

Chronicles from the Web

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The myth of mathematicians' splendid isolation

- The highest level of mathematics research is still seen as a solitary activity.
- Yet innovations made possible by technological advancement and set up by mathematicians, and quite often actively supported by influential members of the community, have been creating new modes of mathematical production and harnessing the power of social computing.
- The power of these innovations comes from developing collective intelligence through sharing information and understanding.
- Newgroups (sci.math, etc.), mailing lists (FOM, DMANET, etc.), online fora (MathLinks, Ask Dr. Math, etc.), blogs (Tao's *What's new*, Baez' *This Week's Finds*, the n -Category Café, etc.), and the Polymath projects are samples of these innovations.
- In this talk, we will focus on one of the most effective innovations so far: MathOverflow (shortly, MO).

[N12] M. Nielsen, *Reinventing discovery: The new era of networked science*, Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012.

[GN09] T. Gowers and M. Nielsen, *Massively collaborative mathematics*, Nature **461** (2009), 879–881.

MathOverflow: What is it?

- An interactive Q&A website for (mostly) professional mathematicians, which serves both as a collaborative blog and an online community.
- It allows users to ask questions and submit (“post”) answers.
- In particular, it awards Karma for good questions and good answers, as the ones and the others can be rated by users, who are accordingly credited merit points for their activity on the website.
- A typical response is an informal dialogue, allowing error and speculation, rather than pretending rigorous mathematical arguments. Yet, the community works hard to maintain fairly high standards, so professionals stay interested and involved.
- Elected monitors are established within the community, and experienced users are able to flag comments and posts for moderators’ attention.
- Contributions of enthusiastic users and active and proactive debates taking place on “MathOverflow Meta”, a dual website explicitly designed, e.g., for discussing the policy of MO or creating a consensus around “sensible questions”.

Before logging in

The screenshot shows the MathOverflow website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MathOverflow logo and links for Questions, Tags, Users, Badges, Unanswered, and Ask Question. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "Here's how it works:" which includes a "Sign up" button and three icons representing the site's functionality: "Anybody can ask a question", "Anybody can answer", and "The best answers are voted up and rise to the top".

The main content area is titled "Explore Our Questions" and features a list of questions with their respective tags, scores, and view counts. The questions listed are:

- Properties of the solution of Heat equation**: 96 views, 1 vote, 0 answers. Tags: `fu.functional-analysis`, `ap.analysis-of-pdes`, `real-analysis`, `parabolic-pde`. Modified 3 mins ago by `tankeemtoone` (134).
- Beginners level combinatorics: Using Binomial Coefficient in poker**: 11 views, -1 vote, 0 answers. Tags: `co.combinatorics`, `recreational-mathematics`, `combinatorial-game-theory`. Asked 23 mins ago by `Naah 1`.
- Invariant Laurent polynomials under cyclic group action**: 106 views, 3 votes, 1 answer. Tags: `gr.group-theory`, `rt.representation-theory`, `lie-algebras`, `finite-groups`, `invariant-theory`. Unanswered 1 hour ago by `Georgios Kaniaris` (193).

On the right side of the page, there is a "200 People Chatting" section with a link to "Homotopy Theory" and a "Recent Tags" section listing various mathematical tags with their respective counts.

- Extremely friendly interface.
- A list of hot tags (particularly useful for statistics...).
- A list of most recent questions asked, answered, or edited.
- A link to the chat where mathematicians from all around the world do typically discuss questions posted on the forum.

After logging in

The screenshot shows the MathOverflow website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'StackExchange' logo on the left and the 'mathoverflow' logo in the center. To the right of the logo are navigation tabs: 'Questions', 'Tags', 'Users', 'Badges', and 'Unanswered'. Further right is an 'Ask Question' button and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled 'Top Questions' and features a list of questions. Each question entry includes a vote count (e.g., 6, 1, 31, -2, 5, 3), an answer count (e.g., 5, 0, 6, 0, 1, 0), and a title. The first question is 'Finite groups with elements of the same order' by Denis Serre. The second is 'Properties of the solution of Heat equation' by t3. The third is 'Good lattice theory books?' by William DeMeo. The fourth is 'Beginners level combinatorics: Using Binomial Coefficient in poker' by Taah. The fifth is 'Difference stencils approximating Laplacian' by David Ketcheson. The sixth is 'When a Riemannian manifold with boundary is an Alexandrov space?' by alexandru-geometry. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Blog' section with a post titled 'How To Target Job Listings Effectively'. Below the blog is a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section with a link to 'number-theory'. At the bottom right, there is a '200 People Chatting' section showing a list of users and a 'MathOverflow' logo.

