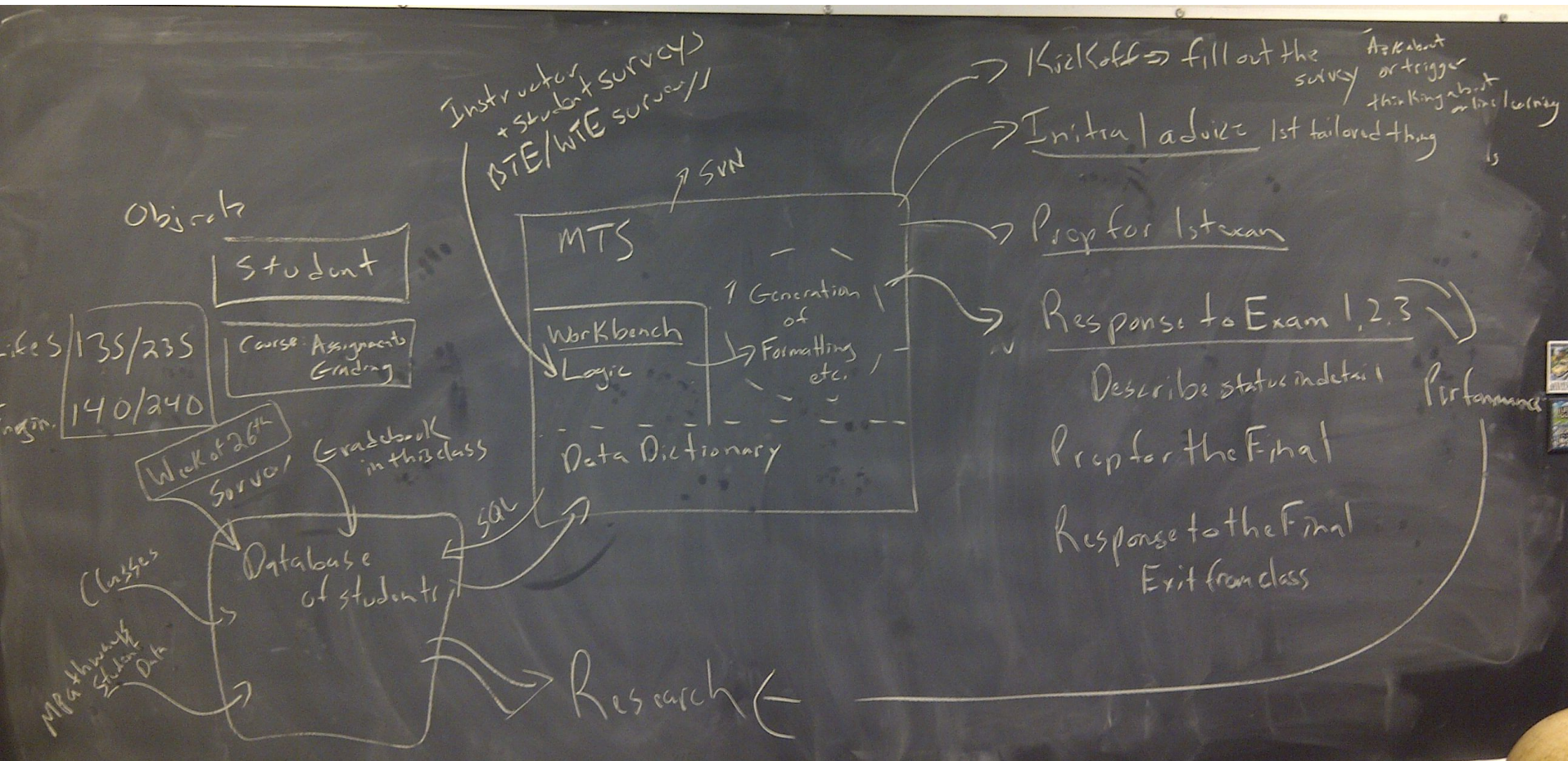
Project Title	Principal Investigators
Engaging Faculty with Learning Analytics: Developing New Tools to Support Departmental Assessment	Mary Wright (CRLT) and Phil DeLoria (LSA)
Customized Course Advising at Michigan	Cinda-Sue Davis (MSTEM and WISE) and Steve Lonn (USE Lab)
Engaged Advising: Using Data to Construct a Narrative for Success	Meg Noori (CSP) and Steve Lonn (USE Lab)
Expanding E <sup>2</sup> Coach to Enhance Student Success in Introductory STEM Courses	John Wolfe & Ginger Shultz (Chem), Laura Olsen (Biology), Tim McKay (Physics)
Library Analytics for Student Success	Doreen Bradley (UM Library), and Albert Bertram (UM Library)
Arts at Michigan: Arts Engagement Project	Deb Mexicotte
Using LA to Coach Students to “Electrifying” Careers	Jamie Phillips (EECS)
Playful Analytics: Infusing a Learning Management System with Analytics that Motivate Learning and Support Teaching	Barry Fishman (SOE), Mika Lavaque-Manty (Pol. Sci.), Stephanie Teasley (SI)

# One example: E<sup>2</sup>Coach

- Large lecture classes are impersonal – providing generic encouragement and advice
- Student support should be aware of goals background, current status, confidence, trajectory, etc.
- Computer Tailored Communication (based on the Michigan Tailoring System) can provide this at scale.
- Personalization of education with the support of technology is a big LA theme



# Two years ago: E<sup>2</sup>Coach chalkboard



E<sup>2</sup>Coach has now been offered for three full terms, each time to 1900 students in all of our four large introductory physics courses. We are starting to realize the cycle back through research promised back in September 2011.

## E<sup>2</sup>Coach 1:

# Tailored support for physics students

- Built on the Michigan Tailoring System developed at UM SPH
- Used LA and MTS to construct “E<sup>2</sup>Coach”: an **E**lectronic **E**xpert coaching system for intro physics courses

<http://sitemaker.umich.edu/ecoach>

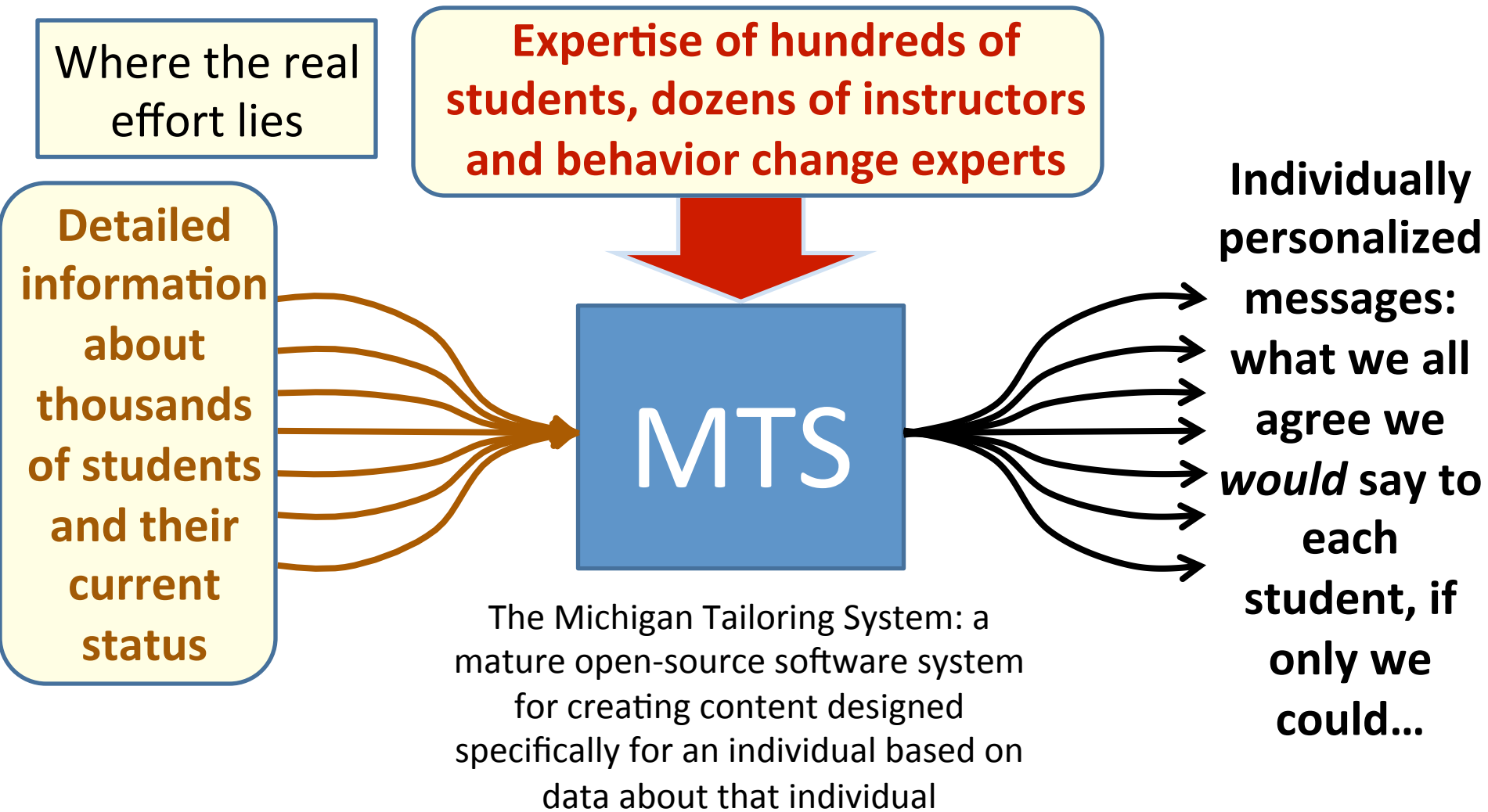
- Original Development Team:
  - Department of Physics
  - CHCR in Public Health
- Project goals:
  - Improved performance and affect for **all** students
  - Cut performance disparities
- Offered to 5000+ students

in three terms

The E<sup>2</sup>Coach I team:

Tim McKay, Kate Miller, Jared Tritz,  
Madeline Huberth in Physics  
Vic Strecher, Ed Saunders, Holly  
Derry, Mike Nowak at CHCR

# How does E<sup>2</sup>Coach work?

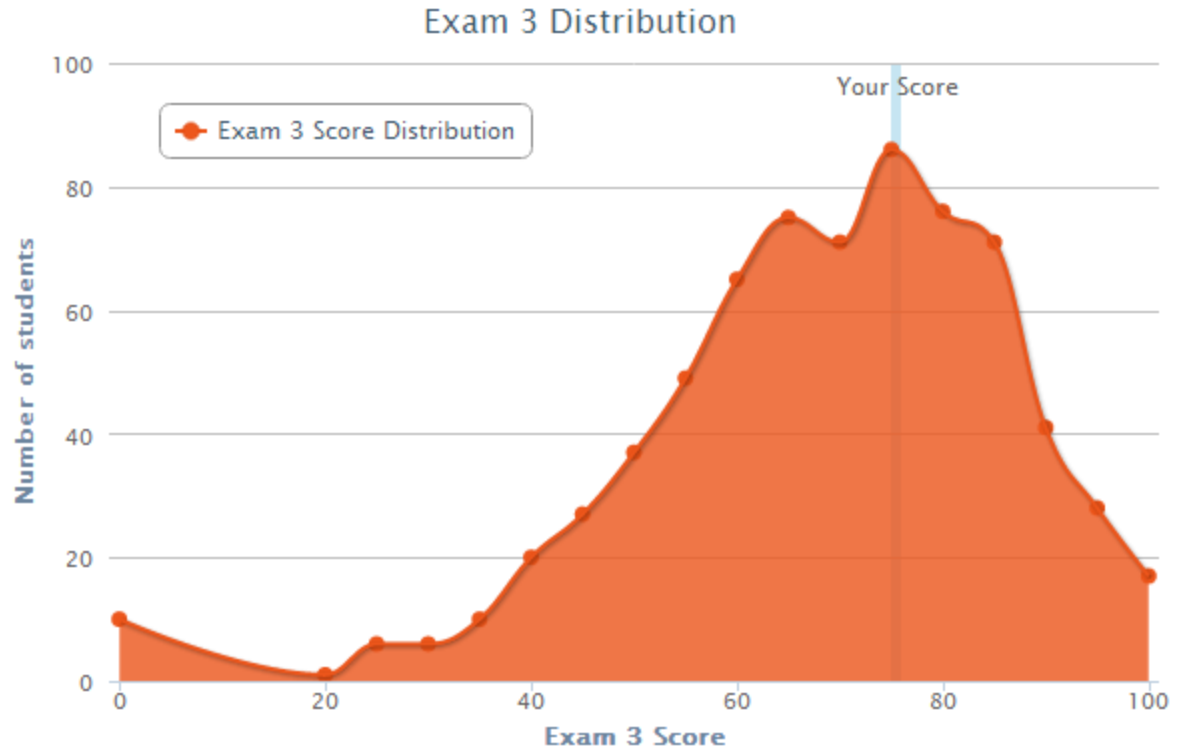


With the final coming soon, let's come up with a study strategy that will help you to improve your exam scores. E<sup>2</sup>Coach wants to help make sure your studying goes the way you want it to!

It isn't just about how much time you're spending, but also about *how* you're spending that time. Let's take a minute to reflect:

1. Write down all the things you did to prepare for Exam 3
2. Which of these study techniques worked for you?
3. Which of these didn't work?
4. Are there resources you could be taking advantage of? The Physics Help Room? Office Hours?

**Below are (What we think are) 'The 6 Most Important Things for Final Exam Studying'**



Above is the distribution of exam scores for your course, Physics 140.

