Kavish Gandhi

REU 2017 Evaluation

**Program:**

I had a wonderful summer at Haystack. I really enjoyed my research; I in particular enjoyed the fact that I was able to pursue a lot of my own ideas, and really define my own project, and because of this my project was always really exciting to me. I also was really impressed by the depth of knowledge and willingness to help of the staff – I could always ask anyone a question – and I felt like I made a good deal of progress this summer, and am excited to continue working on aspects of the project that are not yet finished. I also learned a huge amount; I have read more about different types of optimization algorithms than I could ever imagine, and I have really learned to work with Python and scripts in a way that classes could never teach me. Furthermore, the research atmosphere was really great; all of the other students were inspiring and a pleasure to work and talk with, and the fact that we all got to stay together in the same room really facilitated the experience. Finally, the weekly/daily talks and tours were one of the highlights of the program; I learned so, so much from them, from many disparate areas.

**Rivier University:**

Our accommodations at Rivier were very nice! The rooms were spacious, and generally enough for our needs, given we were spending most of our time at work. The only two major downsides were the lighting and the heat; the lighting throughout the dorm was minimal, so it often became dark and hard to work at night, even in the common areas. Additionally, the lack of air conditioning made conditions rather difficult, especially during the day; the second floor especially would become hard to work on because of this.

**Overall:**

The experience in this program was amazing! I really loved working on my project, interacting with the other students and staff, and learning about many areas of science in the talks and tours. All of the administrative staff were so welcoming and helpful (especially Mary!) and I really felt that, while we were here, we became a part of the Haystack community.