- A menu summarizing the credits awarded to the user.
- Links to detailed statistics concerning users' profile and activity.

User's profile

StackExchange

1,631 • 5 • 18 review help user11022

mathoverflow


Questions
Tags
Users
Badges
Unanswered
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1,631 REPUTATION

Salvo Tringali top 0% this year

Not all those who wander are lost.

23 answers
60 questions
~23k people reached

- @ CHSL, Ecole polytechnique, France
- + Member for 4 years, 4 months
- + 1,617 profile views
- + Last seen 18 secs ago
- + visited 699 days, 10 consecutive

Communities (4)

- + [MathOverflow](#) 1.6k
- + [Mathematics](#) 875
- + [English Language...](#) 108
- + [Text - LaTeX](#) 101

Edit list →

Top Tags (35)

nt.number-theory	score 42	posts 26	posts 31
reference-request	score 4	posts 55	gr.group-theory score 4 posts 13
ca.combinatorics	score 3	posts 8	additive-combinatorics score 3 posts 8
ca.analysis-and-odes	score 3	posts 8	ca.analysis-and-odes score 3 posts 8

[View all tags →](#)

Top Network Posts

- + 22 Correspondences between Sierpinski gaskets and topological spaces
- + 10 Proof of self-symmetric maps A exhibits $A^2 \cong A$
- + 7 Locally Lipschitz implies Lipschitz under equivalent metrics?
- + 5 Is there a name for this identity involving series?

[View more network posts →](#)

Newest Posts (83)

	Questions	Answers	Views	Revised
A 2 Reference for a strong intermediate value theorem for measures			nov 10	
A 5 A result of Stepifanil on non-atomic measures			nov 10	
B 5 Embedding abelian cancellative Hausdorff topological semigroups into abelian Hausdorff topological groups			nov 6	
A 4 A result of Stepifanil on non-atomic measures			nov 3	
B 2 Reference request: Carousou properties of real-valued set functions (measures, densities, etc.)			sep 25	
G 15 Approximating integers with prime quotients			sep 22	
B 2 Terminology for torsion semigroups where the order of elements is uniformly finite			jul 20	

User's activity

Stack Overflow 1,631 + 0 + 18 review help user123456789

mathoverflow Questions Tags Users Badges Unanswered Ask Question

Profile Activity Load Profile & Settings View User View Profile Salvo Tringali

REPUTATION 1,631 Top 0% this year

Top tag **algebraic-geometry** 27 questions and answers

Next privilege: 2,000 Rep. **Get questions and answers**

BADGES

Contributor Yearling

IMPACT -236 people helped

1 post edited 0 helpful flags 19 votes cast

summary answers questions tags badges profiles reputation all actions responses votes

Questions (80) view activity recent

- On the Independence of lower and upper asymptotic and Bana...
- Orderability of $(a, b] \cap \mathbb{N}^m = \mathbb{N}^m$ and ...
- On the irrationality measure of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a^n$
- Who was/where the first to note that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x^n < \infty$ then the ...
- Expected symmetry in the diophantine approximations of an irr...

View more

Answers (23) view activity recent

- Sums of sets of lower density 0
- Approximating integers with prime quotients
- Sums of two squares: positive lower density?
- Applications of Liouville's theorem
- Perturbation theory for the generalized eigenvalue problem

View more

Accounts (4)

Reputation (1,631) top 0% this year

- A result of Siegel on non-atomic measures
- Embedding abelian cancellative Hausdorff topological semigr...
- Unicity of additive, (-1) -homogeneous, and shift invariant pr...
- Sums of sets of lower density 0

View more

Tags (55)

- algebraic-geometry = 28
- reference-request = 23
- group-theory = 12
- linear-algebra = 3
- math-np = 3
- algebra = 2
- axiomatic-set-theory = 2
- additive-combinatorics = 11
- order-theory = 3
- operator-algebras = 3
- axiomatic-set-theory = 3
- axiomatic-set-theory = 3

View more


Badges (21) more less none

Early history and development

- MO was created by Berkeley graduate students and postdocs Anton Geraschenko, David Zureick-Brown, and Scott Morrison, and first went online in September 2009.
- About two years later (in June 2011), MO joins the Stack Exchange network (first launched by Atwood and Spolsky in 2009).
- MO didn't start out as a *professional* mathematics Q&A site. It started out wanting to be one. In particular, it had to:
 - ◊ Defend against wave after wave of “trolls” (most notably including undergraduate calculus students posting for homework help...).
 - ◊ Discourage and defy a certain propensity of the community to become an open discussion forum for mathematicians (and of individuals to behave as smart asses...).
- As hoped, it expanded very quickly, involving many famous mathematicians around the world, including a number of Fields medalists.

