Ever since my childhood, I, **Mr. Kartik B Bhargav**, was very much interested towards science. I was inquisitive to learn new scientific phenomena and I built models of scientific instruments out of interest, since building science models gave me immense satisfaction. Some of the scientific models that I developed were kaleidoscope, solar system simulation and many more. I received critical acclamation and appreciation when I built a working model that demonstrated the law of conservation of energy and I won several prizes for building them. During my sixth grade, I secured eighth rank in a district level science examination, which I consider to be one of my greatest childhood achievements.

I joined Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva High School located in the village of Alike, for my further studies. It is a prestigious institution where students are taught moral values, in addition to academics. I was introduced to basic statistics, physics and electronics in the academia. These subjects seemed very interesting to me and I kept on learning more about them. During my 8th grade, the institution conducted a free medical camp where thousands of patients were treated by doctors and were given free medicine. I served as a volunteer in the medical camps, where I played a significant role in serving food to the patients who attended the medical camp.

I secured a rank of 326, in the Engineering stream, in Karnataka Common Entrance Test out of the 1,00,000 odd students who wrote it, I decided to take up Electronics and Communications Engineering at the esteemed institution of Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering, Mysuru, to pursue my interest in Electronics.

In my second year of under graduation, as a part of Anveshana-2013, a state level science expo and competition, I got the opportunity to build and demonstrate the working of “Physical Exercise Responsive  
Infra-Red based Alarm Clock” and I even taught two underprivileged students of eighth grade the  
basics of working of the project as a part of this competition. The specialty of this project was that it was solely designed using integrated circuits. We won third prize out of 1000 entries, of which 40 were selected as finalists. I experienced the joy of realizing an original idea, transforming a thought into a prototype. I learnt the various aspects of research and experimentation, working from ground up and joy of giving in the form of knowledge.

I worked as an intern at Center for Nano Science and Engineering [CeNSE], Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Here, I was given an opportunity to work on “Enviro-Bat”, a device that measured the levels of concentration of various gases at a given location using gas sensors. It gathered the sensor data periodically. My friends and I wrote the code to get the data from the TI’s MSP430F5435 controller and saved the data to a USB flash drive connected to FTDI’s Vinculum V2-DIP2-32 controller. Our quality work has been praised by project manager at CeNSE. I learnt the foundations of programming during my tenure at CeNSE, IISc.

In my third year, my friends and I took up a project “Tach LCR”, which was a unique amalgamation of Tachometer and LCR meter. The device was designed to be a hand-held device and it could measure the angular velocity, resistance, inductance and capacitance with great precision and accuracy. I played a vital role in programming the device. The project got critical reception from many professors in the department.

During my final year, my friends and I worked on “Optical Character Recognition for Musical Note and playback” using MATLAB. The project addressed the problem of conversion of the musical notation on the score sheet to music in an unconventional way. The project could easily read a musical score sheet and could transcribe the data in the score sheet to music in MusicXML format. The project could even produce the musical output for ten different musical instruments such as Guitar, Oboe, Banjo, Kazoo to name a few. This project not only garnered huge appreciation from my professors, it ignited an interest towards data science in me, since I had researched through a myriad of data processing techniques such as Data segmentation, Data Manipulation and Filtering, Image processing, Template Matching and many more, which were needed for the project.

During my final year of engineering, my friends and I co-founded “Grape Labs”, a startup which focuses on developing educational tools and providing top quality practical education for students across different age groups. It has been a wonderful journey at “Grape Labs” and I have played a vital role as a co-founder as well as a software developer at the company. I have developed many educational Android apps as part of “Grape Labs”. One of the noteworthy app is “Basic 8086”, an educational app which serves as a complete reference guide for the 8086 micro-processor. The app has earned more than 25000 installs from users all over the globe. It was also selected for the Facebook’s FbStart program under the bootstrap track. Till date, I have developed more than 10 apps and they have been downloaded more than 50000 times altogether. I even developed a game “Celestial Chase”, which won second prize in the national level Android app development competition organized by ICAIN. My friends and I conducted practical training sessions on various tech topics such as Android, Robotics etc., for students across various colleges in Mysuru.

I was hired by VMware as Associate Software Developer through campus recruitment. I am working as Application Developer for delivering Enterprise Mobility Management for Windows Mobile devices. I have worked on implementing proof of concepts, software bug fixing, unit testing and software automation. I have even worked on databases and web application development. During my tenure in this company, I got a hands on experience of the cutting-edge technology in the software domain, corporate culture, the ability to work under pressure, soft skills, meeting deadlines and most importantly, interacting with new people in a professional environment.

Frequently listening to tech news and recent trends in data science strengthened my interest towards Data Science. To fulfill my thirst to learn more about Data Science, I taught myself Python programming, by completing Python specialization in Coursera created by University of Michigan. I even participated in a Data Science competition conducted by Santander Bank hosted on Kaggle. As days passed by, I learnt more about Python and did some projects on the same. I wrote a Python code to generate the source code of the Android app by parsing an existing template at the click of a button. At my workplace, I even wrote a Python script which will parse the header files in the source code and thereby it would generate the test case snippet for each of the function prototype present.

I enjoy travelling and have stayed in different parts of Karnataka, owing to my parents who are government officials. I have interacted with people across India, people with varied backgrounds and different perspectives. It has helped me to be more confident and less apprehensive about new situations or meeting new people. Having done my undergraduate studies in India, I would now like to explore new intellectual realms and broaden my skills. Netherlands has always interested me as a study destination due its well-established education system, amazing work-life balance and its multicultural society.

Having had a rich learning and work experience so far, it is time I looked forward for graduate studies in the field of Data Science and Engineering in TU Eindhoven to further hone my skills. The research work done by many of the professors in the Data Science domain has interested me and it would be a great privilege to work under their guidance.

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