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Streaming for Foundation Year Physics

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Introduction

Big science and engineering foundation year class.

Different starting knowledge of physics.

What happens when we split the class based on physics background?



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Why?

Different people have different needs.

Avoid people from non standard backgrounds thinking their colleagues “know it all already”.



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How?

People with above C in A-level physics in one class, everyone else in another class.
Teach same material but at different pace.



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Exam results

The same (within statistics!) for before- and after-streaming cohorts.

However...



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Student feedback

Positive - students appreciate the different paces of teaching.

Feeling less like “everyone around them already knows everything”.



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Future?

Carry on with streaming - clearly improves how students feel about their physics studies.

Look at longer term trends (COVID permitting).