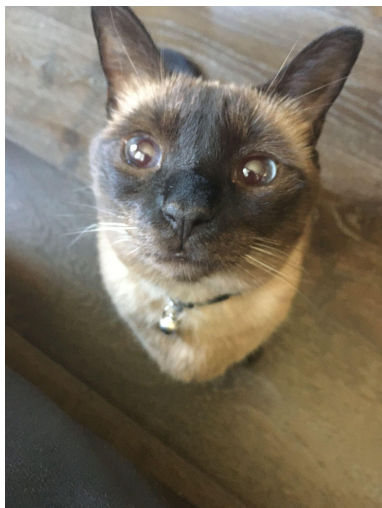


malina desai



first year grad at MIT, working with Professor Erik Katsavounidis in the LIGO collaboration

interested in: EM follow-up and compact binaries, work with ML

My path so far:

- Completed a B.S. in Physics at UCSD
- First worked on instrumentation for a neutrino experiment under Professor Liang Yang
- Switched into stellar astrophysics and worked with Professor Adam Burgasser on spectral analysis with ML-based methods
- Applied and accepted the A3D3 fellowship to work for LIGO
- Decided to continue in academia and am now a graduate student in the same group



Why I chose grad school:

- Primarily, as a stepping stone towards a career as faculty
- Interested in fundamental physics questions involving stellar structure and stellar death, and what stars can tell us about the chemical composition of our universe
- Want to learn more physics and astrophysics, as well as skills that would be harder to pick up in industry
- Love astrophysics specifically - harder to find astrophysics jobs outside of academia



Thoughts about grad school:

- Some days are more difficult than others
- I am learning to approach grad school as a unique challenge that I am fortunate and priveleged to be doing
- I love the sense of community that my program provides

