

MCM Timeline

Contest Dates: February 8-12,2018 (Thursday - Monday)

1 Contest Timeline

- **Before 3 PM on Feb 8** Registration. This will be done with the help of our academic advisor, who will likely be Ralph Smith. He's going to need info from you, so look out for emails from him!
- **February 8, 5 PM** Contest begins. Questions are released.
- **February 12, 8 PM** Contest ends.
- **February 12, 9 PM** email submission deadline. Please try to email your solution in before 8:30, in case of technical difficulties. The submission email will receiving a lot of last minute emails.
- **At some point during the week, team members will need to sign a control sheet. This says you followed the rules, etc. This will be printed by our advisor.**

2 In Our Experience...

Work, work, work, work, work,
work.

Rihanna

Thursday:

- This is the day we decide on our problem
- Read all the problems in depth, and then do some brainstorming. Think about how you would approach each problem.
- Choose a question that is interesting, but don't get distracted by shiny problems!!! Passion only goes so far if you don't have the tools or know-how to solve a problem.
- Try to brainstorm in depth how you're going to approach your chosen problem. Remember that you CAN switch problems during the contest.

Friday:

- We typically meet after we're done with class and get in a good 6+ hours.
- Finalize your plan of attack- solid planning in the beginning will save you in the panic of the last day or so.
- Use that plan of attack to format the paper. This will also ensure you're addressing everything that is required.
- We end around 7/8 pm. Have some fun :)

Saturday:

- This is a big work day. We typically work 12+ hours on this day
- I would suggest *trying* to get all code running this day
- WORK ON THE PAPER!! It's so much easier to track what you're doing and the assumptions that you're making as you go. You will cry on Monday if you don't.
- Saturday night is the last night that I would advise switching problems. Any later, and it's incredibly difficult to get all the needed analysis done.

Sunday:

- you will be working all day.
- Again, work on the paper.

- If you're feeling incredibly stressed and overwhelmed, evaluate your model. Is there some complexity that can be eliminated?
- Remember to get some sleep.

Monday:

- This day is going to be stressful.
- Do all the work.
- This day will likely be concentrated on paper writing. This will be where you cry if you didn't work on the paper throughout.
- I usually end up skipping some class.
- Try to turn in your email solution before the last 10 minutes.