

Problem Solving

Fall 2018

Andrei Jorza

Statistics

I ran some stats on Putnam problems and saw that about a quarter of the problems are combinatorics, a quarter are number theory. The next batch is geometry, algebra, analysis and inequalities with about 15% each. The third batch, with about 10% each, consists of functions, sequences, polynomials, matrices. Other nontrivial categories are derivatives, integrals, limits, equations, series, probabilities, abstract algebra.

Since most problems belong to more than one category, and it's sometimes not clear what category a problem belongs to, these stats are purely qualitative.