As we compete on the home site, we don’t have to travel, also since it is a week after final exams, we have time to prepare and rest before the contest day.
First hour into the competition, it wasn’t going too smoothly for us. The top teams already have around 5-6 problems solved, while we lagged behind by 2 problems. Also, we had some unsuccessful submissions, which raised our penalty up.
In the second hour, we focus on problem D, code a wrong solution for it, got TLE, then after optimizing for a while, we realize that the solution we have is for a different problem. We fix it, however with the cost of 4 wrong submissions and a lot of wasted time.
After that, Ming start coding on problem G, while Johnny read problem C. He found the solution for C is very simple after understanding the problem statement, so he has to double-check again. Problem G is a bit tricky since time limit is tight and there is a small detail needed to push the time complexity down to O(n^2). Immediately after we got AC for problem G, Johnny clear problem C in short order.
Using team notebook, we implemented A, which is a standard geometry problem. We all know before that the O(n) solution is not correct, due to a post on Codeforces. However, Johnny got confused and he initially thought that the O(n^2) solution is not correct as well, so he implemented an O(n^2logn) code and of course got TLE for that. Luckily, the fix to O(n^2) is relatively simple and we got it AC just around 10 minutes after half-time of the contest.
By then we realized we are in bad shape because of the penalty so for the remaining problems, we tried to implement them quite carefully. K was implemented first by Tuan, which is a max-flow problem, while Ming and Johnny discussed how to solve I effectively.
By the time we finished problem I, we move to rank 1 on live scoreboard, however, we expected Platelet to overtake us soon due to their penalty advantage.
For the last 90 mins, we took time to implement H, as it required long and careful implementation. By the time we finished problem H, we try to implement E as a team, however, we weren't able to finish the idea in time.
When we look at the final frozen scoreboard, we know that we are at least 2nd place. Overall, minus the slow start, we think that we did quite okay from 2nd hour onwards.
We would like to thank NUS computing school for organizing the contest, as well as Indeed Singapore, Seagroup, Jump Trading, and DRW for sponsoring the event.