# Impact of E<sup>2</sup>Coach: first three terms

- Historical data shows that GPA in other UM classes is the best performance predictor
- GPA accounted for 32% of the variance in students' final physics grades, whereas when SAT and ACT scores predict only 13% of the variance in students' final physics grades when considered together, without GPA.

- BTE score measures relative success:

$$BTE(G_{\text{actual}}, GPA) = \frac{G_{\text{actual}} - G_{\text{exp}}^{\text{course}}(GPA)}{\sigma_{\text{exp}}^{\text{course}}(GPA)}$$

- Four user groups defined for the first year data: non, low, medium and high users
- Usage based on visits to the system *and* the number of independent weeks visited



## Analyses for E<sup>2</sup>Coach 3 Terms

Table 2. Descriptive Characteristics of the Sampled Population of Physics Students.

Table 3: Descriptive usage characteristics of the user groups by term.

	Winter 2012			Fall 2012		
	Low Users	Moderate Users	High Users	Low Users	Moderate User	High Users
Number of Students	455	298	190	204	228	194
Mean Clicks	3.28 (3.39)	22.69 (11.23)	48.12 (28.46)	17.27 (5.07)	28.68 (10.54)	48.20 (19.72)
Mean Unique Weeks Visited	.86 (.68)	2.90 (.94)	6.51 (1.66)	1.55 (.54)	3.49 (.90)	6.53 (1.53)
	Winter 2013			Note: Clickstream data and the number of weeks visited informed the user groups' formation. Low users had clickstreams equaling or less than the median of their term and had two or fewer weeks of visits. High users had clickstreams above their term's median, and visited at least five weeks of the sixteen-week term. Moderate users included the other types of usage behavior.		
	Low Users	Moderate Users	High Users			
Number of Students	239	219	207			
Mean Clicks	12.01 (8.06)	27.86 (10.83)	50.70 (20.81)			
Mean Unique Weeks Visited	1.18 (.79)	3.53 (.80)	6.53 (1.72)			

$$BTE(G_{\text{actual}}, GPA) = \frac{G_{\text{actual}} - G_{\text{exp}}^{\text{course}}(GPA)}{\sigma_{\text{exp}}^{\text{course}}(GPA)}$$

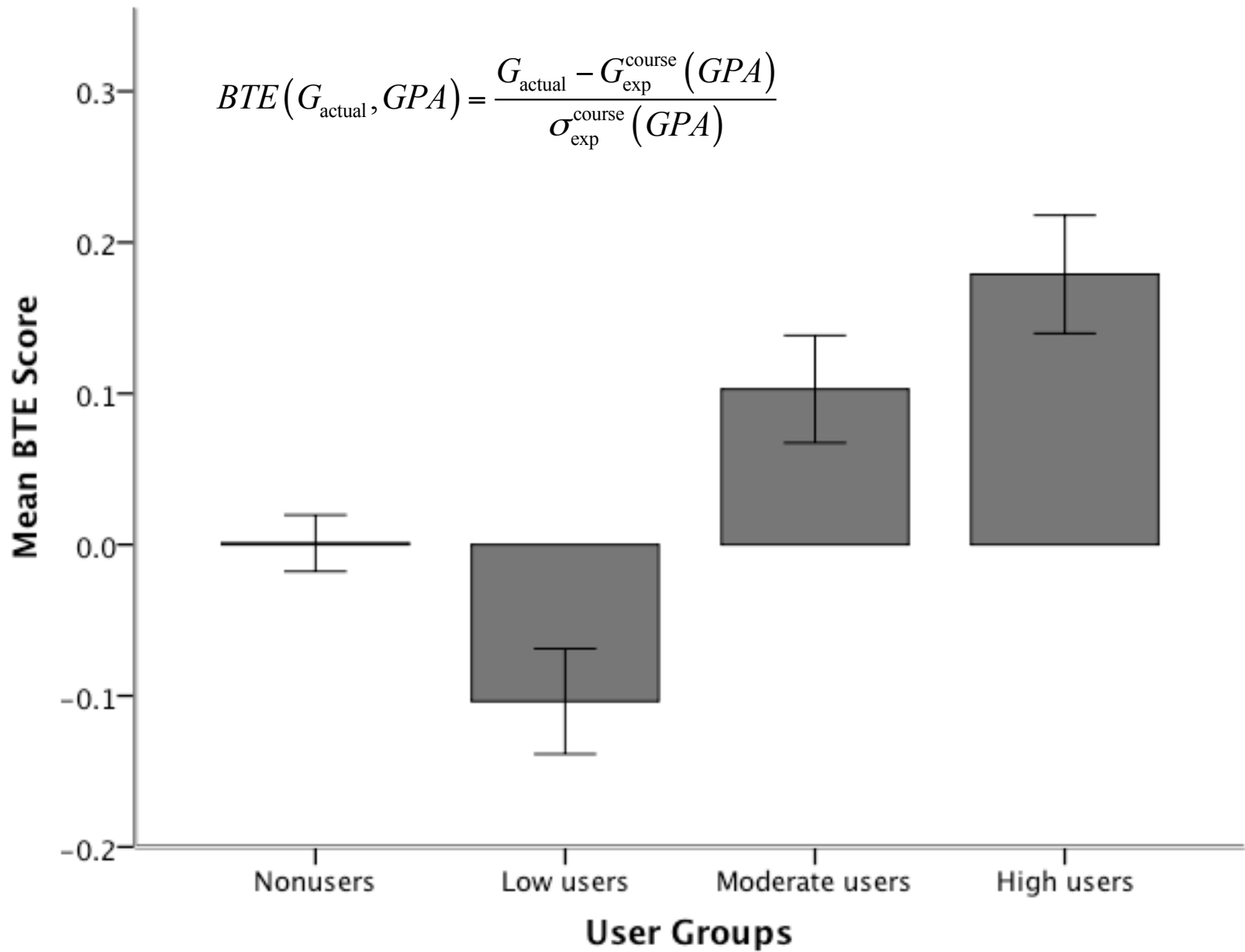


Table 4: Descriptive preparation characteristics of the user groups.