Illustrious users: Terry Tao


StackExchange
sign up log in tour help
user:706



[Questions](#)
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38,786 REPUTATION

● 13
● 170
● 259

Terry Tao

top 0.28% overall

Professor of Mathematics at UCLA

256 answers

30 questions

~1.3m people reached

- 📍 Los Angeles
- 📧 math.ucla.edu/~tao
- 📅 Member for 6 years, 1 month
- 👁️ 94,888 profile views
- 🕒 Last seen 1 hour ago

Communities (1)

- [MathOverflow](#) 38.8k

Top Network Posts

We respect a laser-like focus on one topic.

Top Tags (182)

nt.number-theory	SCORE 865	POSTS 51	POSTS % 18
ca.analysis-and...	SCORE 497	POSTS 25	fourier-analysis
prime-numbers	SCORE 297 POSTS 16	pr.probability	SCORE 291 POSTS 17
co.combinatorics	SCORE 221 POSTS 28		

View all tags →

Illustrious users: Tim Gowers

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16,542

REPUTATION

15
104
153

gowers

top 3% overall

Mathematics professor at Cambridge

154 answers

42 questions

~1.1m people reached

[gowers.wordpress.com](#)

Member for 6 years, 1 month

33,475 profile views

Last seen 7 hours ago

Communities (1)

MathOverflow
16.5k

Top Tags (132)

nt.number-theory	SCORE 155	POSTS 19	POSTS % 10
set-theory	SCORE 150	POSTS 11	lo.logic
co.combinatorics	SCORE 134 POSTS 27	ca.analysis-and-odes	SCORE 134 POSTS 10
fa.functional-analysis	SCORE 113 POSTS 8		

[View all tags](#) →

Top Network Posts


We respect a laser-like focus on one topic.

Illustrious users: Curtis T. McMullen

StackExchange sign up log in tour help

mathoverflow Questions Tags Users Badges Unanswered Ask Question

Profile Activity Network Profile



464 REPUTATION

3 5

Curtis McMullen top 26% this quarter

Apparently, this user prefers to keep an air of mystery about them.

5 answers 0 questions ~2k people reached

- Member for 2 years, 6 months
- 255 profile views
- Last seen Nov 3 at 4:22

Communities (4)

- MathOverflow 404
- Mathematica 118
- Ask Different 111
- Academia 101

Top Tags (11)

complex-geometry	SCORE 23	POSTS 2	POSTS % 40					
gn.general-top...	SCORE 19	POSTS 2	ag.algebraic-ge...	SCORE 16	POSTS 2			
20-questions	SCORE 13	POSTS 1	dg.differential-geo...	SCORE 10	POSTS 1	riemann-surfaces	SCORE 10	POSTS 1


Top Network Posts View all tags →

Illustrious users: Bill Thurston (1946-2012)

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mathoverflow Questions Tags Users Badges Unanswered Ask Question

Profile Activity Network Profile



19,342 REPUTATION

9 72 108

Bill Thurston

top 2% overall

Bill Thurston (1946-2012)

I'm a professor at Cornell. I've previously been at Princeton, Berkeley, MSRI, and UC Davis. Mathematics is a process of staring hard enough with enough perseverance at the fog of muddle and confusion to eventually break through to improved clarity. I'm happy when I can admit, at least to myself, that my thinking is muddled, and I try to overcome the embarrassment that I might reveal ignorance or confusion. Over the years, this has helped me develop clarity in some things, but I remain muddled in many

125 answers **7** questions **~283k** people reached

Cornell University

Member for 5 years, 2 months

35,102 profile views

Last seen Feb 22 '12 at 21:49

Communities (1)

MathOverflow 19.3k

Top Network Posts

We respect a laser-like focus on one topic.

