HOW TO GET TO KNOW 200 STUDENTS (ALMOST) OVERNIGHT
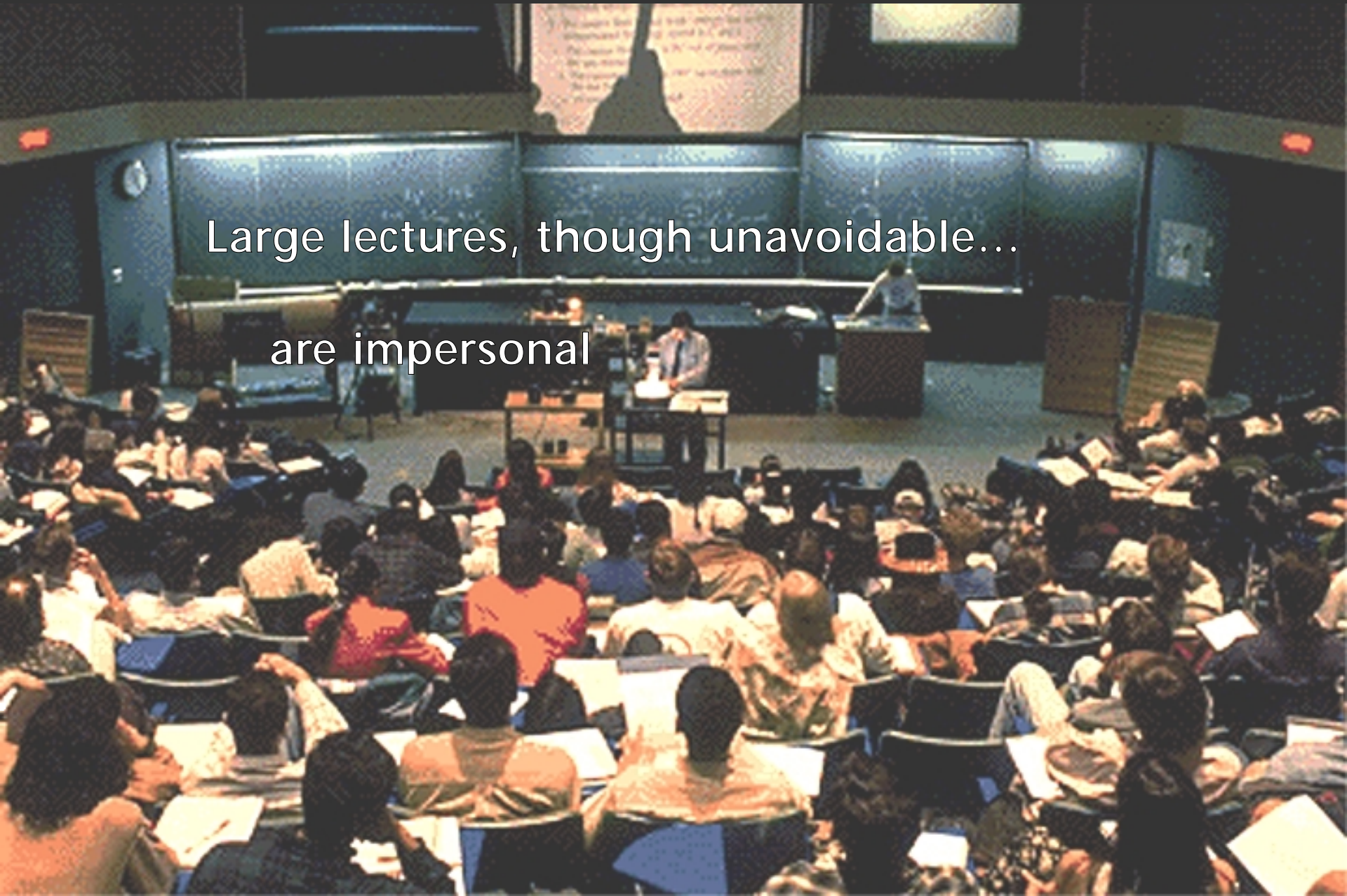
Catherine H. Crouch
Eric Mazur

