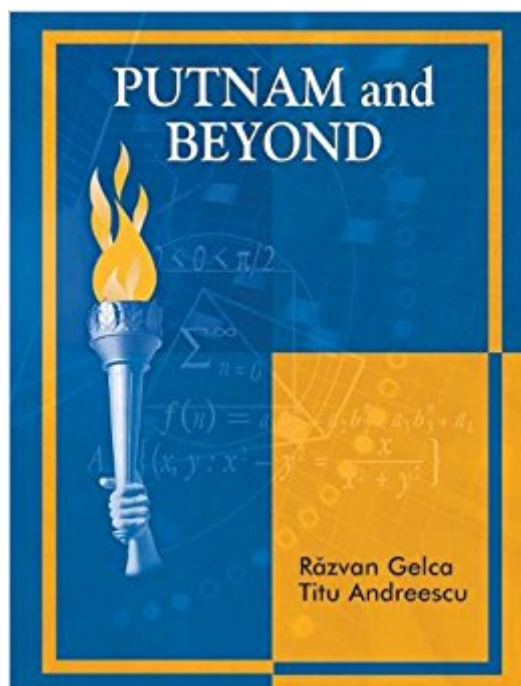


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Putnam And Beyond



Synopsis

Putnam and Beyond takes the reader on a journey through the world of college mathematics, focusing on some of the most important concepts and results in the theories of polynomials, linear algebra, real analysis in one and several variables, differential equations, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, elementary number theory, combinatorics, and probability. Using the W.L. Putnam Mathematical Competition for undergraduates as an inspiring symbol to build an appropriate math background for graduate studies in pure or applied mathematics, the reader is eased into transitioning from problem-solving at the high school level to the university and beyond, that is, to mathematical research.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are many books on problem solving. The majority are aimed at junior high and high school students preparing for either the International Mathematical Olympiad or national IMO selection tests (the American Mathematics Contests in the United States, such as the USAMO). A select few, such as Problem Solving through Problems by Loren Larson, are aimed at university students preparing for university competitions. This book, as the title suggests, belongs to this latter category, and it has a particular emphasis on the sorts of problems that occur on the Putnam exams. This book is generally written at a higher level than most other problem solving books. Many problem solving books place a great emphasis on geometry. Just as the Putnam exam generally replaces synthetic geometry with analysis and abstract and linear algebra (although there are exceptions), so

this book replaces the traditional focus on geometry with a focus on analysis and algebra. That said, there is an entire chapter on geometry, but it does not discuss synthetic geometry, instead focusing on vectors, the geometry of the complex plane, analytic geometry, and some special topics that are especially relevant to college mathematics (integrals in geometry, some higher-level results such as the fact that all conics are rational curves, and a brief but still substantive survey of trigonometric substitutions). Putnam and Beyond discusses many areas of college mathematics that are likely to appear on the Putnam exam but would never appear on the IMO, such as abstract algebra, linear algebra, and real analysis (with a very tiny bit of complex analysis). That said, this book still does overlap a bit with many other problem solving books.

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