Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array (ALMA)

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Santiago, Chile
Work I did

• Wrote a program in Python that automated a process to analyze the atomic and molecular hydrogen contents of galaxies in different parts of the universe – this was based on a new method suggested by my employer.
Most rewarding aspect of work experience

• The most rewarding aspect of the work experience was when I finished the code I was working on and presented my results to the organization at the end of my internship. I was happy that my code was working and the results we were getting were interesting and I had the opportunity to reflect back on my experience and see how much I learned and developed as a person.
How I impacted ALMA

• The code I wrote is with my manager now who can use it to easily and efficiently calculate values he is interested in which is allowing him to spend more time on analyzing these results then having to acquire the results.
How my experience impacted me

• This experience confirmed that I would like to work in the future in a field related to coding or software development or, more generally, in the field of technology.

• It also made me consider whether I would pursue a certificate in or continue to take classes in astrophysics/astronomy.
Personal growth

• The experience as a whole both inside and outside of work allowed both my intellect and character to develop.

• I learned a lot about Chilean culture, and lived with a Chilean family in fact, and appreciated all of the cultural differences and similarities.

• My Spanish improved significantly during my time there.
ALMA Site – Atacama Desert

The interns had the opportunity to visit the actual telescope site which is in the Atacama desert in northern Chile.