

"The challenge was a huge contribution to the research community, providing a massive collection of test instances," the team said in a statement provided to Amazon Science. "In a single post, Amazon made publicly available more real-world examples of the traveling salesman problem than had been collected in total over the past 70 years."

The \$50,000 second-place prize went to Team Permission Denied, comprising a trio of MIT PhD students – [Xiaotong Guo](#), [Qingyi Wang](#), and [Baichuan Mo](#) – while Team Sky is the Limit, comprising [Okan Arslan](#), assistant professor at HEC Montreal and [Rasit Abay](#), a PhD student at the University of New South Wales Canberra, won the \$25,000 third-place prize.

More than 220 teams participated in the competition, with 45 competing in the final round. Overall, the teams represented 71 different universities, and 22 countries. Entrants ranged in academic level from undergraduate to retired faculty.



Team Permission Denied won second place and featured, left to right, Xiaotong Guo, Qingyi Wang, and Baichuan Mo.

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