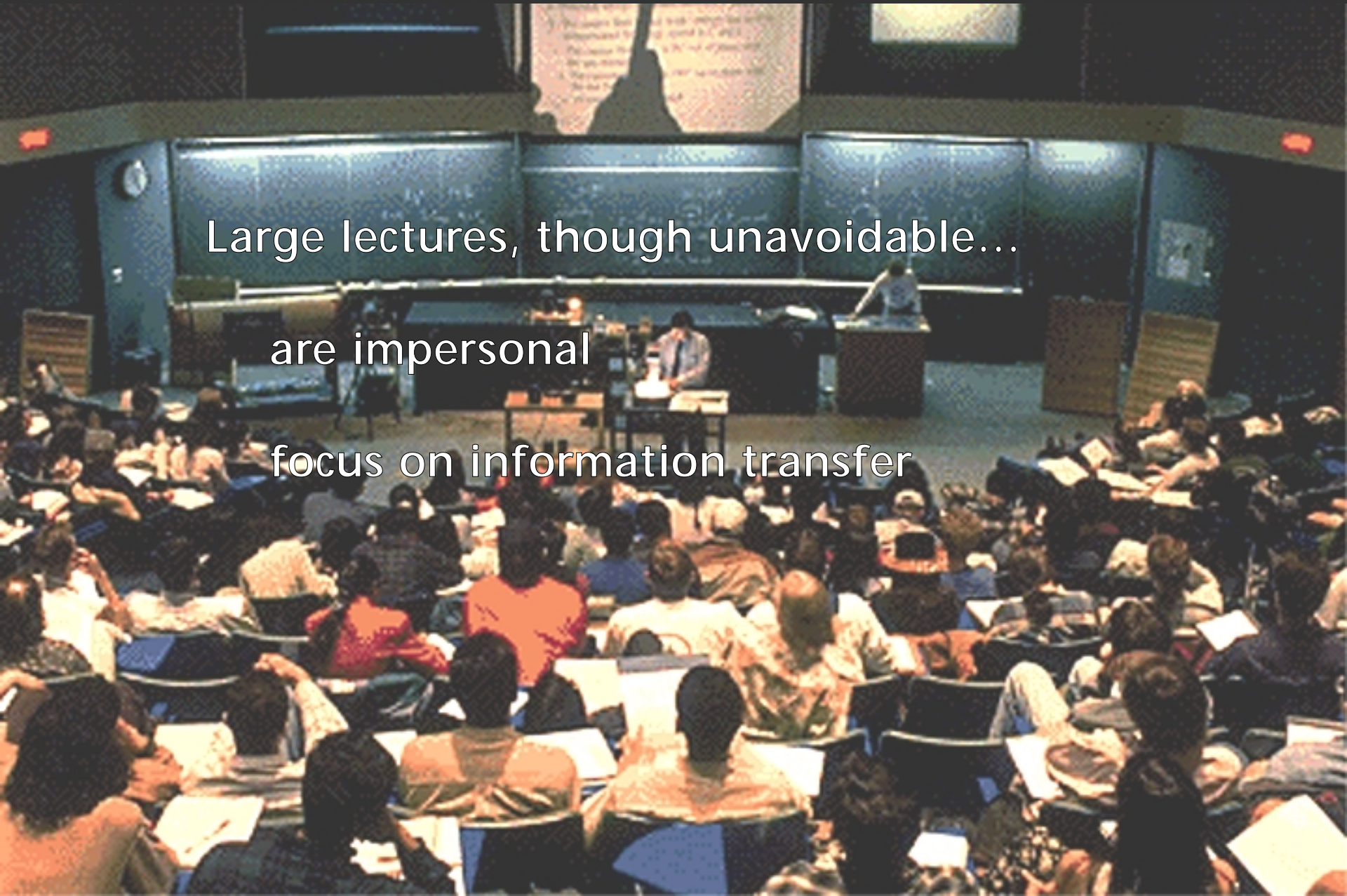**Challenge**

Large lectures, though unavoidable…

are impersonal

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focus on information transfer

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focus on information transfer

don't necessarily address students' needs

▷ **Move some of the information transfer out of the classroom**

▷ **Move some of the information transfer out of the classroom: assign reading**

Strategy

▶ **Move some of the information transfer out of the classroom: assign reading**

▶ **Use a web-based reading assignment to help students think about what they read**

Gregor M. Novak, Evelyn T. Patterson, Andrew D. Gavrin, and Wolfgang Christian, *Just-in-Time Teaching: Blending active learning with web technology* (Prentice Hall, 1999).

Use these assignments to:

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▷ **find out what needs attention in class**

Use these assignments to:

▷ **find out what needs attention in class**

▷ **get to know your students!**

Reading assignment:

Reading assignment:

▷ **2 questions on content**

Reading assignment:

▷ **2 questions on content**

▷ **1 feedback question**

Reading assignment:

▷ 2 questions on content

▷ 1 feedback question

▷ graded on effort (semi-automated)

Sample reading assignment:

1. Suppose you observe an object that moves along a trajectory that is neither circular nor straight. Without determining the object's speed, can you tell if its acceleration is zero or nonzero? Explain briefly.

