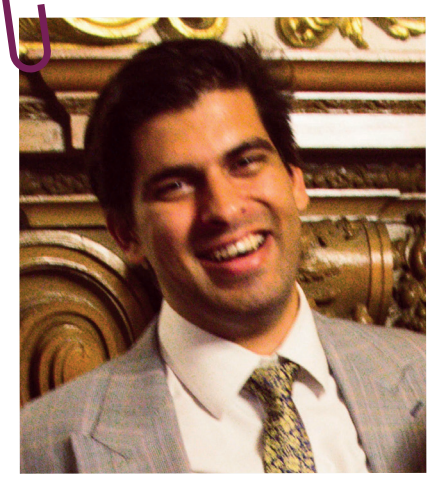
The Ogden Trust

making physics matter

Phizzi professionals



Hans Trivedi

School

I studied A-levels in further maths, physics and chemistry. I then studied natural sciences (physics) at the University of Cambridge. I found choosing between maths and physics a challenge. A good test is to ask, for example, if you find light more fascinating than prime numbers.

What next?

After university, I worked for a consultancy to input data. This was not fun. I wrote a program to automate the work. This experience made me realise there are many opportunities to apply problem solving in business. I now work to improve systems and processes, using data, technology and algorithms.

Why physics?

I think physics is important because it nurtures a mindset of truly understanding how things work. This is key to thriving in an increasingly complex world, and it's the key to innovation. You have to understand how something works to then experiment and make it better.

And now?

I work as a chief technology officer for a start-up company. Data and algorithms are key to most tech products and services, and we have created an algorithm for image data. Figuring out the different components and bringing these together into a system that worked was a very rewarding experience.

Physics in practice

It's important to appreciate that physics fundamentally trains you to solve problems. The problems in businesses, with data and technology, are similar and growing. Physics gives you strong foundations and a toolkit to understand these problems. And understanding a problem is a necessary step for solving it.

Advice for young scientists

A desire to understand how things work should always be nurtured. Working on, and persevering through, challenging problems leads to growth and personal development. In the worst case, you learn a lot; in the best, you can make a meaningful difference to the world.