My initial impression of computer can date back to the time when I was a little boy no more than 10 years old. At that time a computer was merely an entertainment for me since video games are all the things it offered. Games, in my very personal view at that time, are entertaining indeed but not that useful. Therefore I failed to find a greater meaning of computer until years later, one day I accidently opened a map editor of a game named *StarCraft* and saw a complex tool with multiple leveled menu and tens of buttons that literally controlled every piece on the screen. Through that map editor I imagined a whole different usage of a computer, that is, it can run powerful program to carry out complicated tasks far beyond games.

Several years later, in the long summer days after China’s College Entrance Examination, when I was considering what to learn for future years, suddenly the old impression of the map editor came up into my mind and it drove me to seriously consider about majors related to computer. With an excellent performance in the College Entrance Examination, actually 86th place in Jilin Province (its size is comparable to Florida) among 170 thousand peers, soon I have been accepted by School of Software of Beijing Institute of Technology, one of the premier universities in China.

Since my ethnic group is Korean-Chinese, a minority group in China, the beginning year of my university life presented me with a huge cultural gap between Chinese culture and mine, which gave rise to subsequent nationality chaos. However, fortunately, these issues did not trouble me long because soon I found my major really interesting and it fully occupied my mind. While taking courses and working with peers to code various programs such as FTP server, lexical parser and network port scanner, I gradually developed my enthusiasm for programming. In a summer vacation of junior year, together with several friends I built a team to participate the *Robocup China Open 2009*, which was going to be held in December. We devoted the whole summer vacation for reading papers, discussing and coding, and in return, won the 3rd place at the tournament. Through the tournament I had a chance to take a glimpse of research and experience the joys and frustrations that only research can present, and more importantly, I found my genuine interests.

At my senior year, I decided, headstrong, to attend the graduate school in the U.S. to follow my interests. I worked for this goal and received several admissions, including one from University of Florida. However, because of the unfavorable financial condition, I had to postpone the enrollment date for one year. Being an optimist, this setback did not discourage me. Instead of attending a graduate school, I opted to go to the industry. One or two years, I reasoned, would afford me the time to gain working experience and some perspective of my field.

After exciting and encouraging job hunting, I seized a chance to work in a foreign country. I won an offer from a Korean IT company which takes the lead in mobile multimedia solutions. Without knowing what a big change I will go through in the following years, I started my life as a software engineer in Seoul, South Korea. It was quite challenging for a college graduate to work and live in a foreign country all by himself. These years were eventful and it helped me to further develop my capabilities. At work, I extensively developed my programming and communication skills to handle complex tasks which often involved many people. Out of work, I practiced my leadership as a leader and manager of an armature soccer club of twenty people.

However, slowly I realized though I like the job and life here, it is not what I envisioned of myself, simply put, not the something that I genuinely love and willing to spend my future life for. The career that I am dreaming about is a research engineer working on next-generation technologies and products in a leading IT company. To achieve this career goal, a graduate education is a must. Furthermore, as the first generation in my family to receive the college education, I understand how education positively affects the life of a man. Witnessing the hardships, especially economical, that my honest and hard-working parents had to go through, I always cherished the opportunity of college education I was given. This familial factor is also a strong drive for my pursuit of further education.

My career goal and familial factors are driving me toward, and my academic background and working experience have prepared me for the graduate education. Moreover, I have a passion to undertake the graduate education. Though no one could foretell the future, I believe that when looking back this important decision in my forties, I would be proud of myself since it would prove to be a wise one.