SURYA CHHABRA

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign *May 2027*

Bachelor of Science Astronomy + Data Science and Statistics

LAS James Scholar, Secretary and event coordinator Hindu YUVA

Relevant Courses: Data Science Exploration, Statistics Programming Methods, Probability & Statistics, Statistical Modeling

EXPERIENCE

Founders – Illinois Entrepreneurs – Head of Exploration, UIUC *Sept 2024 – Present*

- Led and recruited a cross-disciplinary team to scope and launch new projects each semester, building a stronger **pipeline of first-time builders** and **expanding community visibility**.
- Built an accessibility vertical and launched the "Exploring Entrepreneurship" series; helped non-startup majors see entrepreneurship as a career path and **grew participation ~4×**.
- Brought Antler investors to campus and ran workshops, fireside, and networking, giving students **direct exposure to pre-seed VC**.

Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC : A branch of UN) *Feb 2025 – Present*

- Built basic **cost and risk estimates** for a proposed Venus mission and compared design options to check feasibility.
- Evaluated sustainability, policy context, and private-sector partnerships to de-risk execution. The team's proposal was accepted **to the International Astronautical Congress (IAC)** for 2025.

Undergraduate Instructor (LAS 101 Intern), College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UIUC *Aug 2025–Nov 2025*

- **Lead weekly classes** for a 11-student cohort of freshmen at UIUC; mentor on **time management, goal setting, and campus navigation**, to make adjustment to campus life smoother
- **Systematized class operations** (rubrics, checklists, templates) to speed grading cycles and keep deliverables on schedule.
- Helped a diverse group of students, provided feedback and adapted lesson plans to provide a smoother high school to college transition

Undergraduate Researcher, UIUC Astronomy (Prof. Leslie Looney) *May 2025–Present*

- Process ALMA IRS3B data in CASA (calibration checks, multiscale tclean) to produce continuum/line FITS cubes and moment maps for **high-resolution structural analysis**.
- Build reproducible imaging pipelines (masking, Briggs/uv-taper choices) and analyze dust–line morphology and gas kinematics to **evaluate evidence for the "badminton-birdie" infall pattern**.

Chief Scientist, NASA L'SPACE Mission Concept Academy *Sept 2024–Dec 2024*

- Drove **science traceability + instrument selection under ~$325M** constraints; owned cross-disciplinary PDR deliverables.
- Delivered **risk matrices**, hardware justification, and schedule (Gantt) across science/eng/ops.

PROJECTS

Collectiv — AI-Powered Community Shopping (Hackathon Winner) *April 2025*

- **Built pooled-order delivery MVP** in <24h; shared-cart + batch routing reduced per-order cost ~60%.
- **Prototyped order parsing, batch grouping, and prompt-based product optimization (Lovable + Adelo).**

SKILLS

- **Analysis**:Regression, ANOVA, hypothesis testing, probability distributions (Poisson/Gamma/Normal), statistical modeling
- **Tools**: Python (pandas, Jupyter), CASA, Excel / Google Sheets, Figma, Notion, R coding, Power point