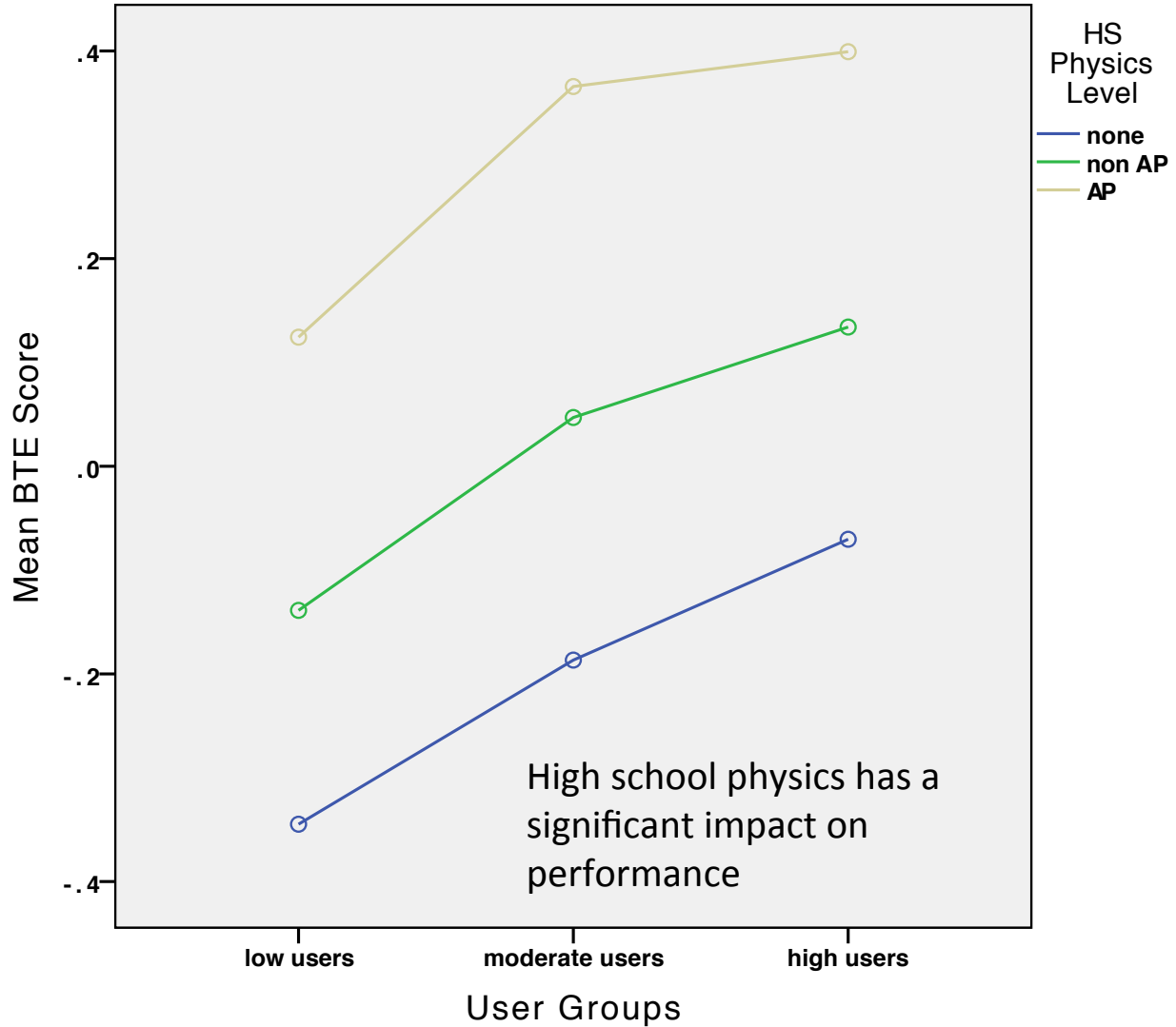
Mean SAT Math S

Mean ACT Math S

% HS AP Physics

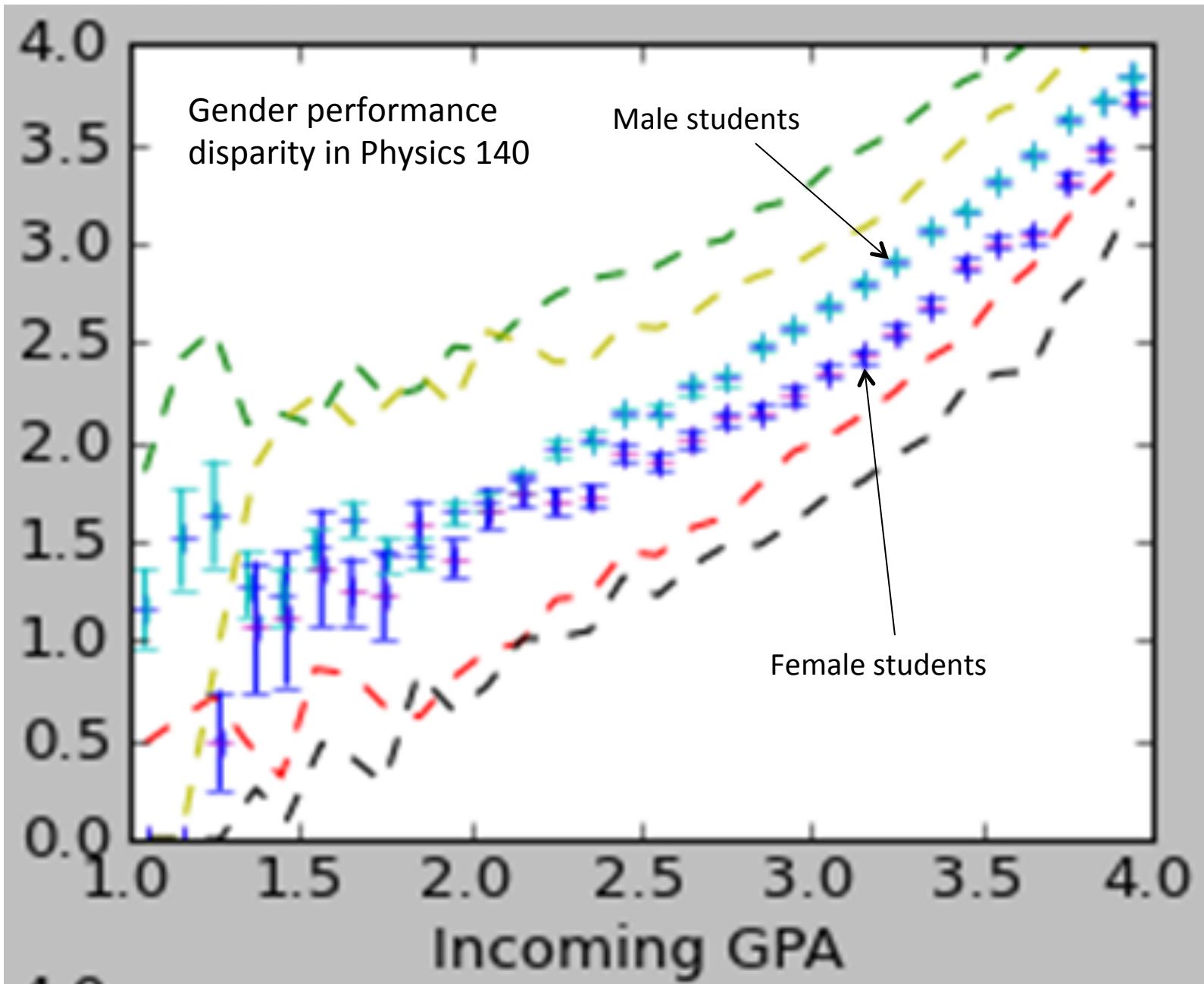
% HS BC Calc or 1

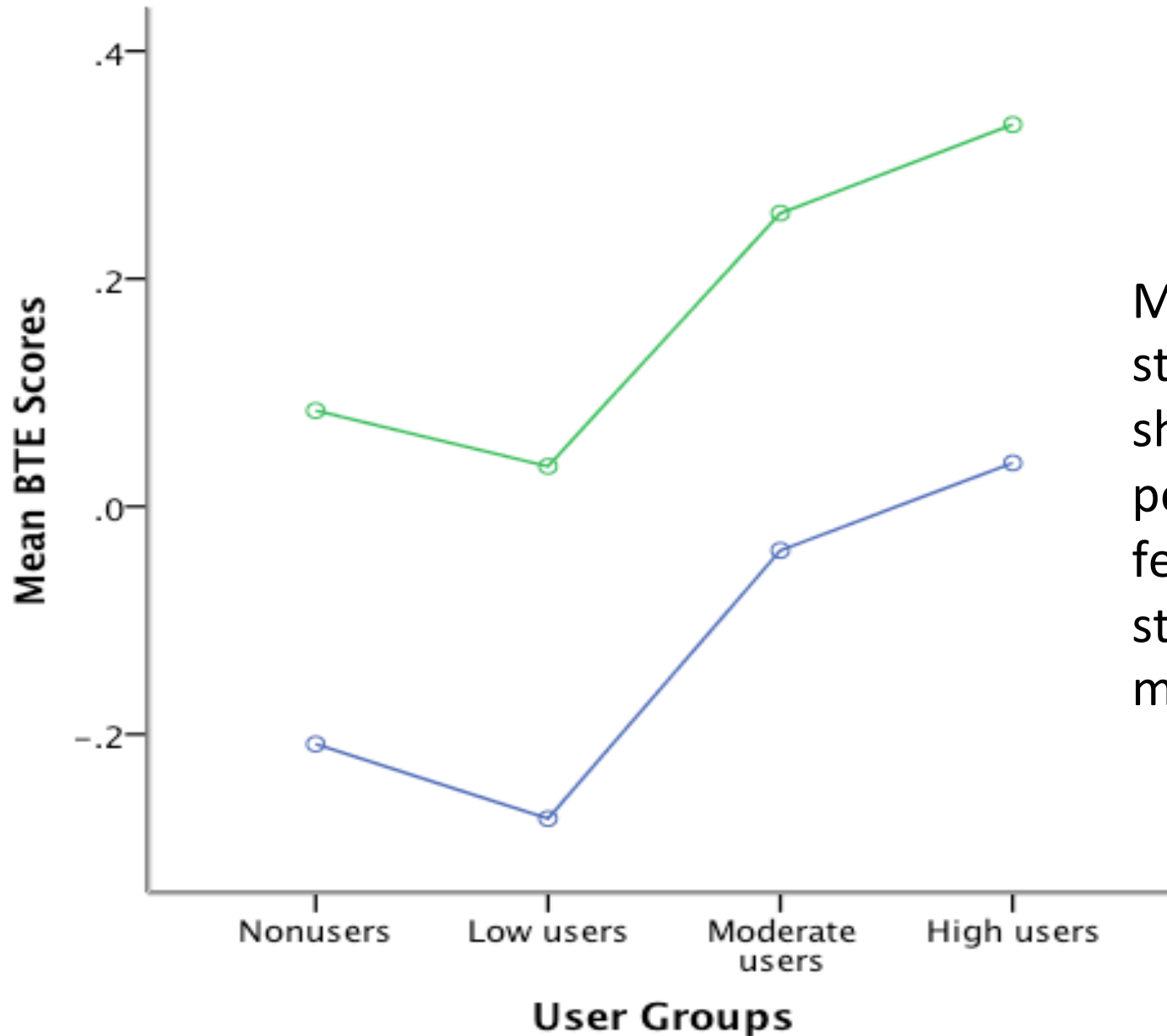
Note: Standard dev  
deletion of missing



**Additional information gathered through E<sup>2</sup>Coach provides rich research resources**







Male and Female students both show improved performance, but female students still fall behind male students

# This fall: Big E<sup>2</sup>Coach Expansion

- This term, E<sup>2</sup>Coach is being offered physics, Chem 130, Stats 250, and MCDB 310
  - 5183 students enrolled in these courses today
  - For this, we have built a large new E<sup>2</sup>Coach team including development groups from each course
- Physics: McKay, Tritz, Michelotti, Huberth, Murdock, Debolt, Rosenberg, Chen
  - Stats: Gunderson, Caccaglia, Nielsen, Chavez, Mohapatra
  - Chem: Wolfe, Shultz, Ingelhardt, Sipowska, Konopko, Brancho
  - MCDB: Olsen, Balazovich, Trakimas

**Support from ELA (Chem/Bio/Physics) and an NSF TUES-Type I grant (Stats)**

## Explore our coached courses!



Fall 2013  
Stats 250

**ACTIVE**

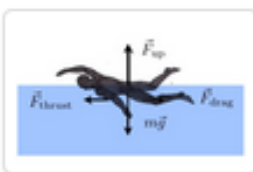
Enter Coach



Fall 2013  
Chemistry 130

**ACTIVE**

Enter Coach



Fall 2013  
Physics 140, 240, 135, 235

**ACTIVE**

Enter Coach



Fall 2013  
MCDB 310

**ACTIVE**

Enter Coach

[View Archived Coaches...](#)

Inbox [message](#)

[Study Tips] Lecture

[Study Tips] Science Learning Center

[Study Tips] Getting Help

 Welcome to the MCDB310 E<sup>2</sup>Coach!

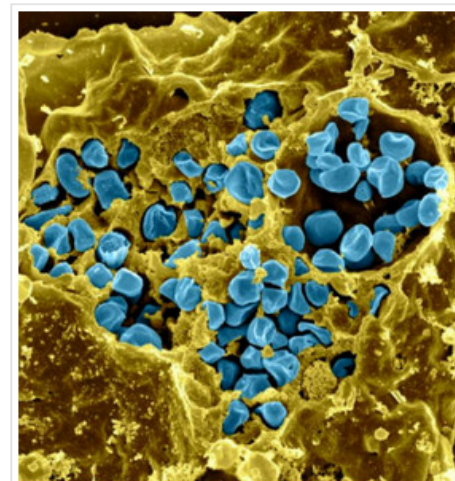
[Home](#) [Calendar](#) [Grade Calculator](#) [MCDB310 Attitudes](#) [Resources](#) [FAQ](#)


Welcome to E<sup>2</sup>Coach for Introduction to Biochemistry! We have a ton of tools to share with you to make this tricky class an little easier to handle. Here's what you can expect:

- Informative messages tailored to your goals and experiences
- Advice from MCDB310's most successful past students
- Detailed score breakdowns with visual comparisons and analysis
- Tips from your professors on studying and exam taking
- Resources to help you learn the material
- An up-to-date class calendar with reminders

You have already taken the E<sup>2</sup>Coach initial survey. If you'd like to verify that all your information is still correct, [click here](#).

Click [here](#) to answer questions about MCDB310 specifically. Completing this survey releases your first message.



CC image courtesy of NIAID

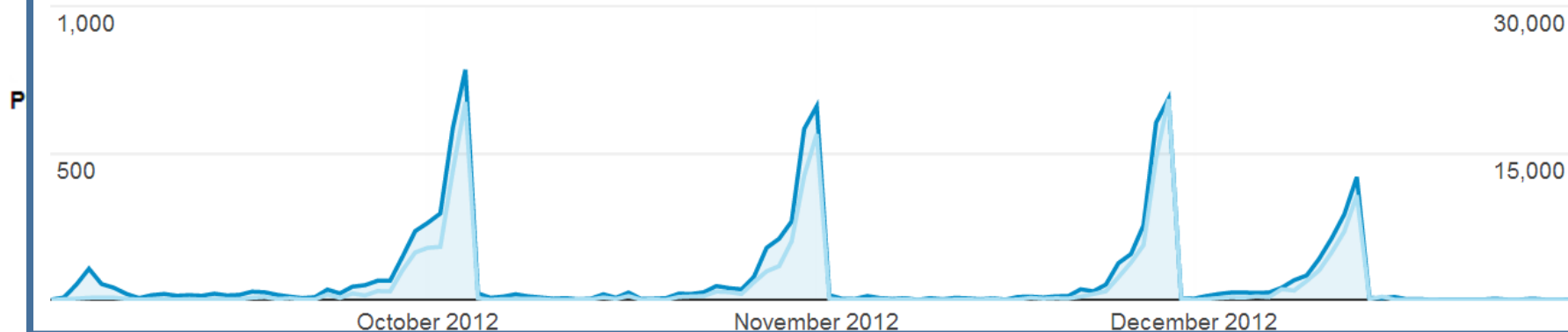
Check out our rotating tips below! You'll see a new one

into the scientific literature has been made to show you what NOT to do, but also for your amusement.

Welcome! This site serves random problems from past exams given in courses at the University of Michigan.

# Problem Doulette

● Visits ● Pageviews



You have attempted **5** problems and you got **3** right.  
 Your accuracy is **60%**.  
 Your average time per problem is **38.8** seconds.

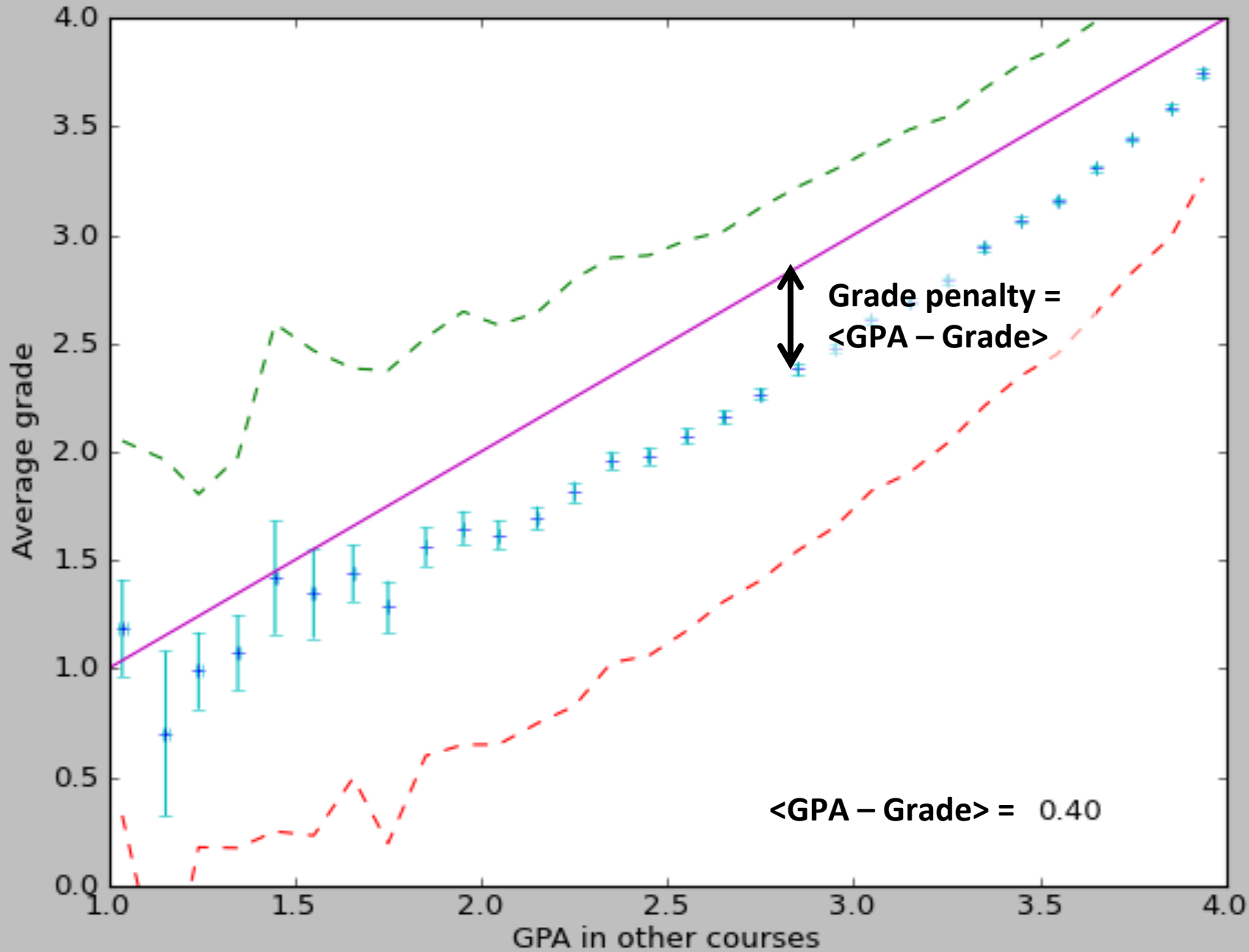
Show:

Name	Date	Your Answer	Correct Answer	Time (seconds)
Stats 250 Exam 1 F12 Problem 3	2013-09-12 13:10:01	B	B	19
UM Physics 135 Midterm 2 Fall 11 Problem 14	2013-08-28 10:50:01	D	D	16
UM Physics 135 Midterm 2 Fall 11 Problem 10	2013-08-16 14:41:48	C	C	83
UM Physics 135 Midterm 2 Fall 11 Problem 12	2013-08-15 14:23:48	D	E	36
UM Physics 135 Midterm 1 Fall 11 Problem 19	2013-08-15 10:28:50	C	D	40