Top Tags (102)

dg.differential-geometry	SCORE 427	POSTS 23	POSTS % 17
gr.group-theory	SCORE 238	POSTS 19	
reference-req...	SCORE 231	POSTS 12	
gt-geometric-topol...	SCORE 225	POSTS 10	
ds.dynamical-syste...	SCORE 222	POSTS 12	
mg.metric-geometry	SCORE 206	POSTS 12	

View all tags →

Milestones and coarse statistics (updated to Nov 18, 2015)

meta.mathoverflow.net/questions/733/history-of-mathoverflow

History of MathOverflow

25 Milestones

- September 28, 2009: MathOverflow goes online
- October 10, 2009: MathOverflow is announced at the Secret Blogging Seminar
- December 2009: Greg Kuperberg became the first user to reach 10k reputation
- June 2010: featured in the AMS Notices.
- October 2010: 10000 users
- June 2012: 10000 posts
- June 24, 2013: MathOverflow joined SE network
- September 17, 2014: Joel David Hamkins becomes the first user to reach 100k reputation.

Moderators

September 2009 - October 2009: Anton Geraschenko, David Zureick-Brown, Daniel Erman and Scott Morrison

October 2009 - June 2010: Anton Geraschenko, Ben Webster, David Zureick-Brown, Daniel Erman and Scott Morrison

June 2010 - October 2013: Anton Geraschenko, Ben Webster, David Zureick-Brown, François G. Dorais, S. Camahan and Scott Morrison

October 2013 - present: Ben Webster, David Zureick-Brown, François G. Dorais, S. Camahan, Scott Morrison, Mariano Suárez-Alvarez and Todd Trimble

share edited Sep 17 '14 at 10:57 community wiki 9 revs, 2 users 80% Martin Sleddak

Linked

- 115 Anton's departure as moderator
- 11 Development of the MathOverflow community
- 4 Viewed 67507 Times

Related

- 13 Frequently Asked Questions: MathOverflow FAQ
- 15 Is there a consensus on whether history of mathematics questions are acceptable on MO?
- 4 Soft question on history of Cohen-Macaulay rings
- 66 Best of MathOverflow
- 38 What shall we do with stone soup?
- 7 Frequently asked questions about tagging on MathOverflow
- 18 Area 51 proposal: History of Science And Mathematics
- 16 History of Math and Science SE is in commit stage
- 6 Proposed question: In the math history books of the future, what will be written about the years 1960-2010?
- 7 What points should someone think about before joining MathOverflow?

- Questions: 66k.
- Answers: 106k.
- Answered questions: 78%.
- Users: 49k.

Exceptional users: Hamkins' records (updated to Nov 18, 2015)

On September 17th, 2014, **Joel David Hamkins** became the first user on MathOverflow with more than 100000 points. Congratulations!

15

mathoverflow Questions Tags **Users** Badges Unanswered Ask Question

Joel David Hamkins [less info](#)

meta user

network profile



bio website jdh.hamkins.org
 location New York City
 age
 visits member for 4 years, 10 months
 seen 6 mins ago
 stats profile views 46,909

100,018

reputation

• 13 • 268 • 479

I am a professor at the City University of New York, at the College of Staten Island and the CUNY Graduate Center, living in midtown Manhattan. My main research interest lies in mathematical logic, particularly set theory, focusing on the mathematics and philosophy of the infinite. A principal concern has been the interaction of forcing and large cardinals, two central concepts in set theory. I have worked in group theory and its interaction with set theory in the automorphism tower problem, and in computability theory, particularly the infinitary theory of infinite time Turing machines. Recently, I am preoccupied with the set-theoretic multiverse, engaging with the emerging field known as the philosophy of set theory.

(It seems the "deciding" vote was cast on <http://mathoverflow.net/a/172711/>.)

share

edited Sep 17 '14 at 15:27

community wiki

3 revs, 3 users 33%

quid

- Current Karma: ~ 118k.
- Current answers: 1260.
- Current questions: 58.

In the words of mathematicians

- MO describes itself as “A place for mathematicians to ask and answer questions.”
- Terence Tao on *What's new* characterized MO as akin to “the venerable newsgroup *sci.math*, but with more modern, ‘Web 2.0’ features.”
- John C. Baez writes that “MO has become a universal clearinghouse for math questions.”
- According to Gil Kalai, MO “is run by an energetic and impressive group of very (very very) young people.”
- Jordan Ellenberg comments that MO “offers a constantly changing array of new questions” and is “addictive” in a “particularly pure form”.
- Bill Johnson describes MO as “a good resource for mathematics and a fun place as well” (find it tepid? Think again, as B.J. is one of the most active MO users!).

