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A mathematician's perspective on teacher training in Mexico

Teacher training is done in Mexico at schools that are exclusively devoted to this aim, the “Escuelas Normales” and “Normales Superiores”, depending on the level: the former for primary school (ages 6–12), the latter for secondary school (ages 12–15). Mathematics teachers of the baccalaureate level (ages 15–18) do not usually receive a pedagogical training but have degrees in subjects related to mathematics. Generally speaking, primary school pre-service teachers do at most one course in mathematics, and those who will become mathematics teachers in secondary school do two or three. There is an agreement among mathematicians that teacher training (especially future maths teachers’) lacks mathematics.

In this paper we will expand on this subject, stressing the importance of the manner in which mathematics should be taught. We will give some examples of this, particularly for the secondary and baccalaureate levels.

The session will be shared with Silvia Alatorre (Universidad Pedagógica Nacional).