Question: Tell me something about yourself or briefly describe to me your resume?

So what I’ll do is briefly give you an overview of the major phases in my life thus far. I’ll talk about the major events and the major decisions that led to those events. If you want details in any are do let me know.

So, very early on in my life I gravitated towards being a scientist. My love for computers and programming resulted in me joining computer engineering in my undergrad. I was very successful, not only academically but also in extracurricular activities. I won numerous awards and prizes for leading teams to trophies.

My well rounded experiences and communication skills landed me a job as a software consultant at Siemens SIMATIC IT Partner. This was a great experience and one that shaped a lot of my professional decisions from then on. I was successful in winning numerous projects for the company resulting in a total of about $7M. I also designed and developed numerous creative solutions for clients that greatly added value to their process not just in the short term but also sustainable competitive advantage. This provided me with a lot of leadership opportunities to get the job done. But I believe the most benefit I got from being a software consultant was to improve my time management and interpersonal skills by working on numerous projects and interacting with high, middle and plant level employees.

However, what truly defines me is my love for solving problems and helping people and society. I believed the best way to do that was by doing my PhD. I was fortunate to join UT Dallas to do my PhD in CS and lead a team of researchers investigating novel techniques in tracking tumors in order to optimize Radiotherapy. We were very successful and published numerous top peer reviewed journal papers and presented at international conferences. I also received numerous scholarships including 2 NSF awards (15 awarded nationally). During this time I did two internships at UTSW which offered my numerous leadership roles and initiatives. We also had a successful grant application with a top company in the oncology space. This resulted in my getting offered a post-doctoral fellow position at UTSW. My work was also identified by BIOWESPIN as cutting-edge work in order to make it commercially available.

During the last two years of my PhD, I was the president of “Grads of Computer Science” the largest student body of about 1000 students strong. I got to lead and create numerous initiatives working with diverse teams, in order to address student concerns and develop numerous programs.

On the side, during my Phd, I also developed a passion for the financial markets and understanding how different products trade and their correlation. Now, I consider myself and active retail derivatives trader.

I’m also the guitarist and vocalist of an Irish rock band.

Why Phd?

That’s a great question.

My career goal has always been to solve problems and help people and society in general.

In order to achieve this dream, I decided to do my Phd in CS.

I believe the benefit was twofold: Not only was I acquiring skills and experiences that would help me build a successful career solving problems, but also got to work on high impact cancer research and assist at the clinics.

I was fortunate to join UT Dallas and lead a team of researches investigate novel techniques to track tumors in order to optimize Radiotherapy during our collaboration with UTSW.

During this time, I successfully published top peer reviewed Journals and presented in top international conferences. Received numerous scholarships and two NSF scholarships (awarded to 15 nationally). We also partnered with a top company in the oncology space through a successful grant application. This also resulted in a postdoctoral fellow position at UTSW. My work was also selected by BIOWEBSPIN, industry-academic partner, for high impact work, in order to make it commercialized.

These experiences had not only provided me with numerous opportunities to excel in leadership roles such as leading a lab and being the president of the grads of computer science during my last year a a phd student, leading a diverse team, successfully creating and executing student initiatives. But also improved my logical reasoning skills, data driven problem structuring and solving skills as well as interpersonal skills.

I believe these experiences set strong foundations for me.

I’m at a critical juncture of my career, I want to take the experience and skills that I’ve acquired and better leverage them to solve problems, but not just from a scientific or research stand point but also from a business perspective with the purpose of having greater and quicker impact on society as well as to expand my knowledge base to other industries and business problems as well.

Hence, I believe a natural progression that fit my skill sets and ambition is business consulting.

What’s your biggest weakness?

That’s a great question.

I’ve been very successful thus far as my resume suggests. But what you don’t see is what I have overcome to get to this place.

I believe what truly defines you as a person and enables you to be successful is the ability to quickly identify your weakness and account for it, all the while working hard to overcome it.

You can either let it fatigue you, or you can learn from it and be much the stronger. I believe I’ve taken the latter approach. This was exemplified during my PhD.

During my time as a PhD student, I was working on novel techniques to accurately track tumors in order to optimize radiotherapy, having been successful and reducing the gold standard of error by almost 50% ( from 2.2mm to 1.2mm). However, after that I continued digging deeper and focused all my time and efforts in improving those results. I was able to improve the results, but what I realized was that the incremental improvements didn’t justify the time and efforts I dedicated to the project. We did get a successful journal paper and grant application. In reality we would have gotten those successes even without the incremental results. The successful grant application resulted in a post-doctoral offer from UTSW, what I learnt during that period of working with leaders in the field or RT was to look at problem solving from a holistic view, a 50k foot view so to speak in problem structuring and problem solving. This helped me time manage and prioritize my tasks better. Now, I’m working on 4 collaborative projects, and leading two of those with great success.

I believe not only had these experiences help me overcome a challenge, but also taught me thoroughness and persistence in considering minute details and that has complemented my broader problem solving skills I learnt at UTSW in order to make me more successful.

What is your greatest strength?

I’ve been very fortunate to have incredible experiences right through my life, not just professionally, but also personally. My work as a software consultant leading projects, doing my PhD and collaborating with UTSW, being the president of the grads of computer science. Apart from this partnering with a leading NGO and being a retail trader.