1124581

1124581

1124581

1124581

Illustrious users: William Bill Johnson

StackExchange
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user:2554

Questions
Tags
Users
Badges
Unanswered
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20,061 REPUTATION

● 2
● 52
● 105

Bill Johnson top 2% overall

Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at Texas A&M University

306 answers **9** questions **~473k** people reached

- 📍 Texas A&M
- 📧 math.tamu.edu/~johnson
- 📅 Member for 5 years, 11 months
- 👁️ 10,636 profile views
- 🕒 Last seen 46 mins ago

Communities (1)

MathOverflow 20.1k

Top Meta Posts 4 Q

- 19 Best of MathOverflow
- 12 Best of MathOverflow
- 9 Big list of feature requests and suggestions for a fantasy MO 3.0

Top Tags (112)

fa.functional-analysis	SCORE 1,045	POSTS 189	POSTS % 60
banach-spaces	SCORE 760	POSTS 151	
gn.general-top...	SCORE 148	POSTS 28	
mg.metric-geometry	SCORE 102	POSTS 16	
pr.probability	SCORE 90	POSTS 15	
real-analysis	SCORE 91	POSTS 11	

[View all tags](#) →

Why getting involved with MO

- Researchers from all over the world and at any level (from PhD students to Fields medalists) pose questions related to their own research, such as:
 - ◊ Questions about well-known, aimed at getting a feeling of the state-of-the-art on the subject and understanding, e.g., if there are (i) interesting subquestions they may try to approach or (ii) strategies that have already been attempted, and if so why they have failed.
 - ◊ Open questions that have been passed unnoticed or are known to a restricted circle of specialists, but not particularly famous out of a specific domain.
 - ◊ Questions about a technical (and potentially false!) lemma needed in the proof of something intricate, for which people in one's circle haven't provided any useful advice.
 - ◊ References to existing results that imply or subsume one's own result (so to include it in the bibliography or understand if it is worth of something or not).
- This has eventually led to a number of collaborations and resulted in publications in top-tier journals where at least significant progress has been made on long-standing open problems and conjectures.
- Responses often present information from experts in a specific field, and are readily checked by other users: the effectiveness of MO comes from information sharing.

Preprints on very famous conjectures: “Strong claims need strong evidence”

The screenshot shows a MathOverflow question page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'StackExchange' logo, user avatars, and search. The main header features the 'mathoverflow' logo and navigation tabs for 'Questions', 'Tags', 'Users', 'Badges', and 'Unanswered', along with an 'Ask Question' button. The question title is 'Philosophy behind Mochizuki's work on the ABC conjecture'. The question body states: 'Mochizuki has recently announced a proof of the ABC conjecture. It is far too early to judge its correctness, but it builds on many years of work by him. Can someone briefly explain the philosophy behind his work and comment on why it might be expected to shed light on questions like the ABC conjecture?'. The question has 202 votes, 146 views, and is tagged with 'ag.algebraic-geometry', 'nt.number-theory', 'intuition', 'motivation', and 'exposition'. It is marked as 'protected' by Todd Trimble on May 2, 2014. The question has 5 revisions and 3 users (66% by James D. Taylor). On the right, there's a 'Blog' section with a link to 'How To Target Job Listings Effectively' and a '205 People Chatting' section with links to 'Homotopy Theory' and 'MathOverflow'. At the bottom, there are three comments: comment 22 by @quid, comment 21 by META tea, and comment 05 by @quid.

Likewise, MO is faster than any traditional channel of discussion in “broadcasting the news” when it comes to “novel mathematics”, while maintaining a very prudential policy, particularly with papers claiming to solve fundamental problems.

Very famous conjectures discussed on MO

The screenshot shows a MathOverflow question page. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'StackExchange', a search bar, and user statistics (1,631 points, 8 questions, 18 answers). The main header features the 'mathoverflow' logo and navigation buttons for 'Questions', 'Tags', 'Users', 'Badges', 'Unanswered', and 'Ask Question'.

The question title is 'Riemann hypothesis via absolute geometry'. It has 68 votes, 1 star, and 38 answers. The question text asks for an outline of a proof of the Riemann hypothesis using absolute algebraic geometry over the field of one element, mentioning mathematicians like Yuri Manin, Mochizuki, and Durov. It also asks for ideas on the folklore sketch of the proof and whether there is any envisioned progress in the motivic picture based on Grothendieck's work.

Metadata for the question includes tags 'ag.algebraic-geometry', 'nt.number-theory', and 'f4'. It was asked on Jul 3 '11 at 12:07 and has 3,536 views, 26 answers, and 30 votes. The asker is Zoran Skoda.

