**Why this major? (250-300)**

“Hey Siri!”

“Are you alive?”

I first received an apple phone when I was 9 years old. Fascinated by the fact that maybe a fairy was stuck inside the phone, I'd talk and interact with her every time I got back from school. As a 9 year old who barely knew anything about programming, Siri felt real, almost alive to me. It wasn’t until middle school that I learned it was artificial intelligence that powered Siri. This prompted my interest in computer science.

Since then, I’ve taken rigorous courses in and outside of school, pursued independent studies and developed projects like an AI tic tac toe player. Last summer, I interned at Sinar Himalaya where I studied the software that was in operation and assisted in developing their website. My time at the company opened my eyes to how artificial intelligence can be applied to numerous industries, societal structures and how businesses operate. In my internship, this was evident in the instance of chatbots for customer service, product analysis and creating marketing strategies.

Studying computer science will allow me to explore my interest in artificial intelligence at a collegiate level and its many subfields (machine learning, natural language processors, machine learning etc.). During my internship, I learnt that Artificial intelligence isn’t merely automating systems or robots but also allowing effective synergy between machines and humans. For humanity to move forward, this human-machine model is essential as it utilizes AI’s ability to understand complex data and human’s creativity that looks beyond raw strategical calculations.

At UT Austin, I would love to continue my studies in research groups like the AI and Data Mining Laboratory as it provides me an environment where I can learn alongside other enthusiastic students and professors, enhancing my growth and long term development in computer science.