

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Name: Dhruv Sharma
Class: The Origin and Evolution of the Universe
Term: Summer 2025

Dhruv took an intensive, two-week course in The Origin and Evolution of the Universe at Columbia University's Pre-College Programs. This course introduced students to cosmology, covering the origin, structure, and evolution of the Universe. Designed for those with a background in physics and math, it examined key observational and theoretical advances, including the expanding Universe, the Big Bang, dark matter and energy, and general relativity's role in shaping space-time. Students engaged with research literature, solved quantitative problems, and explored connections to particle physics and astronomy. Students gained a strong understanding of how scientists model the Universe across time.

It was a pleasure to have Dhruv in class. From the outset, Dhruv displayed a high level of curiosity, focus, and intellectual engagement. He consistently contributed thoughtful comments during discussions and demonstrated a deep interest in understanding the scientific and conceptual underpinnings of cosmology. Dhruv approached each lesson with a positive attitude and a genuine desire to learn, fostering an atmosphere of collaboration and inquiry.

Beyond lectures, Dhruv took full advantage of the program's enrichment activities, including the Journal Club, where students explored recent research and shared ideas about discoveries in cosmology and astrophysics. He also participated in class debates and reflection sessions, approaching complex topics with composure, critical thinking, and respect for differing viewpoints. He demonstrated genuine academic maturity and a willingness to engage deeply with theoretical material and peer dialogue.

For the final project, Dhruv delivered a well-prepared presentation on a current topic in cosmology, combining research insight with clarity of explanation. The project reflected his careful preparation, analytical thinking, and ability to communicate complex concepts effectively.

I am confident that his curiosity and dedication will serve him well in future academic pursuits.

Sincerely,

Paul Sutter

SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

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