



BALTIC OLYMPIADS IN INFORMATICS: CHALLENGES FOR TRAINING TOGETHER

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- Informatics education around the Baltic Sea
 - In paper only
- Organization of a BOI contest
- Tasks of BOI
- Conclusions



INTRODUCTION – GOALS

- Regional meeting
 - Both for contestants and leaders
- Practice
 - International experience for IOI teams
 - Including tasks from non-local sources
- Qualification
 - BOI teams larger than IOI teams



INTRODUCTION – HISTORY

- Regional contest
 - 1995: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
 - 1997: Poland
 - 1998: Finland, Sweden
 - 2000: Denmark
 - 2001: Germany
 - 2003: Norway
- Occasional guest teams
 - USA, Israel, Switzerland



ORGANIZATION

- Small informal event
 - No written regulations, no official syllabus
 - Tradition, consensus, reference to IOI practice
- Tasks pooled by participating teams
 - Proposals and discussions by e-mail
 - Translations done at home (helps with schedule)
- Schedule a bit compressed compared to IOI
 - Opening, practice
 - First competition
 - Second competition
 - Excursion, closing



TASKS – TYPES

- Mostly standard batch-type
- Some exceptions
 - Testing – discover and re-implement all bugs in a given binary for solving a given problem
 - Protocol design – develop a data compressor and decompressor pair to work together
 - Game programming contest – a side event to the main contest; grading by tournament; team event
 - Robot programming contest – a side event to the main contest; team event



BOI TASKS – TOPICS

	1995– 1999	2000– 2004	2005– 2008	Total
Combinatorial search	9	3	2	14
Dynamic programming	3	6	9	18
Graph theory	5	9	5	19
Mathematics	3	5	2	10
Ad hoc	10	7	6	23
Total	30	30	24	



CONCLUSIONS

- Similar to IOI yet different
 - Some goals same
 - Some goals different
 - Size does matter?
- Overall a positive experience
 - For regions not having something like that, we recommend you try it
 - Caution: you might like it 😊



THANK YOU

- Questions? Comments?