# Winter 2013 LA Fellows Program

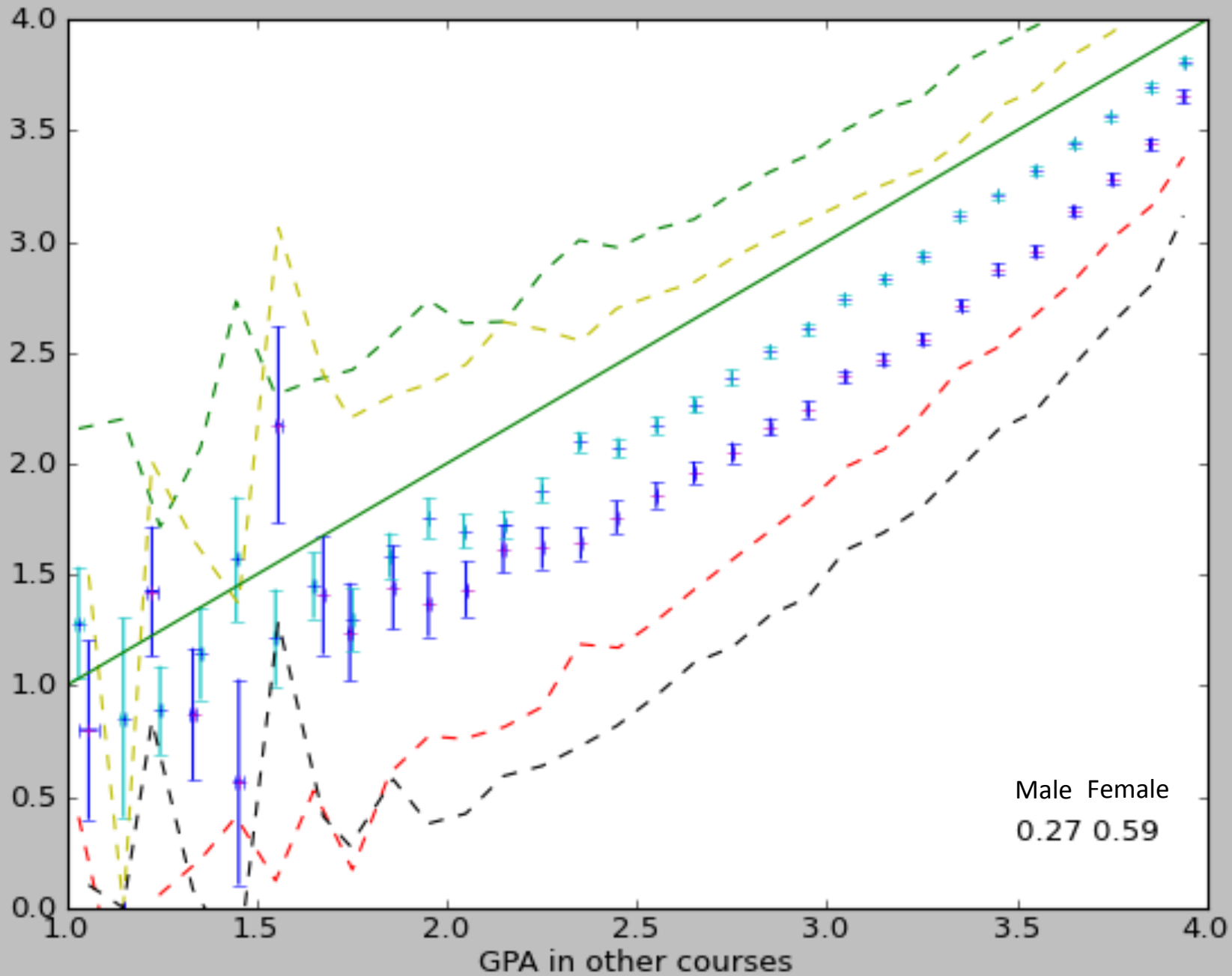
- Learning Analytics Fellows program
  - Winter 2013, two hours/week, projects and training
  - 17 senior & 14 junior fellows, most in teams
- Discussions of IRB, privacy, ethics, statistics, analysis approaches etc.
- One immediate consequence of the Fellows program – larger scale analysis of student performance patterns in classes
- Examined chosen classes for the relation between preparation and performance

