

Problem

In lectures with hundreds of students, it is difficult for them to actively participate. A possible solution to this problem is to use a chat system alongside lecture in which students can ask each other questions and discuss the lecture topic during class. Such systems are promising but not yet fully effective.

Research

What We Did?

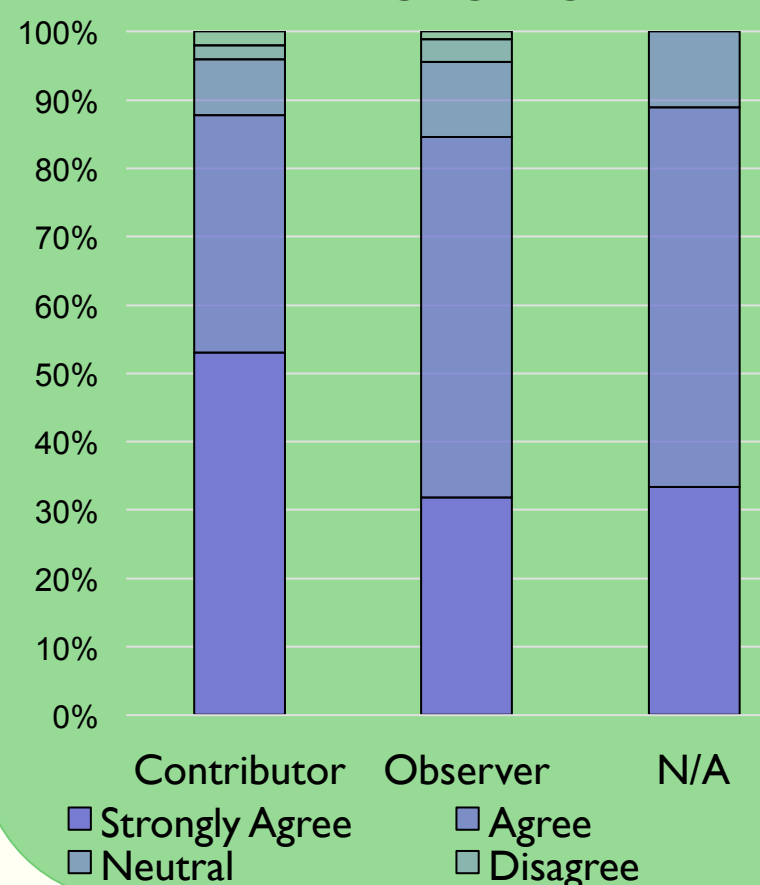
- Surveyed 149 students
- Interviewed 6 students in person (2 from each user type)
- Met with CSSS and research experts to synthesize data

