Iron box not working? Open it up, Check the heating element and fix it. Fan not running? Pull it down, check the windings, check the capacitor and fix it. The tap is leaking? Close the wall from the top, open the tap and put some threading and put things back. Need a bat to play cricket? Cut the desired shape from the branch of a coconut tree using sickle. Need a pillow cover? Take the old bed sheet and cut the right lengths and sew it using the sewing machine. Have throat pain? Cut short pieces of ginger and eat it raw for 3-5 times a day, and gargle with salt water early morning and at night.

Growing up, watching my dad put his hands into everything and teaching me his tricks were intimidating. He was not an architect yet planned 3 houses, he was not a formal engineer or scientist or a doctor or a philosopher or teacher yet he acted in all of those capacities. My father laid the foundation for my future endeavours and mind-set.

Coming from a lower middle class family, the need for constrained optimization, improvisation and creative thinking is not a luxury but necessity. My parents were not formally educated but they have always directed me towards growth through the principles of hard work, discipline and ethics. My performance and achievements are a reflection of the same.

Uncomforting is essential part of growth. My persistence and ability to get along learn and build has helped me in all the environments and times. My choice of free time activities in a way reflects this, long distance running, football, sketching, obstacle racing, playing guitar, reading and writing. All demanding a different perspective and pushing in various dimensions. Running marathons has taught me patience and endurance. Football has showed me how to stay nimble on feet and make right decision under pressure and lead the team. Playing guitar has shown the necessity of constant practise and ear for the details. Reading has allowed me to gain ideas and wisdom from the lives and experiences of others.

Exposure to engineering was not new to me but computer was. I chose computer science for my bachelors as I construed this was the promising and challenging field, even though I had no exposure to the abstract concepts of computing; however this was no different from many of my earlier endeavours in the sense of challenge and seeing the bigger picture.

Starting with the physics and maths, the familiar subjects, I did very well in the first two semesters of engineering. I was among the top 5 of the class. Slowly that advantage started to wane, as the subjects started getting more abstract and unfamiliar. My hands on engineering mind-set had to change. I had to start learning how to run the iterations in my head before running it on a compiler and start to think terms of bits. It was challenging at the beginning, since I did not follow the footsteps of many of my friends who already had a background with computers, I had to figure things independently. Luckily I had great teachers and good material to build the foundation.

Starting from electronics theory, solidified further along with the laboratory work which involved the design and implementation of 555 timers, adder, multiplexer, Schmidt trigger and many more. Data structures, was taught by Bhanu Prakash Sir MVIT, and then I gleaned more info from books by Tenenbaum and Gilberg. I worked on many projects to thorough my understanding of concepts. The electro optic sensor simulation was one such project, performed at Bharat Electronics Limited, Navratna state owned aerospace and defence company. Using frameworks in QT and C++ along with three of my team mates we helped to develop simulation software that would predict infrared signatures of targets like ship, moving objects and aircrafts which would be required for border surveillance. For the last year project, along with the same team we tried to incorporate multiple streams of technology like Symbian, Java, Digital electronics, database and display systems, developing a system to benefit personal Transport. We created a system which will track the location of bus using GSM phone and transfer that location to the base location from where, the details of the bus, the estimate arrival time and current location would be displayed to the passenger who is waiting for the bus at the bus stop.

Engineering was edifying, combined with the exposure to topics and meeting profound faculty and students, it was one of the best times of my life. After finishing engineering with a first class degree, I started working for Infosys and still I am, a primer technology consulting firm based out my home town, Bangalore. I finished the Infosys foundation program with CGPA of 4.7/5.

My first project was for the client Goldman Sachs, at their offshore office in Bangalore, to develop an error notification system for critical prime brokerage applications. I was consistently apprised by the client for delivering solutions quickly in spite of being new to the team and my overall work. Even though I had a challenging environment to work, I felt the need for a new chapter, which is why I chose to move to Singapore, this time the client was UBS.

In last 8 years, I have worked on many projects starting from Prime brokerage, Securities lending, Risk Analytics, Core Treasury, Finance, Accounting, Middle office and Wealth Management. My role has been to design, develop and maintain solutions to various problems and client requirements, using technologies that fit right for the purpose. Working in investment banking domain I have realized the necessity of getting decisions right without any bias and with full awareness of the risk. Data science is at the core of all decision making, whether it is to build a one trading platform to replace existing legacy systems or to evaluate the exposure of the clients to external market risks. Even though I have been converting insights to program, I have not fully grasped the workings of financials models like markov, Monte Carlo simulation just to name a few.

am interested in Artificial Intelligence because it marries two of my favourite subjects, technology and psychology. The current trend is reflecting in the books like Master Algorithm by Pedro domingos, deep thinking by Garry kasparov and of course my professional experiences. We are at the onset of breakthrough in AI, where AI is used to filter spam emails, provide recommendations on Google search or movies and find patterns in diagnosing cancer. I would like to learn and contribute to the development of practical AI systems to augment human capabilities.

The seventy eight year heritage of UCLA to continually rank among the best university for research and education in computer science and engineering is in part due to constantly updating itself to the new methods and modern needs while keeping the best of values which has served well historically. I can relate myself well to the university in part because I have also had to continuously transform myself physically from obese to athletic and mentally from being conservative to open to new ideas. UCLA’s research directed approach of natural sciences to computational sciences is paramount to developing deep knowledge of the concepts which is essential to solve the hard problem of modelling artificial intelligence system. With the breadth of resources and award winning faculty which is unmatched, I would be honoured to part of lineage.