



# Refresh Teaching

Students' questions as a valuable resource

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# “Nachbesprechung”

- Before Covid burst out I asked for an additional voluntary hour to be scheduled directly after the lecture. The schedule coordinator called it “Nachbesprechung”.
- Best time for questions from the students’ point of view
  - After the lecture students are bursting with questions, anxious to understand.
  - Lecture time is limited. Students need more examples, and dividing up big steps into small steps.
- First year as a D-MATH/D-PHYS student
  - Is just hard.
  - first year students need guidance to know what’s important and how to study effectively.
  - During the lecture, I don’t always have enough time to
    - show enough examples (definitely not enough for the weaker students),
    - mention possible generalizations (definitely not enough for the stronger students).

# Creating space

- Structuring the question time after the lecture.
- Communicating that:
  - it is natural to have many questions and that I have time to answer them.
  - the first year is challenging.
  - learning in covid time is very challenging.
  - I have infinite amount of time (which actually sums up to 2-2.5 hours).
- Selling it to the students:
  - Creating incentives to come (spoilers)
  - Advertising it in the lecture, lecture notes, forum.
- Enjoying the one-to-one (or one-to-10) interaction.

# Covid as an opportunity

- Hybrid mode until November, we met outside for about 1-1.5 hours.
- Moved to Zoom after November. Advantages:
  - Can be recorded and made available to everyone (around 40 students use this option every week).
  - Zoom has name tags! everything becomes more personal.
  - Creating this space over Zoom also allowed for supporting students in general:
    - “how to learn” questions
    - “what comes next” questions.
    - personal questions (after everyone left)
  - some social interaction in the chat.

# D-MATH forum!

Questions during the lecture and afterwards.

- Created and maintained by Will Merry.
- Forum topic for each lecture.
- Questions are answered by fellow students and problems/questions are reported to me live by the students present in the lecture.
- Some threads are picked up by me/fellow students after the lecture and then developed further in the forum or discussed in the Nachbesprechung.
- Perfect for extras (riddles, links and so on).
- Separate forum for the TAs- Perfect for communicating among themselves and with me.
- Supports LaTeX!