APPING DATABASE

1) **Personal Details**

RISHABH KOTHARI

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1) **CPI/DR:** 8.47
2) **GRE Score**: 740(V), 800(Q), 4(AWA)
3) **TOEFL Score:** Don't remember. I lost like 2-3 marks.
4) **Any papers published/How many?and wat are they? Title and publication.**
5) **Professors from whom recos are taken/For what did he give reco/How good the reco was/ Ne comments on the reco given by your professor?**

(4) & (5):

Ramesh Singh, closed reco, probably very good. He made some calls to GATech and got me a fellow, even though I was nowhere near good enough for the program.
MV Rane, open reco, pretty good, gave me a 'highly recommended' remark
Dirk Kroese, closed reco, I'm assuming pretty good cause I worked hard and published a paper with his name on it.

One paper was under review when I applied. It is now accepted. "Optimal Generation Planning via the Cross-Entropy Method." Winter Simulation Conference, Austin, Texas, Dec 2009

2) **Which universities did you apply to? Which field/department in that university?**

Which program *(Plz list in the decreasing order of the importance you gave to universities)*

I gave equal importance to each application (obviously), but here's my order of preference if I were selected everywhere.

SNo	University	Field	Phd/MS	TA/RA/Fellow/admit/Reject
1.	UC Berkeley	IEOR	MS	Reject
2.	Stanford	MS&E	MS	Admit
3.	GATech	IEOR	PhD	Fellow
4.	MIT	CDO	MS	Reject
5.	Columbia	IEOR	MS	Admit

3) On what basis did you choose the universities? USNEWS/Seniors/Profs/Visited all sites?

Rankings mostly. Research wasn't a priority so I mostly applied to MS programs. Stanford had a lot going for it. Even though its program was a few places lower in the rankings, the silicon valley scene, the weather, California culture and a very flexible MS program were reasons I chose this place.

4) Also specific information about the universities (comments like Good faculty/Good Research/Easily gives admit/Gives high importance to GRE Score/Any professor in our department whose reco is valuable in this university etc etc → Kindly answer this question comprehensively as this part will be very helpful

Most IIT people will get admits anywhere pretty easily. UCB and MIT are an exception because they have VERY small programs. There are 7 pointers in Stanford too (and from crappy IIT's like Guwahati :D). Getting admits is not an issue. However, funding is tight, especially for IEOR programs because there's not much lab work involved. But, IITians get preference for RA/TA work when it is available.

As for recos, I wouldn't comment on any prof in particular, but almost every prof has contacts in some stud program or other. You really have develop a rapport with your guide to leverage these contacts. By the time you read this you wouldn't have a choice anyway, so why bother.

5) Did you send suck mails? How useful are the suck mails? Ne fundae about these?
No.

6) You did app. What were your other options, like job, IIM e.t.c?
Yes. I had a job with Realization Technologies, which was into Project Management Consulting (similiar to what I'm studying), but univ life is so much better for now!

7) Which app are you choosing? Why?
Stanford. Already said why.

8) What was your BTP/DDP/MTP Topic? Who was your guide? Seminar guide? Why chose him?

Ramesh Singh. He was a fresh new prof with enthu. I also chose him because he'd be impervious to all the shit that goes on in the ME department. Which was a good decision. I knew he'd have contacts in GATech too.

If you have any questions about your app, you can go talk to him. He's pretty chill, and profs are the absolute BEST resource for apping fundae.

9) If you can share you SOP? Please send it to me. *(You may say that SOP is to be written by self which is absolutely true. But after writing a SOP by self, it can be very well polished by looking at other SOPs, I plan to put a word of caution for all the people (juniors) not to copy our SOPs blindly and advise them to write it on your own and use our SOPs only for reference.)*

No. DO NOT look at other SOP's before you start writing. It will only cloud your judgement. Reason with yourself why you want to go, put it down and then get others (like your guide) to read it.

If you are really looking forward to reading my SOP, send me an email.

10) Any other inputs/comments concerning app?

11) Your contact info (Mail id which you will be using after passing out)?

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