Alpha Availability Project Proposal

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Overview

In a university building, it is often very difficult for students to predict whether a certain room or a table will be available to sit and study in, and often the best bet that students have is randomly guessing and checking a location that might have free seats. This problem can be generalized to having free benches in the gym, or study rooms being free in the library.

We propose using the crowdsourcing model that has been successful in areas such as determining bus occupancy for making an algorithm for alpha availability. We define alpha availability as the general problem of determining whether a resource would be available at a given time given that users have provided information about when the resource had been last used.