On the right side, there is a sidebar with 'asked 4 years ago', 'viewed 4992 times', and 'active 4 years ago'. Below this is a 'Blog' section with links to 'How To Target Job Listings Effectively', 'Anonymity Policy', 'Warning on increased disruptive activities', and 'Disappearing "Hi!''.

At the bottom right, there is a '206 People Chatting' section with links to 'Homotopy Theory' (44 mins ago - Saul Glasman) and 'MathOverflow' (yesterday - Rajesh D).

At the bottom of the question, the first answer is partially visible, starting with '12 Just two comments. First, I am not sure that the abo-conjecture is in any way stronger than the Riemann Hypothesis. Second, I am skeptical about all algebraic or algebro-geometric attempts for the RH. People working in these fields often don't realize that automorphic L-functions conjecturally satisfy the RH (and

Up to Nov 18, 2015: More than 600 questions related to the Riemann hypothesis and generalizations thereof (most of them very technical and instructive).

Not especially open problems discussed on MO

mathoverflow

[Questions](#)
[Tags](#)
[Users](#)
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[Ask Question](#)

Not especially famous, long-open problems which anyone can understand

203 ▲

Question: I'm asking for a big list of not especially famous, long open problems that anyone can understand. Community wiki, so one problem per answer, please.

▼ **Motivation:** I plan to use this list in my teaching, to motivate general education undergraduates, and early year majors, suggesting to them an idea of what research mathematicians do.

☆ **Meaning of "not too famous"** Examples of problems that are too famous might be the Goldbach conjecture, the $3x + 1$ -problem, the twin-prime conjecture, or the chromatic number of the unit-distance graph on \mathbb{R}^2 . Roughly, if there exists a whole monograph already dedicated to the problem (or narrow circle of problems), no need to mention it again here. I'm looking for problems that, with high probability, a mathematician working outside the particular area has never encountered.

Meaning of: anyone can understand The statement (in some appropriate, but reasonably terse formulation) shouldn't involve concepts beyond (American) K-12 mathematics. For example, if it weren't already too famous, I would say that the conjecture that "finite projective planes have prime power order" does have barely acceptable articulations.

Meaning of: long open The problem should occur in the literature or have a solid history as folklore. So I do not mean to call here for the invention of new problems or to collect everybody's laundry list of private-research-impeding unproved elementary technical lemmas. There should already exist at least of small community of mathematicians who will care if one of these problems gets solved.

I hope I have reduced subjectivity to a minimum, but I can't eliminate all fuzziness – so if in doubt please don't hesitate to post!

To get started, here's a problem that I only learned of recently and that I've actually enjoyed describing to general education students.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union-closed_sets_conjecture

Edit: I'm primarily interested in conjectures - yes-no questions, rather than classification problems, quests for algorithms, etc.

signal
insoluble
open-problems-etc

share cite edit flag
edited Jun 7 at 17:53
community wiki
5 revs, 4 users 100%
David Feldman

asked 3 years ago
viewed 33109 times
active 7 days ago

Blog

[How to Target Job Listings Effectively](#)

Featured on Meta

[Anonymity Policy](#)

[Warning on increased disruptive activities](#)

Hot Meta Posts

25 [Disappearing "Hi"](#)

207 People Chatting

[Homology Theory](#)

13 mins ago - [Jon Seardsley](#)

[MathOverflow](#)

yesterday - [Rajesh D](#)

Linked

- 14 [What's your favorite equation, formula, identity or inequality?](#)
- 27 [Examples of seemingly elementary problems that are hard to solve?](#)
- 10 [Is there a dense subset of the real plane with all pairwise distances rational?](#)
- 27 [Convergence of \$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \(n^k \ln n\)^{-1}\$](#)

100 open problems have been listed and for some of them there has been substantial progress by active users on MO, though not major experts in the specific area.

Publishing and publishers

- According to a 2013 study commissioned by various publishers, MO is very effective: 90% of questions are answered completely or in part, and a nontrivial percentage of discussions address an error in work that has already appeared in print.
- Accordingly, there are initiatives by various publishers of research mathematics interested in creating a multiparty collaboration with MO to:
 - ◊ automatically capture citations entered on the website;
 - ◊ republish them as linked open data.
- In particular, this would help maintain annotation repositories allowing publishers to make mathematicians coming to their websites aware of MO discussions potentially relevant to the papers they are viewing, and so ultimately to their research work.

Thank you for your attention!