

Your mission

Ankur Mehta, one of the organizers of the Berkeley Mystery Hunt, has gone missing! We need your help to find him.

We were able to find some of his unpublished research papers scattered about campus. We have collected them for you here in this packet, but there must have been a reason why he hid them where he did. Perhaps you can figure out what he was trying to tell us? We also found his lab notebook. We have begun to digitize its pages; they will be going up on <http://ankursresearch.com> over the course of the day.

Everything seems to be encoded... we're sure these must be clues telling us where he is and what we need to help him. Hopefully you can help us figure out what it all means!

Puzzlehunt structure

The puzzlehunt has two main parts: a runaround (puzzles that must be solved at various locations on campus, which are contained in this packet) and main puzzles (puzzles you can access on the website). You can do these parts concurrently or in whatever order you want. You will have to complete both to finish the hunt. Hitting milestones on the runaround will open up more main puzzles, and solving the runaround metapuzzle will reveal clues about the main round metapuzzles.

The runaround

The runaround begins here, at Sutardja Dai Hall. Here, solve the puzzle in this packet marked with the black star. The answer to the puzzle will be a short phrase that will suggest one or two symbols on the map provided. Once you have determined which symbols, go to that location and find the puzzle that contains that symbol in its header. Its answer will again suggest one or two symbols: find that symbol on the map, go there, solve the appropriate puzzle, and repeat. All of the locations are outside and do not require building access.

When you solve a puzzle whose answer suggests a red octagon (e.g. a Stop Sign), there is no subsequent location. Instead, you will unlock an additional main round puzzle and get a bit of thematic flavor.

You have been given printed copies of each puzzle in this packet. Digital versions are available on the website. Submit the answer to each runaround puzzle on the website. This will allow you to check your answer and allow the organizers to monitor your progress.

As you solve these puzzles, you will likely encounter other teams as well as people attending other Berkeley events. Please be courteous. If you are stuck on a puzzle, please contact us (email or call at (281) UC MHUNT). We estimate that the runaround will take 2 people approximately 3 hours to complete.

The main puzzles

The main puzzles are accessible on the website. Puzzle answers will be a word or short

phrase. Submit the answer via the “submit answer” link on the individual puzzle page. Solving a puzzle will unlock another puzzle. There will also be a regular time unlock of additional puzzles, as well as scheduled hint releases.

The metapuzzles

There is a metapuzzle embedded in the runaround. Submit your answer to this metapuzzle via the “submit meta answer” link on the main page.

Each of the main puzzle answers will be an element of one of three metapuzzles. Submit your answers to the metapuzzles via the “submit meta answer” link on the main page.