User Types We Identified From Survey

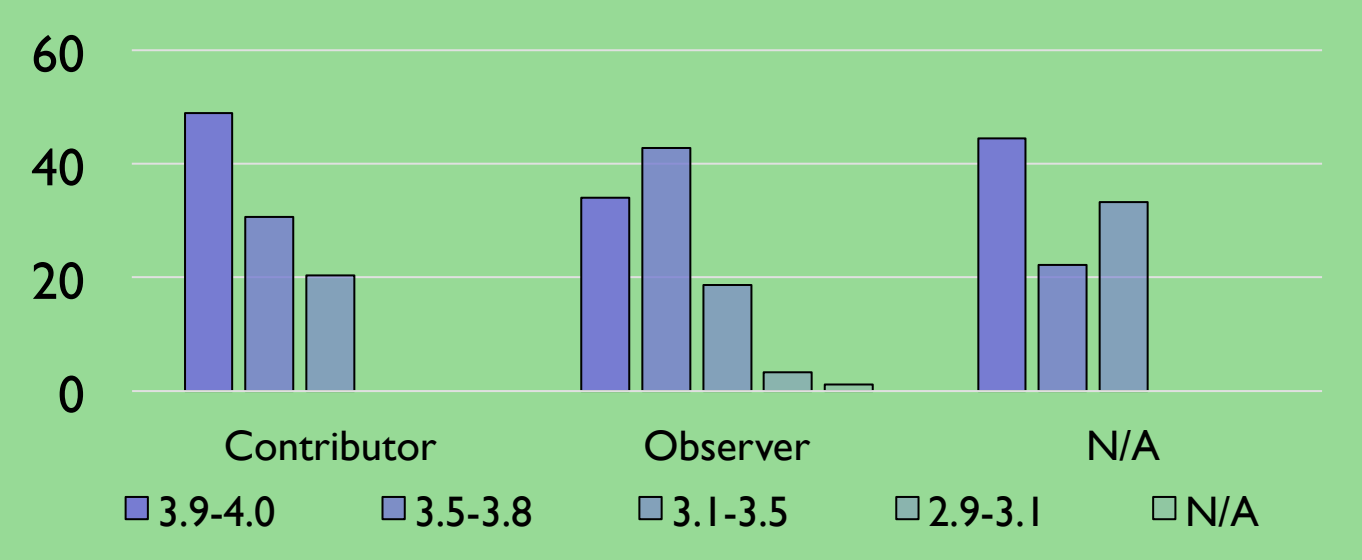


Findings

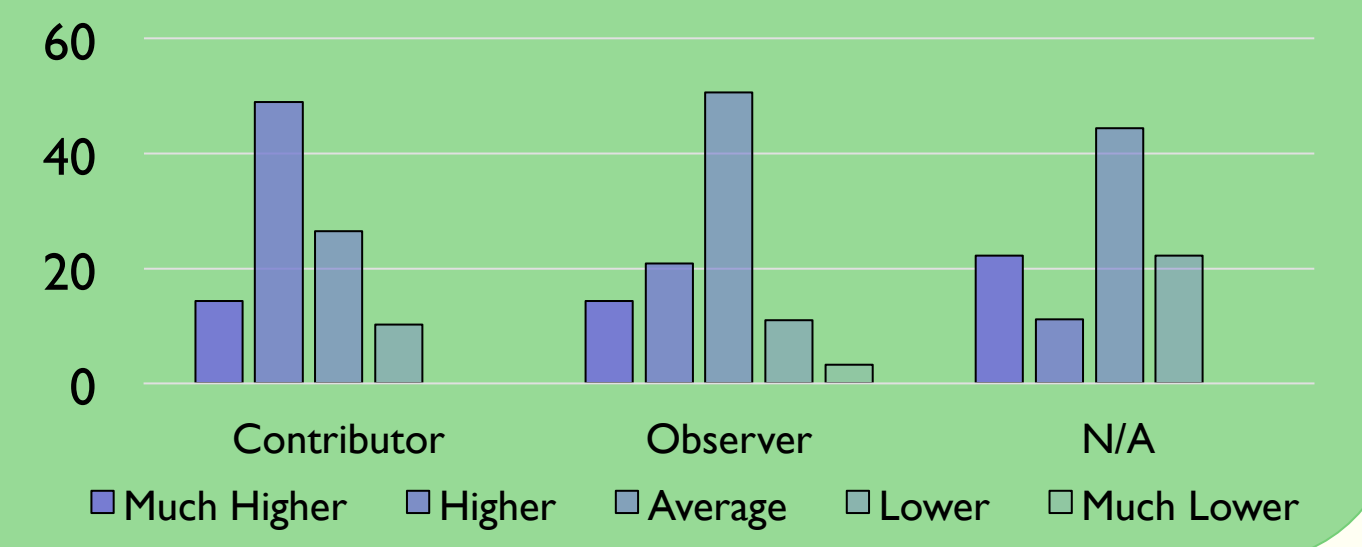
Is Lecture Engaging?



Student Performance



Participation in Course



How We Can Help

“My voice is never heard”



BackChat let's you voice your opinion

“Too shy to speak”



BackChat takes away the pressure

“My students aren't engaged”