# ECON101

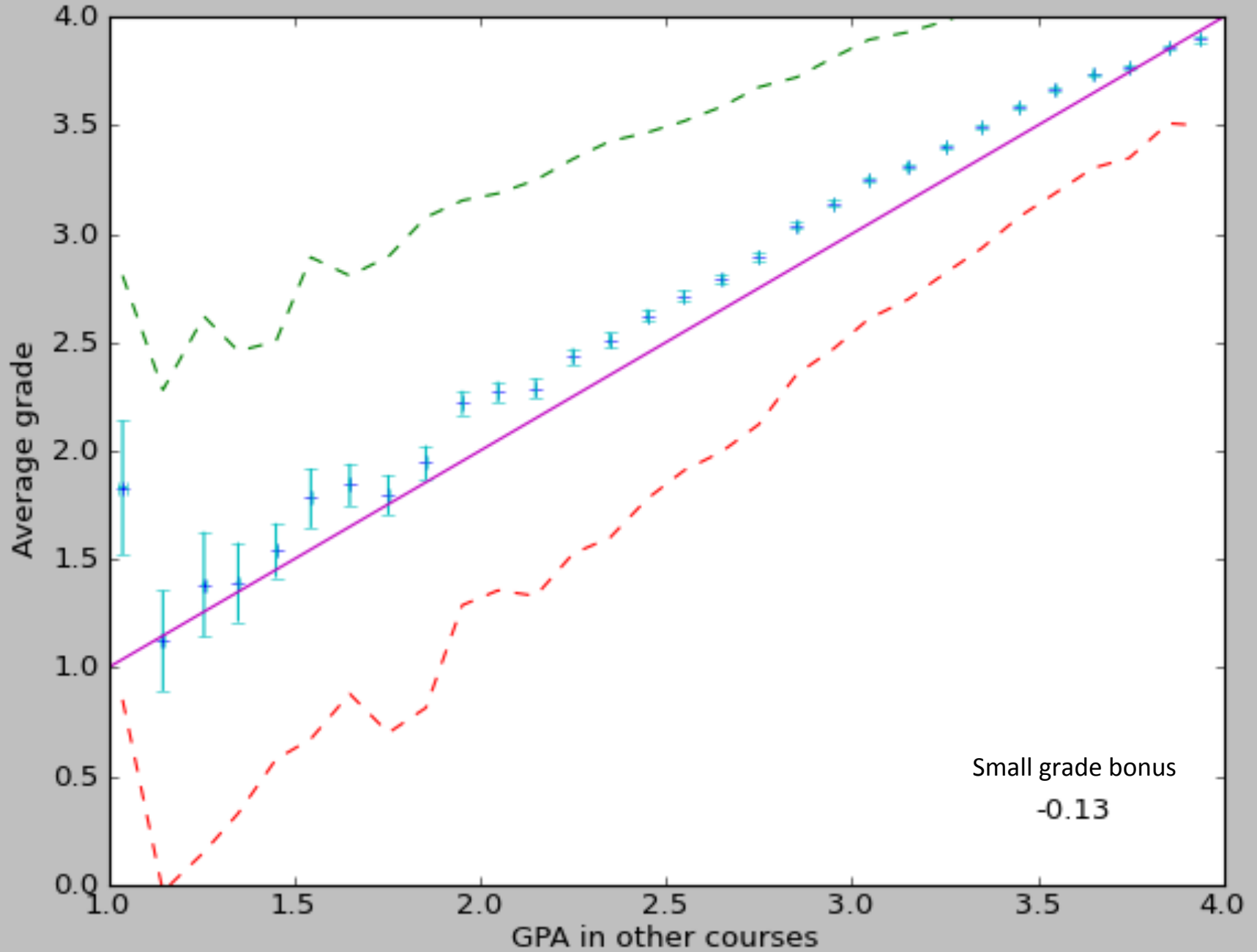




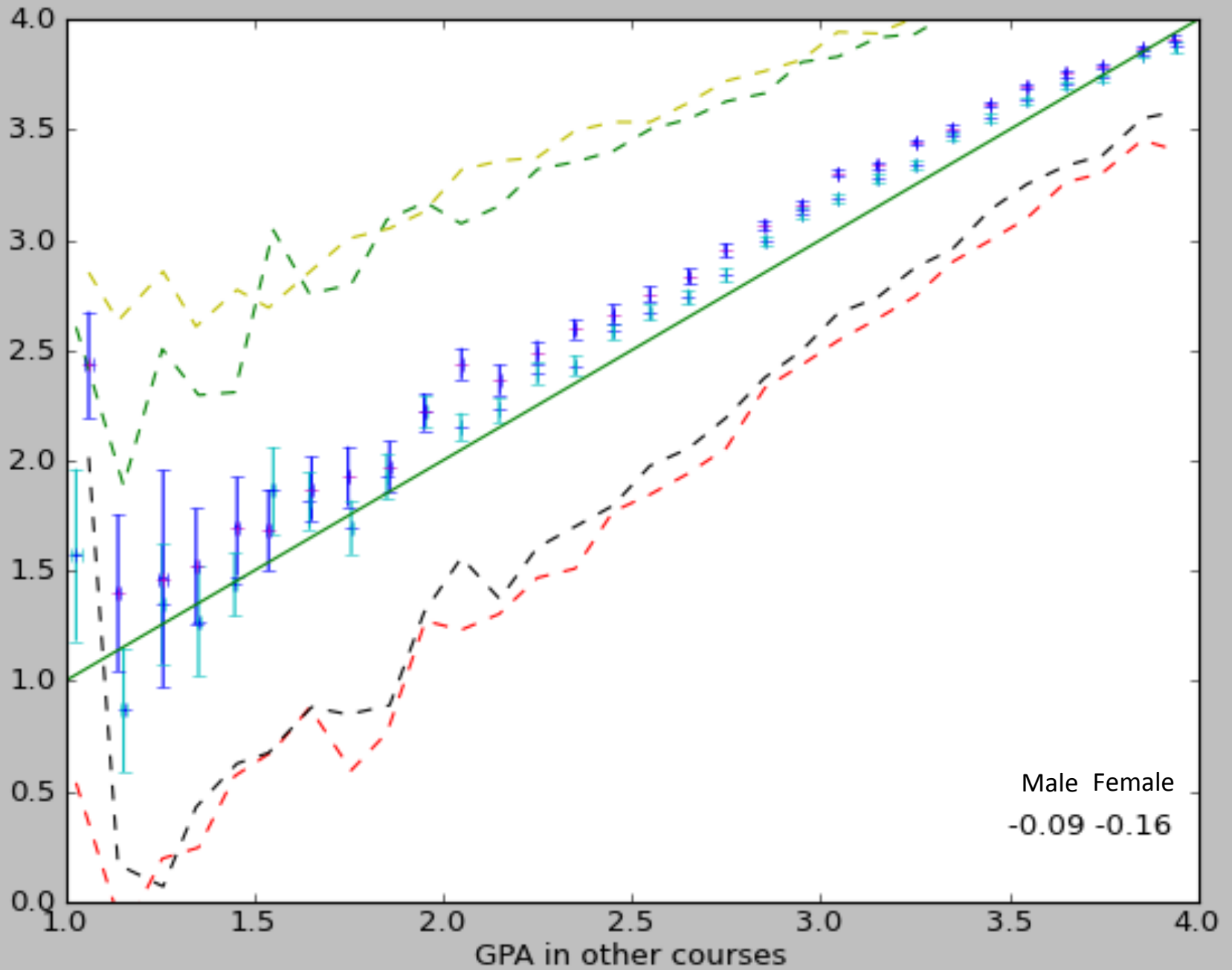
# ECON101

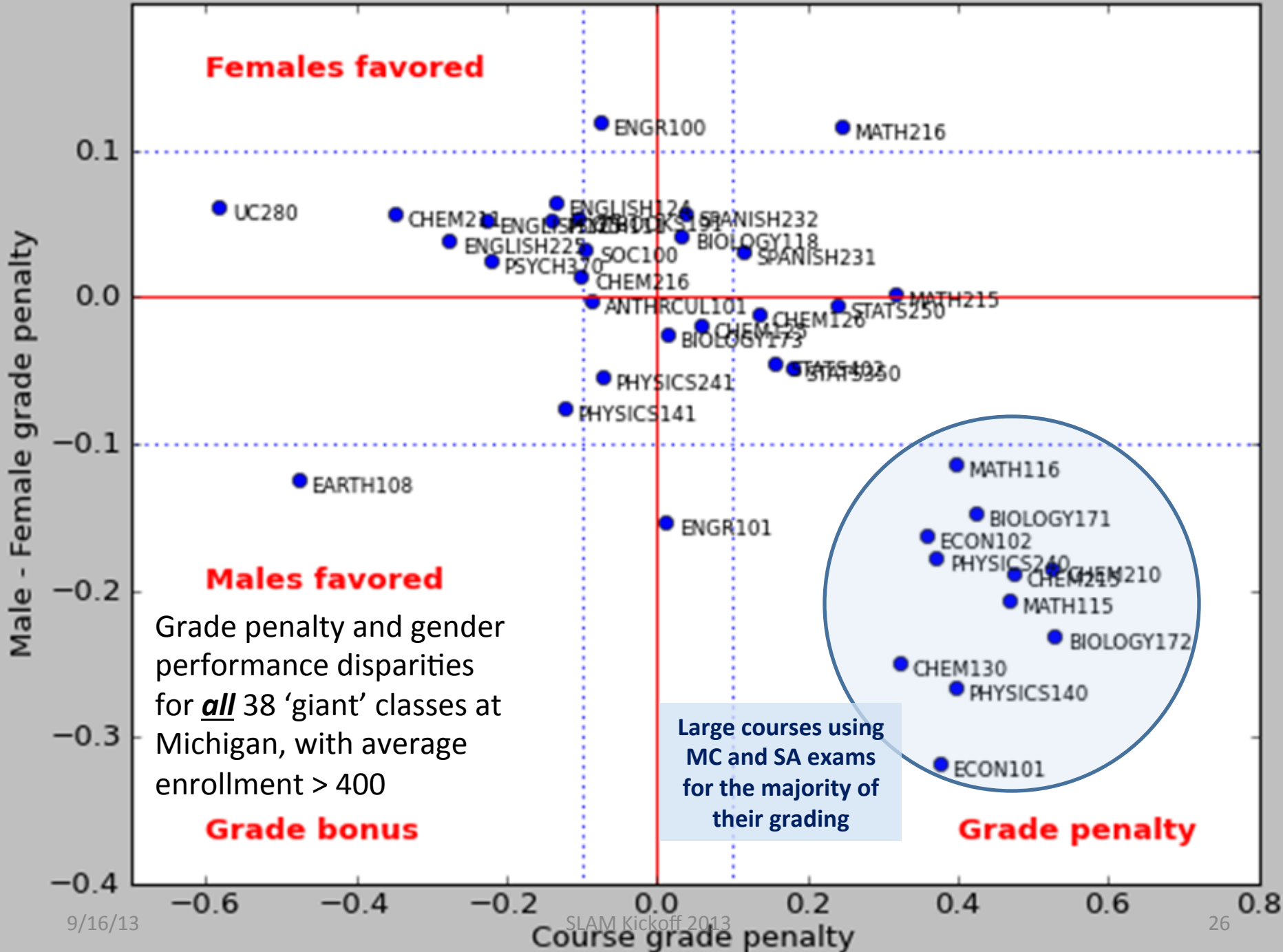


# PSYCH111



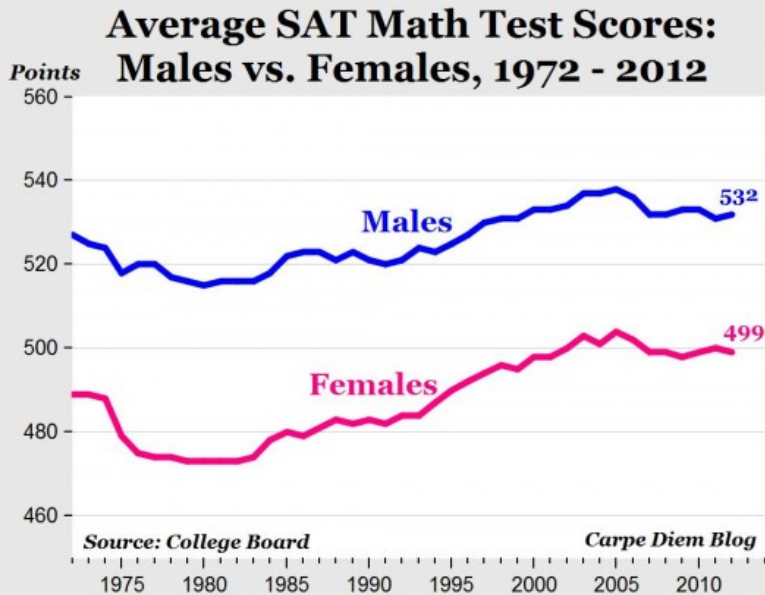
# PSYCH111





# What's going on here?

- In the US, women 'underperform' in many standardized testing environments



- Stereotype threat in socially constructed environments can easily cause this kind of ~10% performance difference
- The 'law-like' prevalence of these disparities challenges acultural explanations
- **Could changing evaluative style change this performance pattern?**

# Learning Analytics Fellows Program

Winter 2013

**Fridays, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

(Sessions with \* before the date will consist of a meeting of the Fellows followed by attendance at the SLAM presentation).

LA Fellows Site: <http://tiny.cc/LAfellows>

SLAM Site: [www.crlt.umich.edu/slam](http://www.crlt.umich.edu/slam)

SLAM talks from last year: <http://sitemaker.umich.edu/slam/schedule>

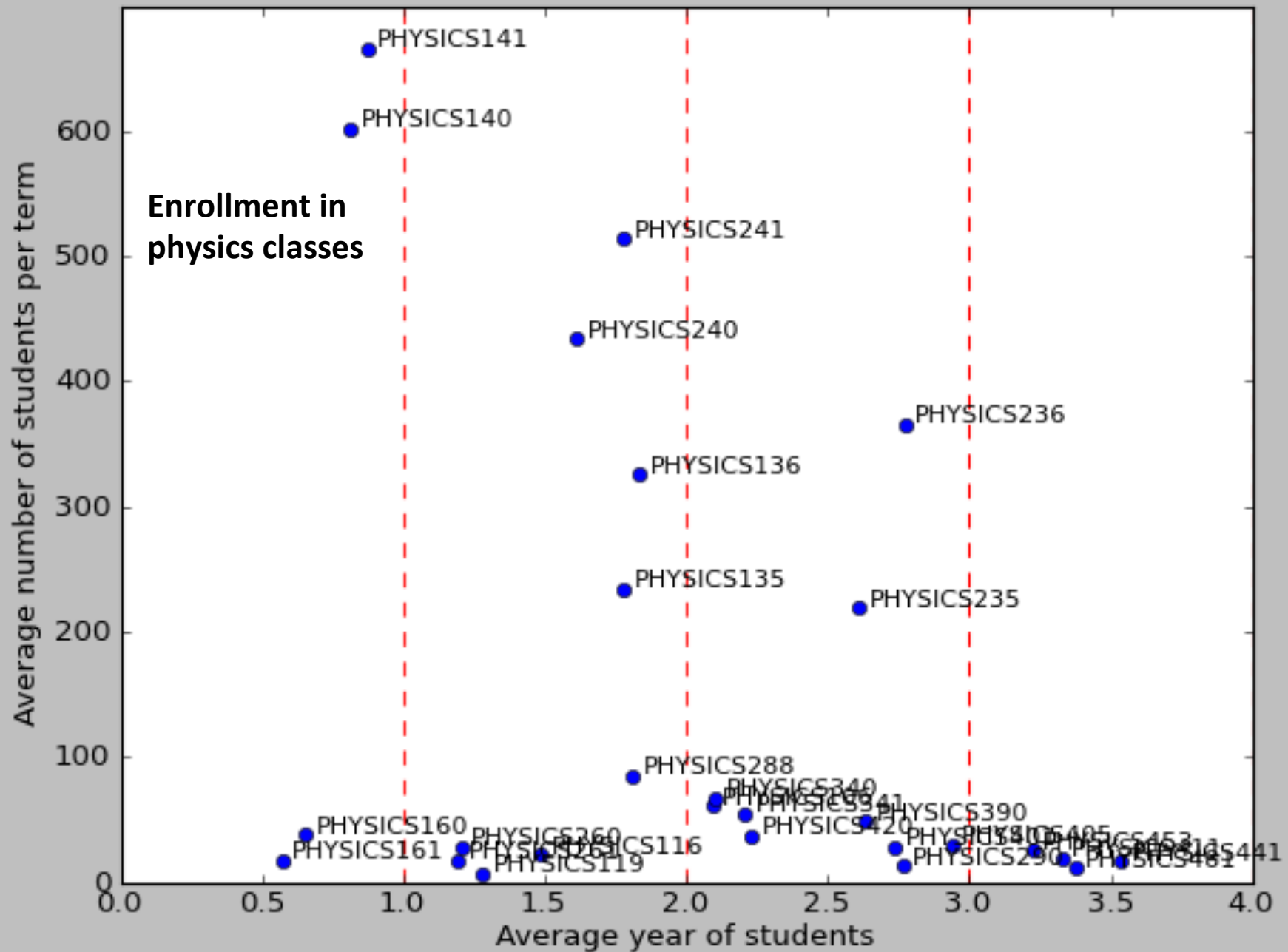
If you have trouble accessing the editing functions of the Google Site, go to <https://sites.google.com/a/umich.edu> and click on the Learning Analytics Fellows site there. I have no idea why the site sometimes doesn't recognize that you should have editing privileges. (RN)

By the end of this program, Fellows will:

- Be able to identify potential data sources from their teaching or professional work.
- Have explored data sets relevant to their teaching/professional work.
- Develop ideas for ways to apply learning analytics to improve teaching and learning at U-M.
- Be able to develop a proposal for an analytics project that could be submitted for an ELA (Exploring Learning Analytics) or Investigating Student Learning (ISL) Grant that demonstrates an understanding of quasi-experimental methods, privacy concerns and the future impact of the project.
- [Develop a visualization describing their projects, results and future plans](#)

# New work on student trajectories

- Bringing together student records for all courses over the 1996-2012 period
- Examining how students move through the course sequences in a department
- Beginning to characterize individual student progression in more personalized ways
- How are they doing compared to similar students following comparable paths through the campus?

