

Team Reflection

Contest 1:

In the first contest we received the lowest grade of all team contests. I believe this was due to the fact that we were getting to know each other and our strengths and weaknesses. This contest was crucial to learning more about each other and led to improvement over time in future contests. We did not really prepare for this contest as we were focusing on developing a strong foundation of teamwork for future contests.

Contest 2:

After a bad performance in the first competition we tried to prepare more for the second week and it somewhat showed in terms of our team working capabilities and the ideas that we were talking about in the competition. We slightly improved our score but we are not sure if we can attribute that to more preparation or better team work.

Contest 3:

In the third team contest we were already a lot more comfortable and familiar with each other's problem solving strategies and patterns when it came down to problem selection. We received a much higher score in this competition and we can affirmatively attribute this one to teamwork as we worked fluidly through the problems. We also spent some time upsolving and it shows in future competitions as well.

Contest 4:

We came in more prepared and now definitely being more used to each we were able to better focus on the contest problems. This reflects as this was our highest contest grade thus far. Geometry is hard and two of our team members had to carry most of the work as one of us had not done advanced geometry such as what was asked for in the problems. Like most teams we got squirrels done first as that was relatively easy, but the problems got more complex. Convex hull was a bit hard to wrap our heads around at first but after a while we were able to up-solve it and get it down.

Contest 5:

We did a bit worse than we would've liked, possibly attributed to getting a little burnt out from school in general. The contest problems had less geometry this week so everyone was more on hand, but the problems were still pretty hard regardless. It was a bit hard always trying to figure out the way we should implement a binary search to solve the problem but once we broke down the problems more and reevaluated our approach we were able to solve them.

Contest 6:

Our final competition was maybe one of our best ones yet not only in terms of score but also in terms of how we worked as a team. We all knew exactly what sort of problems we all like to do and it allowed us to spend less time organizing and more time solving. In the end, our team worked very well together and improved greatly over the course of the 6 competitions.