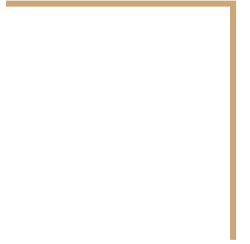# Competition Strategies

Martin (Veg) Tran

# Pre-contest

# Pre-contest (before Saturday)

- Make sure you're signed up!

  - Double check your EventBrite tickets and make sure the teams are also correct

- Make/find yourself a code book of common algorithms & math formulas

  - Wen's *very* detailed codebook can be found on our website

- Have an easily accessible copy of any editor configs you might have

# Pre-contest (day of CCPC)

- Use the lunch hour before the start to setup your dev environment

- Print all your resources so everything is ready when the clock hits 1:00pm

  - Remember: NO ELECTRONIC RESOURCES ALLOWED!

  - Printing is unlimited so print as much as you need

- Coordinate how your team will split up problems

  - Know the strengths & weaknesses of each member

# The First Few Minutes

- Write down the expected difficulty & algorithm / type of question for each problem

  - Use this to quickly decide how to split the problems among yourselves

- Solve the easy problems ASAP to reduce your time penalties

- It is usually better to work on separate problems at first rather than trying to collaborate

# Solving a Problem

- Psuedocode your solutions on paper before typing it up

- Make your own test cases before submitting

  - The sample inputs almost *never* show the hidden edge cases!

- If you get it wrong, print out your code and let another teammate use the computer

  - Don't try to debug on the computer - just step back and manually run through your algorithm

# After the First Few Problems

- Harder problems typically need more specialized algorithms

- This is when it might be a better idea to brainstorm with the whole team

- Check the leaderboards to see what else people have solved

  - There's no shame in doing this - it is often very useful for catching up

# As the End Nears...

- If you're stuck in a problem and there's only a few minutes left, just submit!

    - There's no penalty if you don't get a problem

    - It's *always* better to solve a problem with 100 wrong answers than to not solve it at all

- Don't give up!

    - Some problems might be *very* quick to code when you see the trick

# Good Luck, Have Fun!

# Today's Practice Contest

http://psc.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/practice/2018-03-14/

Username: CalgaryX

Password: teamX

Pick -1 < x < 11

Tell me if you want a cooler name