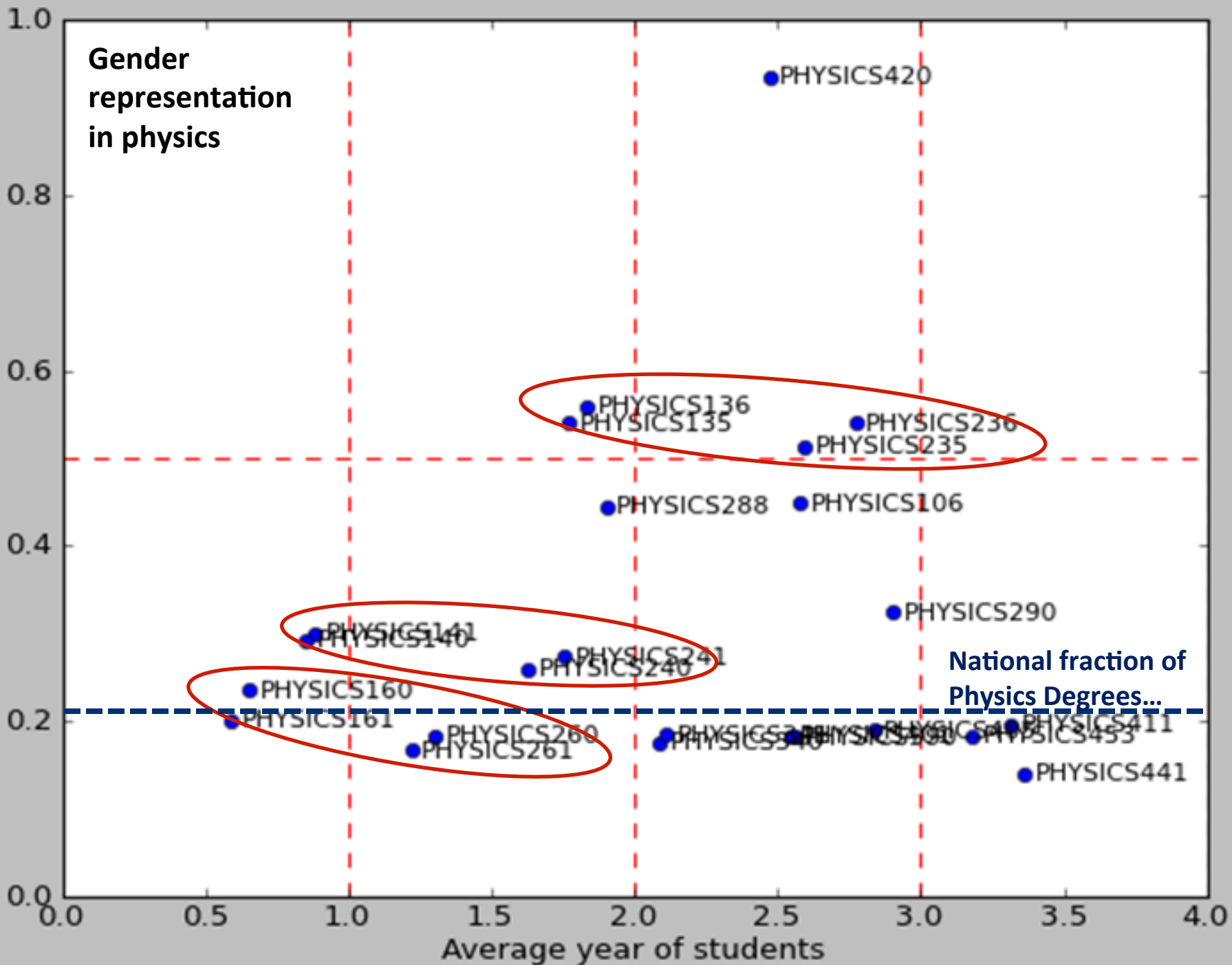


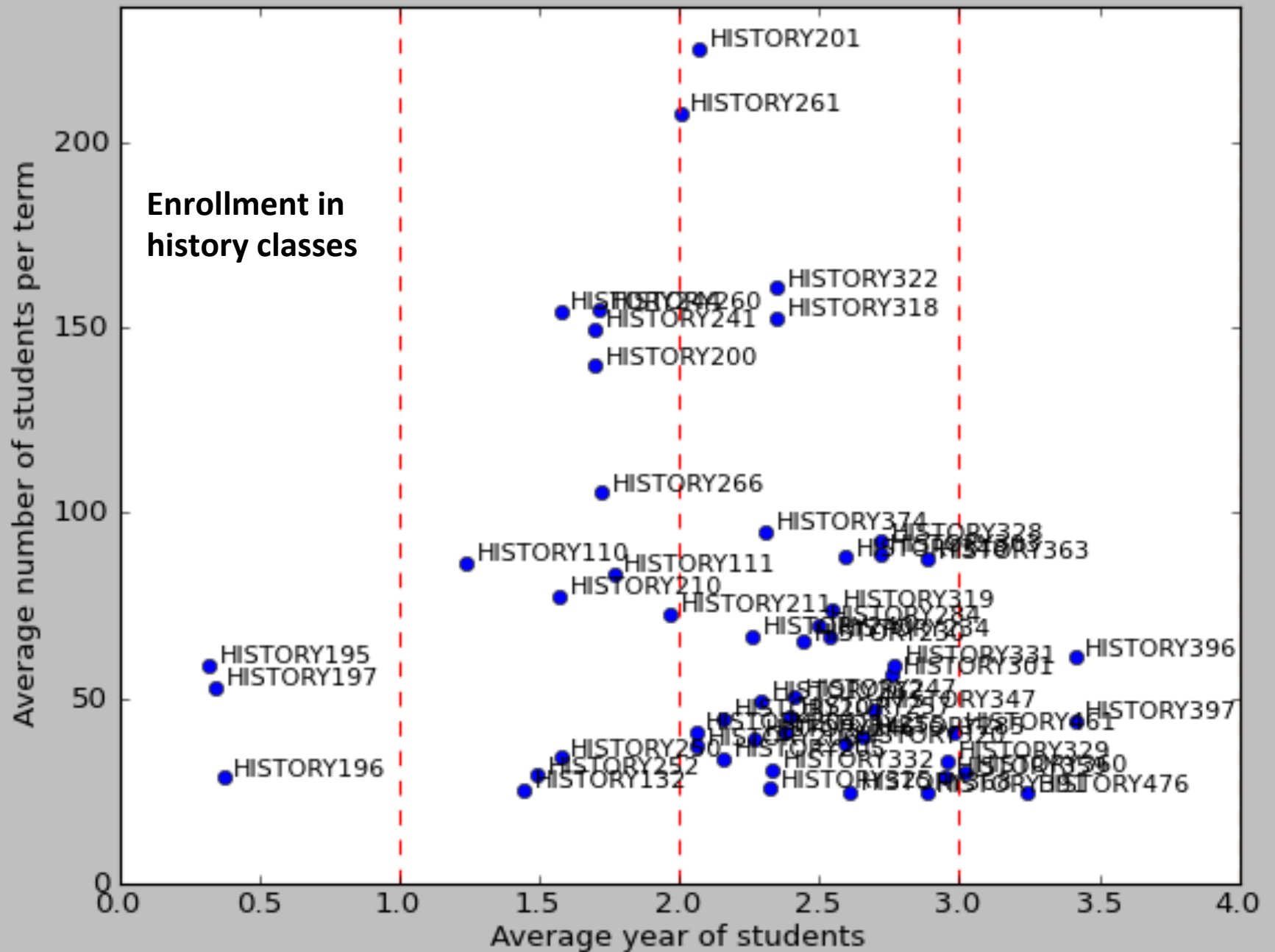


Gender representation in physics

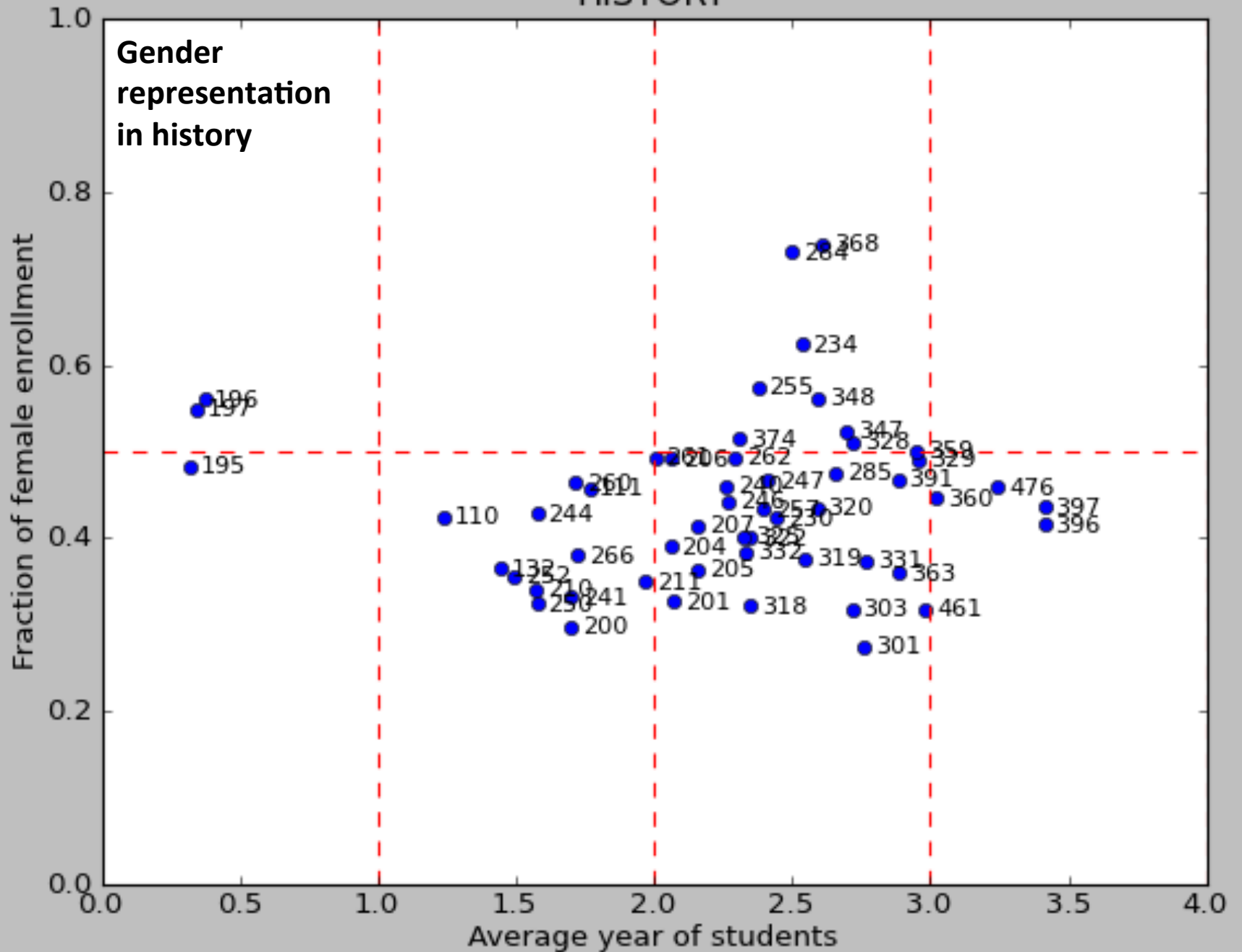
Fraction of female enrollment

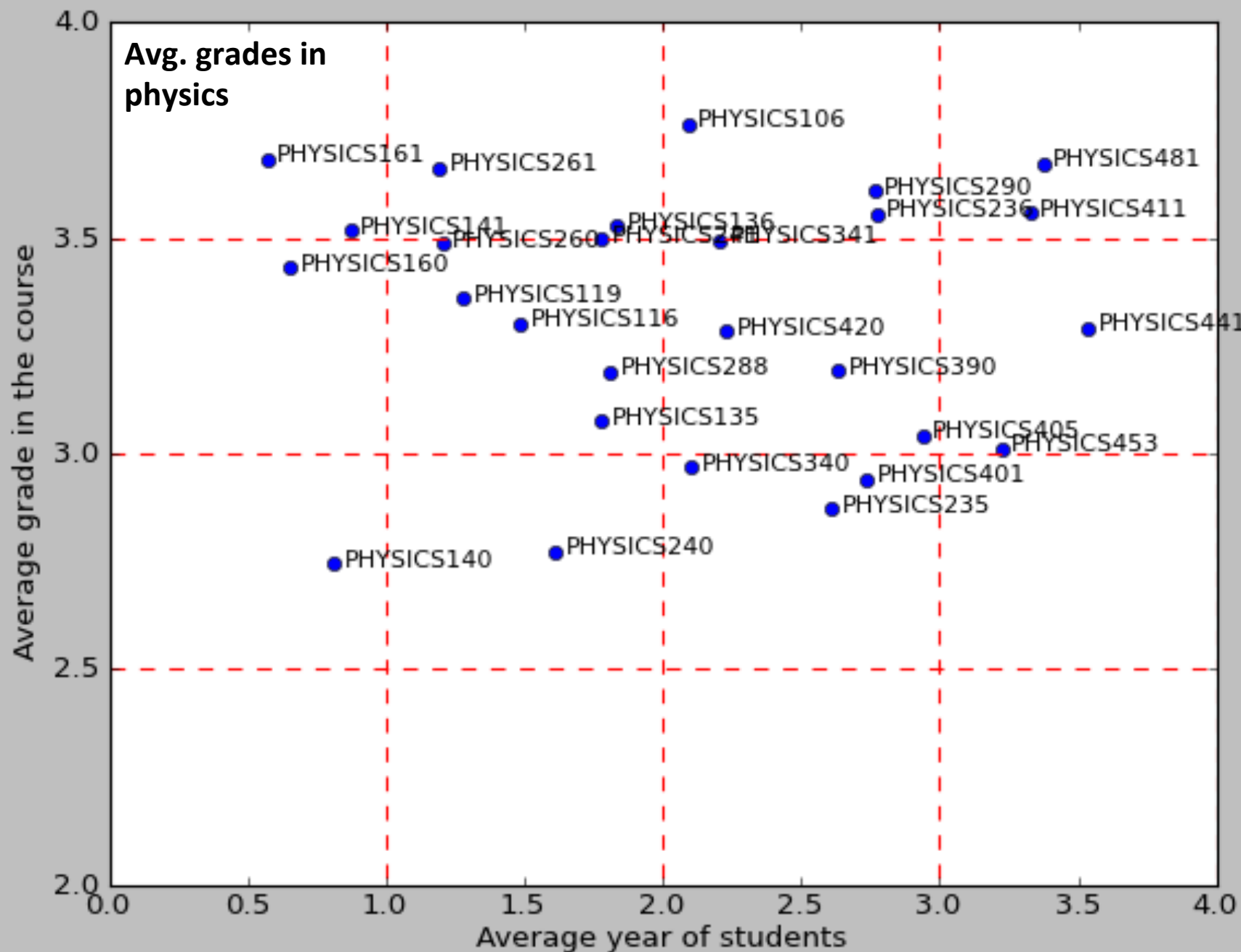
National fraction of Physics Degrees...



