Testimonial

12th October 2024

Greetings! My name is Anish Kalsi, and I am currently pursuing a master's in Astrophysics and Cosmology at the University of Padova, Italy. I had the privilege of working with Dr. Maria Dainotti's group for a year, and I would like to share my wonderful experience during this time. I truly consider our collaboration an invaluable opportunity that has significantly contributed to my growth as a researcher and prepared me for future success in my career.

In early 2022, I reached out to Dr. Dainotti on LinkedIn after learning about the exciting opportunities she was offering. She graciously scheduled a meeting, and shortly after, I was assigned a project. It was a great pleasure to join her group, where she placed trust in me from the start and encouraged me to lead a machine learning project focused on classifying GRBs using UVOT and XRT data from the SWIFT satellite. Throughout the project, we had regular weekly meetings to discuss progress, exchange ideas, and refine our approach. My primary focus was on unsupervised machine learning algorithms, and Dr. Dainotti introduced me to her collaborators with expertise in computation and data analysis, who provided invaluable guidance along the way. Later on, colleagues with similar interests joined the project, which further enriched the collaboration.

With Dr. Dainotti's constant guidance and the support of her team, we made significant progress on the project. I particularly remember a time when, while analyzing the datasets, we uncovered some errors and took the initiative to crosscheck the entire dataset. This contribution was recognized as being valuable to the group, and it was deeply appreciated by Dr. Dainotti. As the project neared completion, I found myself juggling it with my bachelor's thesis and defense. Dr. Dainotti was incredibly supportive and understanding of my situation, providing the flexibility I needed to manage both commitments. Her passion for mentoring students was always clear, and her unwavering encouragement gave me the confidence to continue pushing forward in my work despite the challenges.

The project was eventually completed with the help of my colleagues and Dr. Dainotti's consistent motivation. I was given the opportunity to be involved in all stages of the publication process, from writing up our findings to contributing to the final manuscript. By the end, we successfully published our work in MNRAS. Dr. Dainotti's enthusiasm for her research was evident in every aspect of our collaboration, and her tireless dedication to the project served as a constant source of inspiration for me, especially as an early-career researcher.
I am grateful for her support and the learning opportunities she provided throughout our collaboration.

Yours sincerely,
Anish Kalsi