BackChat facilitates engagement

back chat

Enhancing The Classroom Experience Through Moderated Chat

Research Renegades Informatics

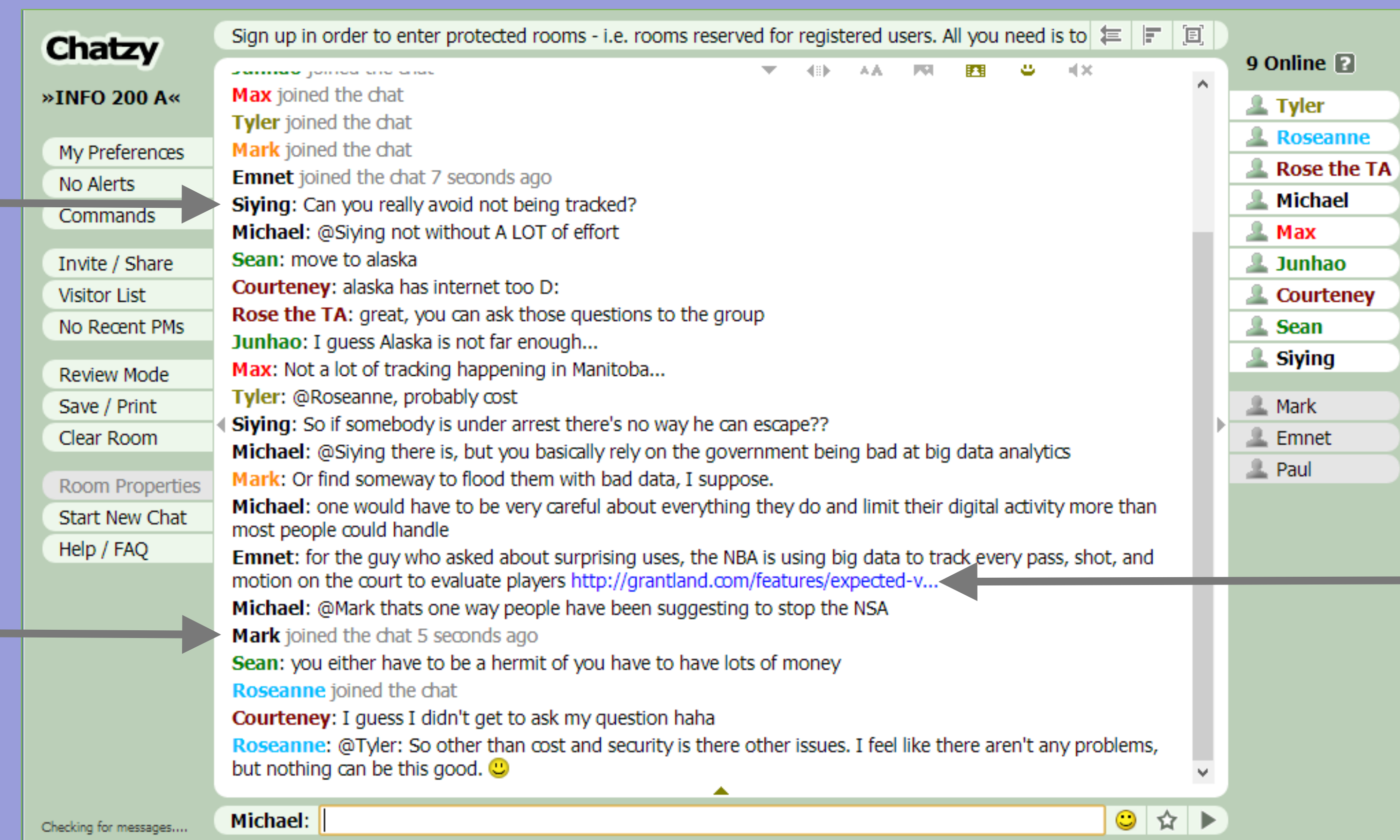
Vivek Bhupatiraju, Graham Hadden, Paul Oswald, Tania Asim, Ian Burns



Current System

Questions not distinguishable

Notified of every login



TA's are not easily distinguishable

Resources not distinguishable

Our System

Question and threaded replies

Respond to a specific thread

Categorize your post



Filter your feed

Identify resources

Solution

BackChat is a student-influenced academic backchannel (a moderated chat to be used alongside lecture) that aims to increase student performance, participation, and satisfaction in large lecture classes.

Evaluation

After user-testing our prototype in an academic setting, BackChat proved to be:

- Simple and easy to use
- Effective at reducing noise
- A tool that facilitated better student engagement
- Faculty approved (Mike Eisenberg)