2. Explain in your own words the difference between inertia and rotational inertia.

3. Please tell us briefly what points of the reading you found most difficult or confusing. If you did not find any part of it difficult or confusing, please tell us what parts you found most interesting.

What do you *do* with all this information?

Database-driven notebook

Instructor view of student responses

Instructor view of student responses

Instructor adds reply to database

Database-driven notebook

Entries available for re-use

Students can read and search posted replies
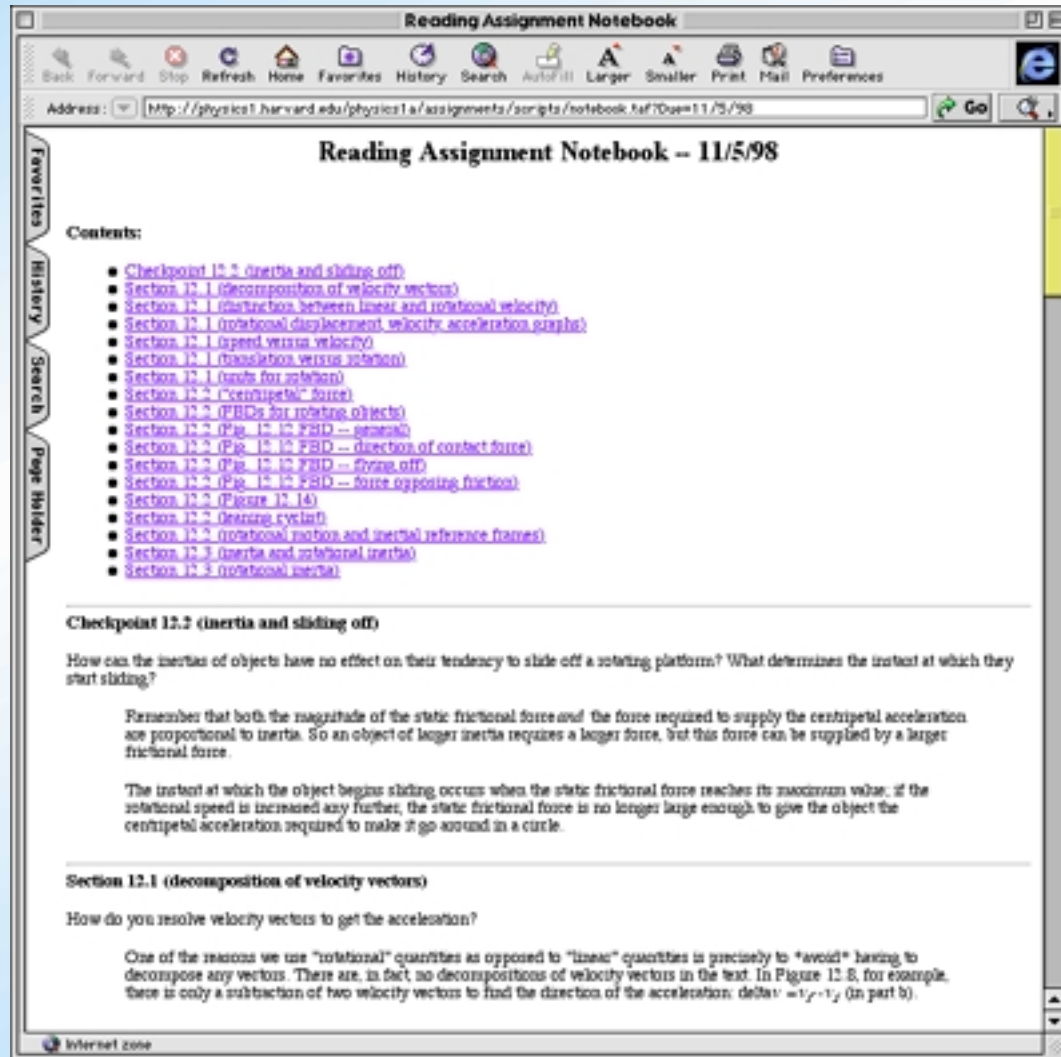
▷ **better use of classroom time**

▷ **connects names and faces**

▷ **increases student-faculty interaction**

▷ **study resource for students**

For a copy of this talk and
additional information:

http://mazur-www.harvard.edu