



THE CONSORTIUM FOR
MATHEMATICS AND
ITS APPLICATIONS

Paper 2630481 Feedback Report

May 07, 2026

Dear Team #2630481,

Congratulations to your team for successfully competing in COMAP's 2026 Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling (ICM)[®]. Your team chose Problem E in this year's contest. Your team competed against a total of 1,650 international teams. During the triage process, the judges rated your paper as a **Honorable Mention**. Among all the teams competing this year, this above-average result is something to be very proud of.

Honorable Mention - The team's solution report indicated an above average effort in addressing all problem requirements, and contained elements that were judged to show sound and supported processes in modeling and problem solving, analysis, conclusions, and communication of results.

This year we piloted a new process to deliver direct feedback from judges to participating teams. We hope this feedback helps you strengthen your modeling skills and better understand your performance and highlight some areas of improvement.

The judges who reviewed your team's paper identified the following **strength(s)**:

- **Executive Summary:** Your executive summary gives readers a clear and accessible overview of the problem, your modeling approach, and your main results. It allows someone unfamiliar with the details to quickly understand what you did and why it matters.
- **Demonstrated Contextual Understanding:** Your paper shows a strong understanding of the real-world context behind the problem. You went beyond the prompt by exploring background information, considering different stakeholders, and connecting your model to meaningful real-world impacts.

- **Assumptions:** Your paper clearly identifies the key assumptions behind your model and explains why each one is reasonable. This helps readers understand how you simplified the problem and how your assumptions support the modeling choices you made.
- **Non-technical document (if applicable):** Your non-technical document clearly communicates recommendations that are grounded in the results of your model. You translate your findings into practical, easy-to-understand language and explain the real-world trade-offs involved, making your conclusions accessible to a non-expert audience.
- **Appropriate Explanations:** Your paper provides clear explanations of both what you did and why you did it. By linking your modeling choices directly to the problem, you help readers understand your thinking and show how your work connects to real-world complexity.
- **Tables & Figures:** Your tables and figures clearly support your analysis by helping readers visualize important patterns and results. You also take the time to explain each visual in the text, making it easy for readers to understand the main takeaways and how the visuals strengthen your argument.
- **Creativity:** Your work shows strong creativity in how you approached the problem. You explored ideas beyond the expected path, using both imaginative thinking and careful reasoning to develop innovative and thoughtful modeling choices.

They also noted the following **area(s) for improvement**:

- **Model Selection:** Your paper would benefit from clearer reasoning for why your chosen methods are appropriate. Explaining why you selected certain models, inputs, or data and describing any adaptations you made, would help readers see that your approach is purposeful rather than just using familiar tools.
- **Model Implementation:** Your paper would be stronger with a clearer explanation of how you applied your model and how well the results match the model's purpose. Adding more reflection on the limitations or uncertainty in your results would help demonstrate a deeper understanding of what your model can and cannot tell you.

We encourage you to review the UMAP Journal contest editions that will be available on the COMAP website which includes the Director's Article and Judges' Commentary later this year. The articles describes what judges look for in the various sections of solutions, along with exemplars for each section.

We hope that this direct feedback will help you reflect on your modeling work and help you to continue to grow as problem solvers. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this year's ICM contest.

We'd love to highlight your team! If you have a photo or short video from your MCM/ICM experience, please share it with us here: <https://forms.comap.org/260955212277055>

Sincerely,



Amanda Beecher

Director of Contests & Outreach, COMAP