

Prof. Eran Ofek
Department of Particle Physics and Astrophysics
Weizmann Institute of Science
E-Mail: eran.ofek@weizmann.ac.il
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am strongly recommending Barkotel Zemenu as an outstanding candidate for your program. I met Barkotel a few months ago when he arrived at the Weizmann Institute as a participant in the 2023 Kupcinet-Getz summer program. This is a highly selective program that brings to the Weizmann Institute top students from all around the world.

From all the previous summer students I hosted so far (about 8), Barkotel is the best one. He has a strong academic background, and a lot of enthusiasm. Soon after his selection in early March, Barkotel immediately emailed me to discuss the research at my lab and identify which areas he can make the most contributions to. His initiation of several Zoom chats months prior to the program showed me Barkotel's unique enthusiasm for research and proactive approach to his work.

Barkotel's main project was to analyze some data from the Large Array Survey Telescope (a system composed of, currently 32, 28-cm f/2.2 telescopes). Barkotel's project was to make the first steps in conducting a wide field of view variability survey over 1000 deg square, and time scales as short as 20 s. Barkotel did very well and he was able to write several functions that will help us in analyzing this data. Important to note, that he learned several topics by himself while I just provided some starting points. He is very quick, and he is not afraid of asking questions - an important attribute of a scientist.

I am confident that Barkotel's strong command of physics, mathematics and computational skills prepares him well for contributing to research in any field he chooses. His quick understanding of the underlying concepts pertaining to LAST and his willingness to ask questions without hesitation highlighted his profound intellectual curiosity and ability to navigate intricate concepts with ease. Barkotel's collaboration and teamwork capabilities were evident when he traveled to the LAST observatory in the Israeli Negev desert, where he played an instrumental role in assembling a critical support rack for data routers at the observatory, under very hot weather conditions.

If Barkotel will apply to Weizmann, I will surely offer him a position in my group. Without reservation, I strongly recommend Barkotel for your program. His outstanding accomplishments, impressive skill sets, and immense potential position him as an excellent candidate. Please don't hesitate to contact me at ofek.eran@gmail.com if I may provide further support for Barkotel's candidacy.

Sincerely,
Eran Ofek
Weizmann Institute of Science

