Alberta Collegiate Programming Contest 2024 – Division 1
October 2024 – October 2024

I had the opportunity to serve as the **Team Lead** in the **Alberta Collegiate Programming Contest (ACPC) 2024 – Division 1**, an Alberta-wide competition hosted by **Kattis** and sponsored by **ARCURVE**. The event was held onsite at the **University of Calgary**, bringing together **66 contestants** organized into **34 teams** from leading institutions, including the **University of Lethbridge, University of Calgary, University of Alberta, Mount Royal University**, and various high schools across Alberta.

As a **first-year student**, leading my team in this highly competitive environment was both a challenging and rewarding experience. Despite competing against participants with greater experience, I was proud to guide my team to a **12th place finish** in the toughest division. The contest posed a series of **algorithmic challenges** requiring advanced problem-solving techniques. My team primarily utilized **Python** to approach these problems, emphasizing the use of efficient **search and sorting algorithms, dynamic programming**, and **graph traversal methods** under stringent time constraints. This intense environment refined my ability to think critically under pressure and make strategic decisions swiftly.

Throughout the competition, I not only deepened my understanding of core **data structures and algorithms** but also developed essential skills in **leadership, collaboration, and adaptability**. Leading a diverse group of programmers with varying skill levels taught me the importance of **effective communication, delegation, and fostering a collaborative atmosphere** to reach common goals. Additionally, working under real-world constraints has enhanced my **time management and problem prioritization skills**, both critical in a competitive setting.

This experience has fueled my passion for programming competitions and motivated me to continually refine my technical abilities. I look forward to exploring more advanced concepts in algorithm design and competitive coding, as well as seeking out further opportunities to challenge myself in future contests.