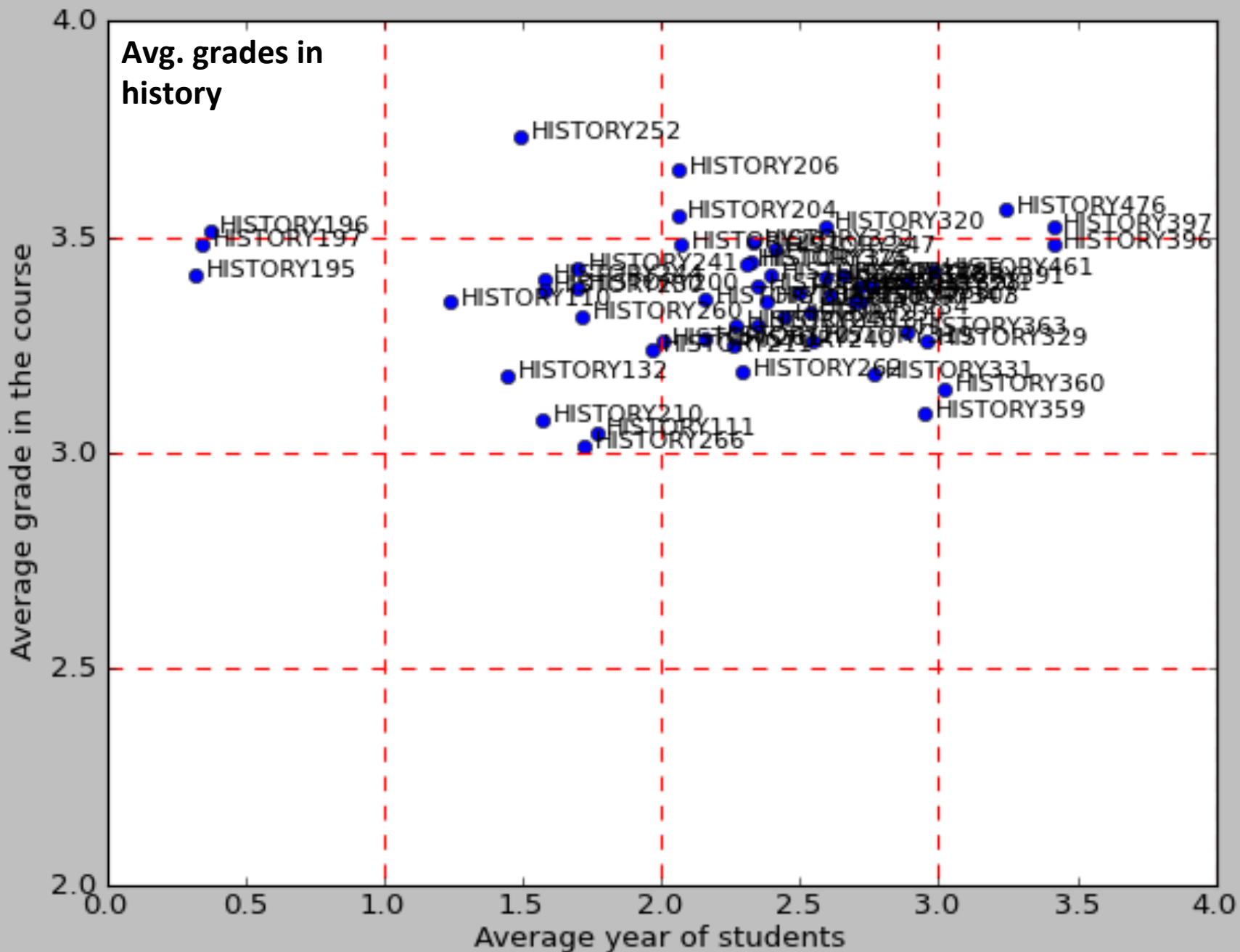


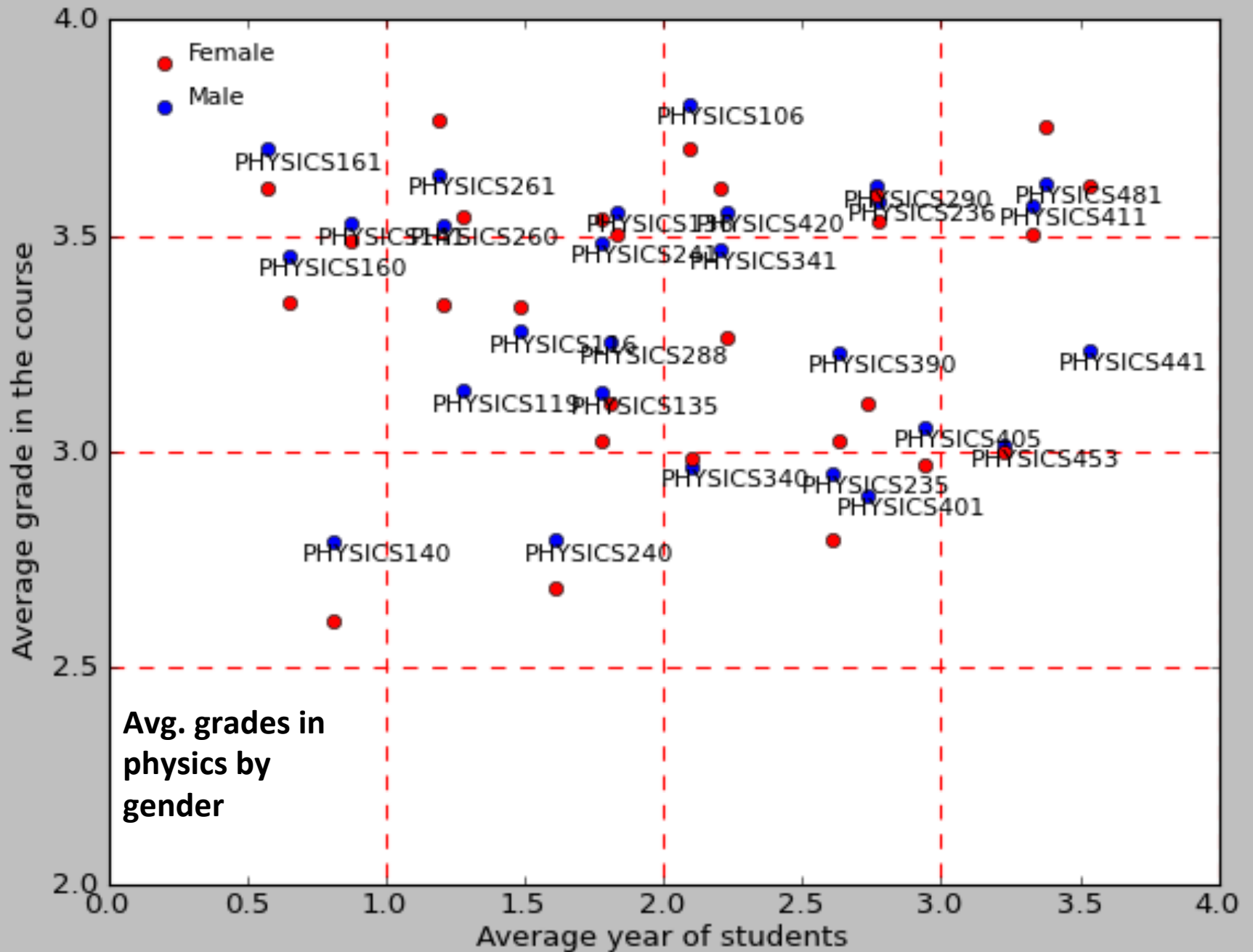
# HISTORY

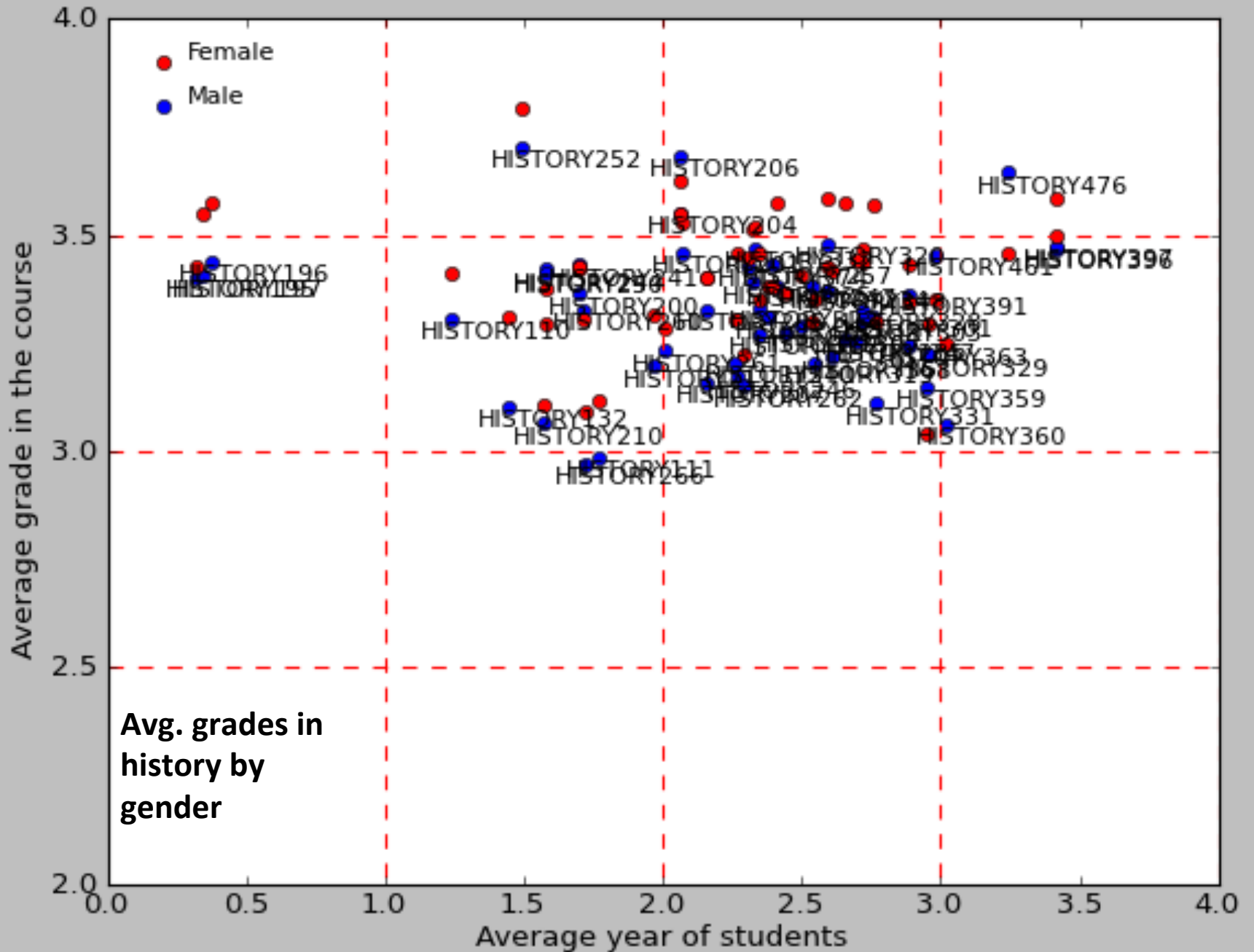




**Avg. grades in history**

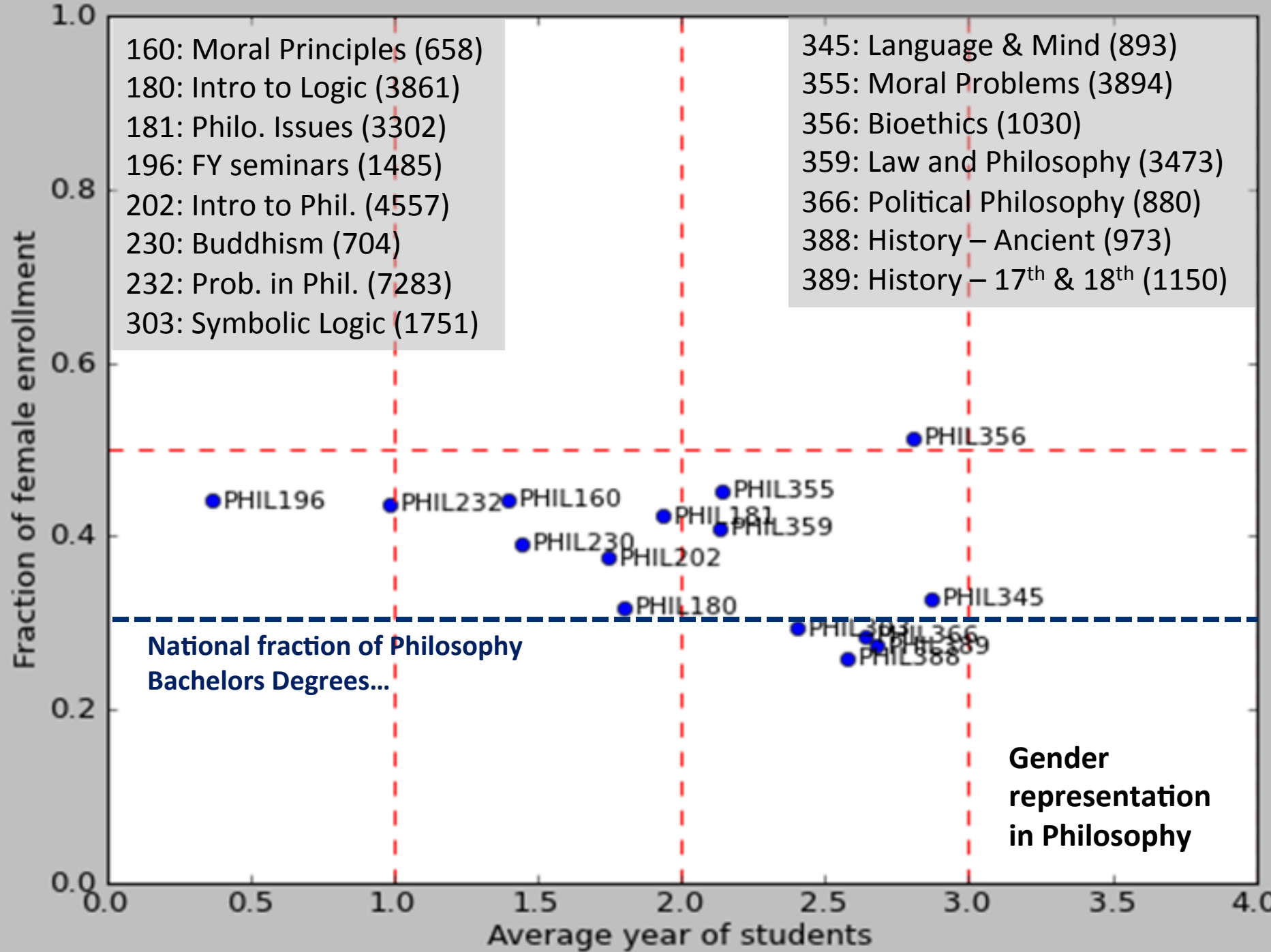






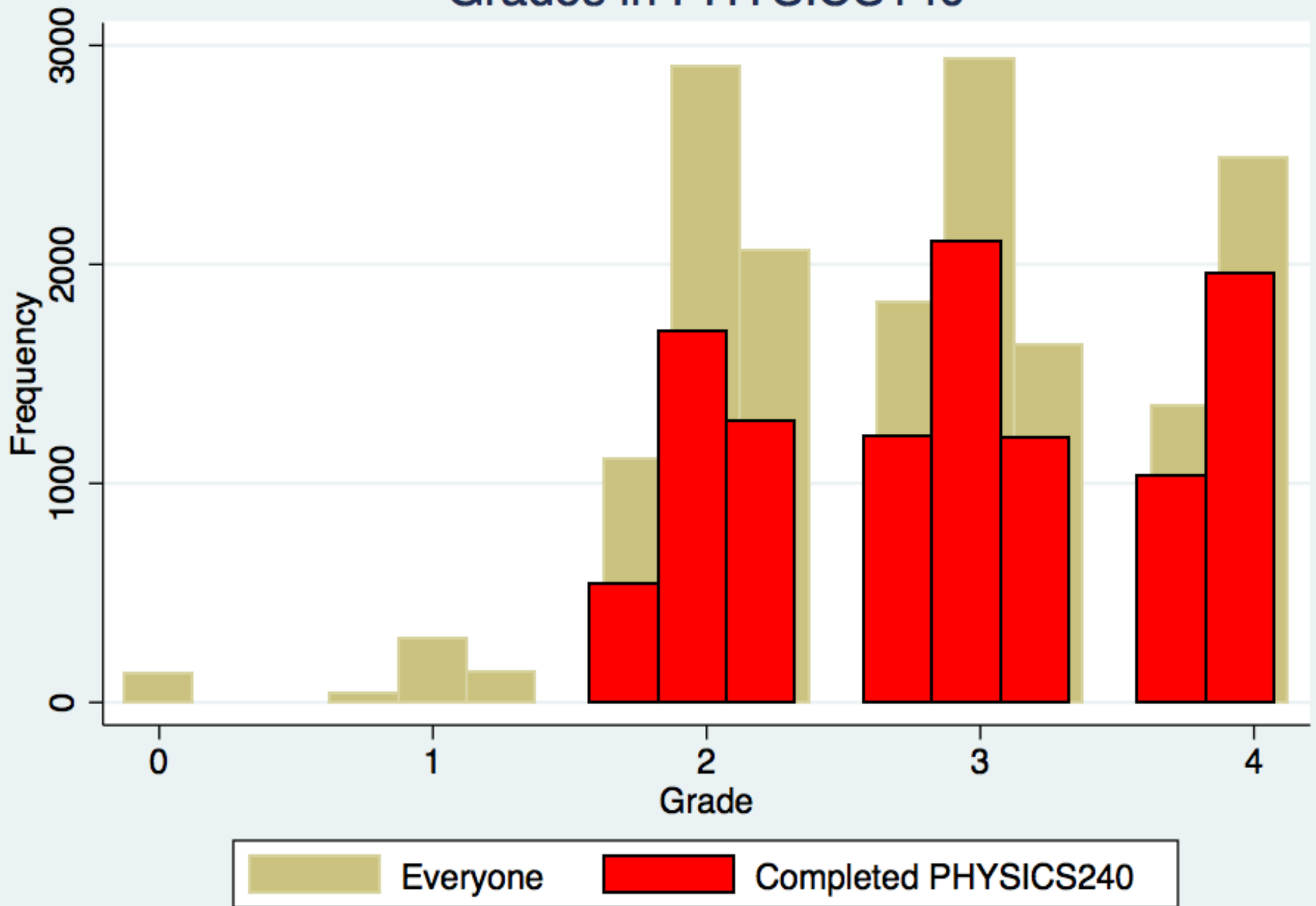
160: Moral Principles (658)  
 180: Intro to Logic (3861)  
 181: Philo. Issues (3302)  
 196: FY seminars (1485)  
 202: Intro to Phil. (4557)  
 230: Buddhism (704)  
 232: Prob. in Phil. (7283)  
 303: Symbolic Logic (1751)

