

Dear Students,

It's hard to believe that after 11 years, the camp is ending. Each year our staff has produced roughly 50 original problems per camp. After probably 550 problems or so, we hope you enjoy our last compilation of problems. I thought more problems with more stories would be fun, so this is the largest camp set ever. We tried our best to incorporate elements from camp in the set. Sorry, there is no problem about the mafia. They would have killed me if I outed them! Seriously though, had I visited the pod earlier, maybe I would have written one. Perhaps you'll see it if you attend our high school contest next Spring!

I've always had a passion for academic competitions as I think they push students to improve their quantitative and creative thinking skills. Ultimately, I think society is served well by students who think critically, can carefully enumerate possibilities, and thoroughly think through solutions for possible types of problems. Moreover, it's just fun to take learning and put it in a competitive environment. (Well, maybe not for everyone, but I liked providing the camp for those who did enjoy it.)

COVID drastically affected the participation both math and computer science competitions that I've worked with and none of the competitions, either at the middle school or high school level have fully recovered. I hope that many of you enjoyed the camp, and I hope that not only will you participate in various programming competitions in the future, but that you're able to convince like-minded friends to do the same, so that these competitions that I've enjoyed since childhood as well as the ones I now coach see higher participation from a more broad segment of the population.

Even if you don't love programming competitions, I hope that the challenges we've presented and the environment we've created have helped you learn about the type of work ethic necessary to get really good at something. In addition to the critical thinking and creative skills that I believe the camp enhances, I also think seeing models of how to improve and master a particular skill is extremely valuable.

Hope you enjoy this final camp contest and hope to see many of you at our high school programming contest, and maybe, once you get to college, at UCF or at an ICPC competition!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Arup Ratan Guha'.

Arup Ratan Guha 7/24/2025