

Abstract Submitted
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Likelihood of women vs. men to receive bachelor's degrees in physics at Stanford, 1900-1929. ANTHONY NERO, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory — Work by K. Tolley indicates that girls in mid to late 19th century U.S. high schools were more likely to study mathematics and natural philosophy (i.e., physics and astronomy) than were boys (who pursued the classics).^{*} She also found that after the turn of the century women were more likely than men to receive bachelor's degrees in math and biological sciences at Stanford, but her sampling of every fifth year yielded too few data to be conclusive about physics. Re-examination of graduation lists at Stanford, yielding data for each year from 1900 to 1929, shows that, while absolute numbers were small, women were as likely as men to receive bachelor's degrees in physics during the first decade of the century, in the second decade they were notably more likely, and in the third their likelihood decreased substantially, while that of men rose to exceed that of women. (Women were much more likely to receive bachelor's degrees in math, exceeding the likelihood for men by an order of magnitude during the second and third decades.) ^{*}K. Tolley, *The Science Education of American Girls: A Historical Perspective* (Routledge, N.Y.), 2003.

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