345: Language & Mind (893)  
 355: Moral Problems (3894)  
 356: Bioethics (1030)  
 359: Law and Philosophy (3473)  
 366: Political Philosophy (880)  
 388: History – Ancient (973)  
 389: History – 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> (1150)

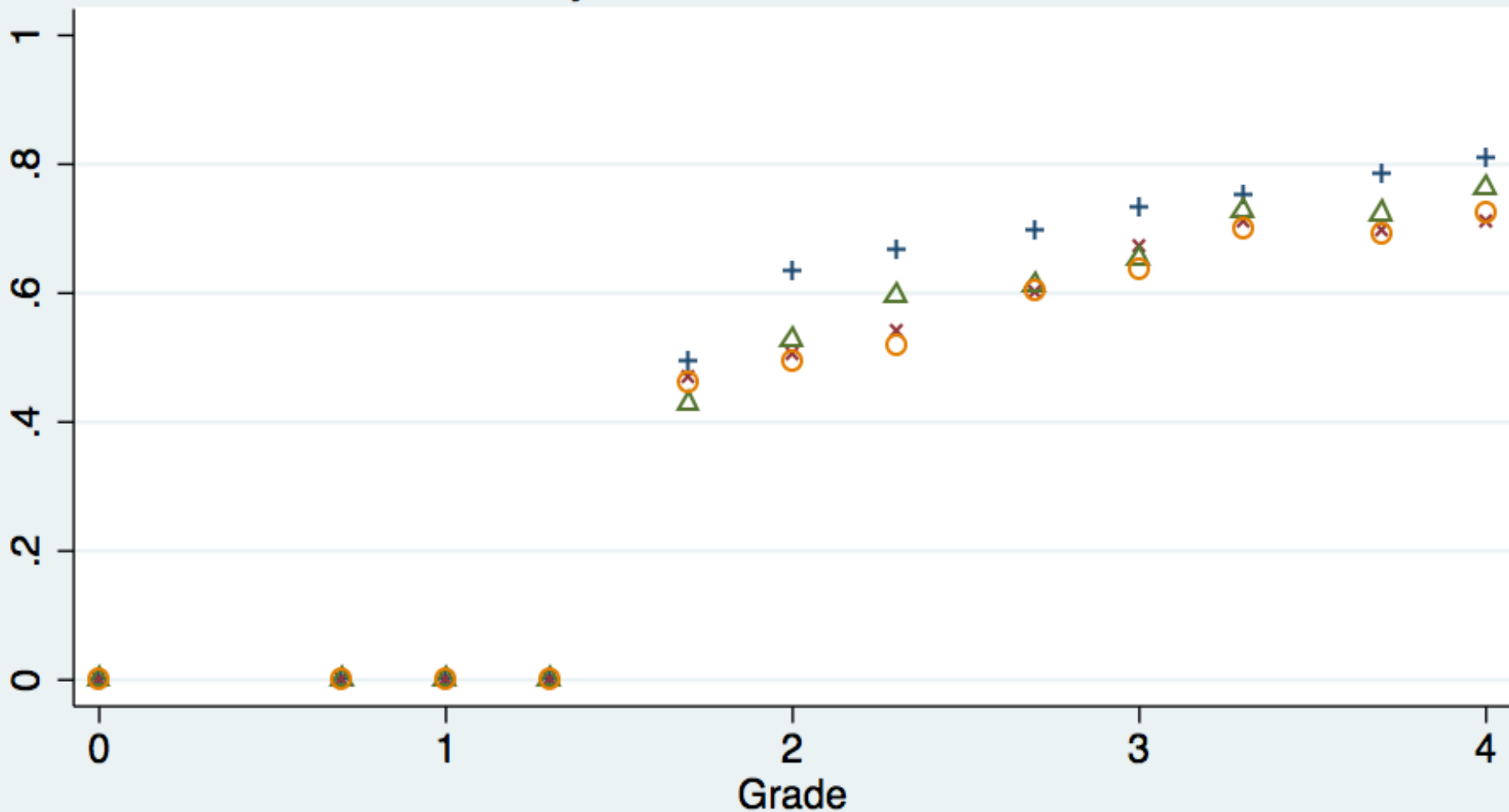




# Grades in PHYSICS140



# Fraction that Completed PHYSICS240 by Grade in PHYSICS140



+ Male

× Female

△ Low Income

○ High Income

# Good data supports grant-seeking

- Carl Weiman's NSF WIDER grants: introductory teaching should be evidence-based and assessed
- Grant application for this supported by strong LA data about current state
- Received \$2M, 3 year grant to support reform efforts in Physics, Chem, Bio, and Math starting in Jan. 2014
- Departmental reform teams supported by an interdisciplinary **REBUILD** committee:  
**R**esearching **E**vidence  
**B**ased **U**ndergraduate  
**I**nstructional and  
**L**earning **D**evelopments
- A rare opportunity to rethink these key courses – our chance to make a generational change in how we do this

# Interactions with the larger community

- Society for Learning Analytics Research
  - UM a founding member



- International meeting



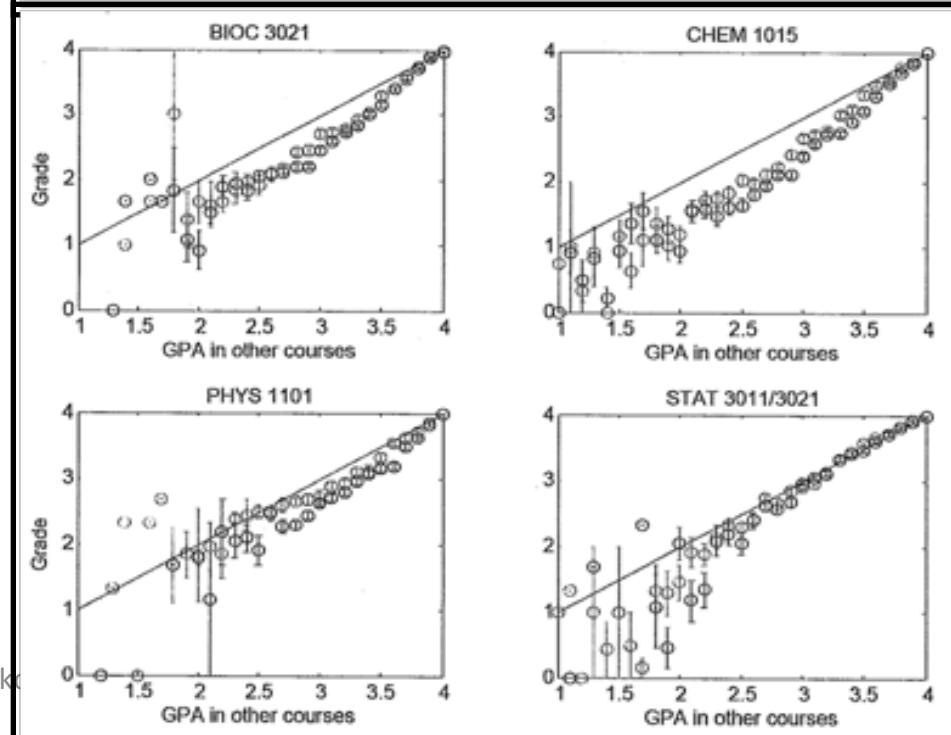
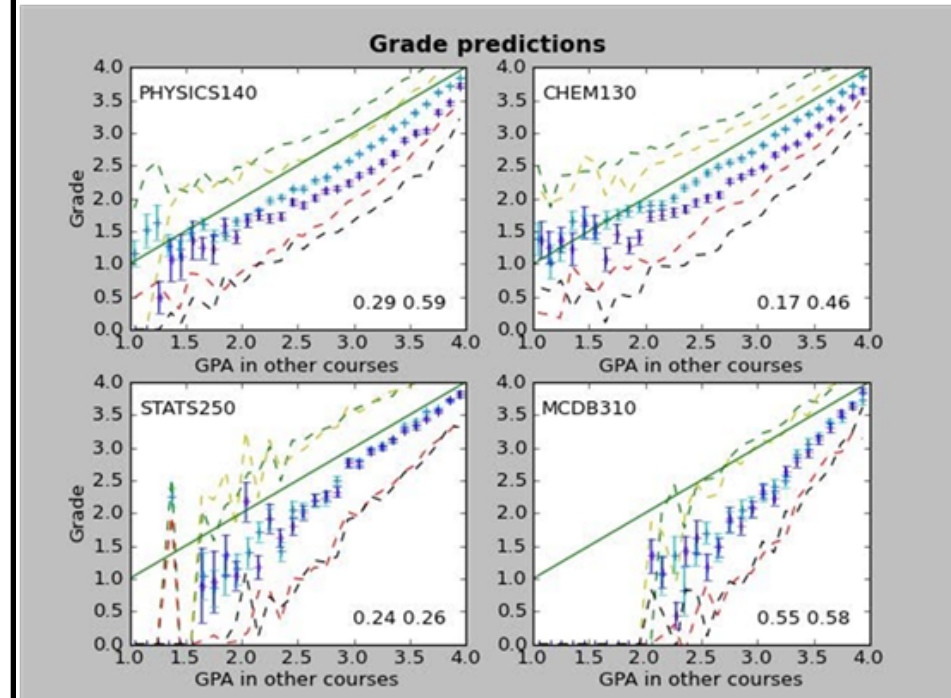
- Our own data would be greatly enhanced by combination with other institutions
- Exploring parallel analyses and data sharing across the CIC (Big Ten & U Chicago)
- Meeting held in July – slow but steady progress

Attempt at parallel analysis between Michigan and Minnesota: Intro Physics, Chem, Stats, and MCDB compared at the two...

Intriguing, but reveals the challenges of parallel analysis as well.

	Minnesota		Michigan	
	M	F	M	F
Biochemistry	.30	.39	.55	.58
Chemistry	.38	.50	.17	.46
Physics	.16	.32	.29	.59
Statistics	.07	.08	.24	.26

Grade penalties by gender



# MOOCs etc.

- Data from Michigan Coursera classes now flowing to Stephanie Teasley's USE lab
- New postdoc there working on the analysis, in parallel with teams at other Coursera institutions
- They'll be reporting on this at a SLAM talk later this semester

# What's coming for LATF

- Report with suggestions for changes in the teaching evaluation process (next SLAM talk)
- Design requirements for tools which will expose data to students, faculty, and administrators
- We will be looking for suggestions about what these tools ought to do
- New SLAM series this year – schedule online
- New LA Fellows group starting Jan. 2014, more focused: announced 10/15, appl. due 11/15

# Student Learning and Analytics at Michigan (SLAM)



Sponsored by the Provost's Task Force on Learning Analytics, Student Learning and Analytics at Michigan (SLAM) is a speaker series. Presenters will focus on the analysis and use of data about students, courses and academic programs-- for the purposes of improving teaching and learning.

Click on individual topics below to register for upcoming events in the SLAM series. To view events from 2011-2012, click [here](#).

## Academic Year

Apply

SLAM 2013-2014

Date	Presenter(s)	Title	Materials
9/13	Tim McKay, U-M Physics and Chair of the Learning Analytics Task Force	<a href="#">Learning Analytics at U-M: 2013-15</a>	
9/27	Mika LaVaque-Manty & David Cottrell, U-M Political Science	<a href="#">Evaluation of Teaching at U-M</a>	
10/4	Dan Russell, Google	<a href="#">Teaching 150K+ Students at a Time: The PowerSearchingWithGoogle.com Story</a>	
10/11	Steve Lonn, Stephanie Teasley & Eric Koo, U-M USE Lab	<a href="#">Massive Michigan: A First Look at the Analytics of UM's 2012-13 MOOC Courses</a>	
10/25	Virginia Kuhn, University of Southern California	<a href="#">Video Analytics: From Keywords to Keyframes</a>	
11/1	Christine Modey, Sweetland Center for Writing, U-M Robin Fowler, Technical Communications, U-M	<a href="#">Online Learning Resources in the Humanities and Engineering: Making and Measuring</a>	
11/15	Dan Hickey, Indiana University	<a href="#">Digital Badges</a>	