“Those components are dangerous. Are you sure those are the right parts?” a man next to me in line asked me while at an electronics store. I was a pretty confident 11-year-old, and I explained to him that I had watched a video about Tesla Coils online and wanted to try making one.

He turned out to be an electronics professor at the University of Buenos Aires and encouraged me to explore Arduino to expand my electronics horizon. Excited, I ran back home and typed “Arduino” into Google. I learned about microcontrollers and how you could “teach” a device what to do through coding. I had never heard of coding before. The fact that you could build things that transcended the physical world made me feel like I had just discovered magic. Anything was possible.

I later moved from single-file projects in Arduino to more complex project structures making Windows programs. My mind was suddenly opened to how big and feature-rich software could become. My biggest project was in collaboration with a senior citizen care facility: an app that Parkinson’s patients could use to retain key information. I was a very technically focused person at the time and that project taught me that I should care more about the people and the problem than the technology.

From there I was thrilled to discover image processing, which opened a new pathway for computers to share their analyses and conclusions in a way humans could easily interpret. At the same time, working at Satellogic, a satellite startup, opened my eyes to the business aspect of technology. I had always thought of it as purely for fun or solidarity, but I learned that technology could be applied to solve business challenges.

In my last year of high school, yet another world opened up when I started developing more complex architectures, like internet-connected apps. It was the first time I thought of software as a tool for collaboration since people could share their work and information through these platforms. My skill set expanded to include project management when I led a project aimed at solving the transportation challenges of the visually impaired in Buenos Aires. It suddenly clicked: a solution could be turned into its own business if organized correctly. Thus, I was introduced to the realm of startups.

After finishing school the candy jar of blockchain and more esoteric software, like Chrome extensions and command-line interfaces, treated me with new ways in which software could solve problems, beyond the traditional website or app. Helping a friend with his startup (and eventually starting my own) taught me about the long and winding road of the entrepreneurial journey, from the first idea, to first clients, to obtaining funding to accelerate growth.

It was this journey that led me to realize that Computer Science is my passion. I am generally curious, and this journey also allowed me to explore so many different fields outside of CS and get to connect with people from diverse backgrounds on a deeper level. That is why I love computer science.