At first glance, my academic qualifications may seem unconventional to many; it certainly surprises me every time I look back at the choices I have made so far. Although it is not unheard of for someone to choose a subject for their graduate education that contrasts from what they have studied during their undergraduate years, my decision to pursue an MBA after obtaining a bachelor's degree in architecture was initially a shock to many of my peers and closest relatives. The leap from a highly technical subject that combined the elements of physics, mathematics, and design to an area of study that dealt with finance, management, investments, and leadership seemed an incoherent choice. After I had obtained my MBA, my intent to acquire a Master's degree in business analytics and risk management made it seem I was heading for a career focusing mainly on the field of business. However, my current goal of obtaining advanced education in computer science once again deviates from the path I had been on throughout my graduate studies. Therefore, when reviewing my academic history, although my decisions may often come across as polarizing, they ultimately result from careful calculations and adaptations of the circumstances that I have found myself in this ever-transforming and constantly evolving world.

My goal has always been to innovate and create products and services that will allow me to leave a substantial impact on the world by helping advance our way of life. Even though it was an ambitious goal to have, watching my home country of China grow from an agrarian nation to a technological and economic superpower made me realize the present opportunities. However, while watching my country prosper filled my mind with hope, it also taught me a valuable lesson: the world was evolving at an exponential rate, and unless I could adapt my skills and mindset to maintain the required pace, it was not possible to progress in my career or even life. Moreover, the development of technology and rapid globalization clarified that it was imperative to possess a diverse array of knowledge and a multitude of skills to advance in the competitive global socio-economic landscape. Therefore, this realization and my proclivity to constantly challenge myself motivated me to extract valuable knowledge from different fields of study and integrate them to develop a highly diverse skill set.

My tenure as an architecture undergraduate was one of the most defining periods of my life. The subject was the ideal culmination of technical and complex calculations combined with

imaginative design. During this phase, I learned in-depth about the concepts of mathematics and physics and how to utilize the knowledge to create innovative designs. While working in the architecture industry, I observed the abundant use of computer-aided design programs and data analysis technology when developing blueprints for buildings. Although I had always possessed a defining interest in logics, coding, and data analysis in general, working as an architect gave me a profound understanding of the increasing significance of technology and computing in all the major fields and professions. Ultimately learning about how technology and data analysis could innovate and make businesses or any product or service much more efficient provided me with a newfound inclination towards acquiring in-depth knowledge about the data science sector. However, after gaining work experience as an architect, I realized that no matter which field I chose, I needed to distinguish myself either as an entrepreneur or a high-ranking employee at an industry-leading firm if I were to have a substantial impact. To accomplish that, I needed to acquire business and management skills that would allow me to comprehend the long-term effects of my work and offer me the opportunity to adopt a holistic view and adapt according to the market's demands. As a result, I chose to pursue an MBA degree while continuing to develop my knowledge of data science informally.

During my graduate studies, I started learning through practical experience and focused on applying my skills to solve real-world problems. Furthermore, being top of my class meant that I was often chosen as the leader for group projects and research work, where I was able to flourish and develop my management skills. After obtaining my MBA degree, I concentrated on acquiring expertise in data analysis in the context of the business environment, which prompted me to pursue a Master's degree in business analytics and risk management. The program was my gateway to data science, for it formally introduced me to the concepts of data analysis while providing a platform to implement my learnings to evaluate businesses and make investment decisions. Moreover, my keen interest and unrelenting dedication allowed me to excel in my quant-related courses such as data analytics, data science, machine learning, business analytics, simulation, and strategic options. The remarkable performance prompted other students to seek my assistance in mathematical and coding problems, allowing me to demonstrate my leadership skills to guide and bring the best out of my fellow peers. I was able to replicate the demonstration on a much larger scale when I was chosen to be the Teaching Assistant for

statistics and simulation for business applications classes at the Carey Business School at Johns Hopkins University. My job was to help the students set up the software for the class, answer questions, and grade their assignments and exams. It was an exhilarating experience and a defining learning curve to interact so closely with my professors while also sharing my knowledge with the students, evaluating them, and offering help where necessary. In those xx months, I learned more about administration, evaluation, management, and leadership than I had ever before, which ultimately allowed me to excel in the professional positions I worked in the subsequent years.

The business analytics and risk management program had cemented my desire to build a career in data science. Therefore, to get practical experience and develop a portfolio, I started to work as an analyst and data scientist in several high-profile businesses ranging from investment management firms such as Legg Mason to risk management companies such as Omni Risk Management. My knowledge, passion for data research, and ability to quickly adapt and learn allowed me to perform phenomenally at my job and quickly move on to more prominent positions with currently working as a data analyst for Facebook on a contractual basis. With over two years of intensive experience under the belt, I have realized that working with technology as a data scientist is my ultimate passion, for data science is the key to understanding and developing human-machine relations and in essence, the future.

This conclusive realization of my dreams and the culmination of my experiences so far have inspired me to pursue a Master's degree in Computer Science. Since I mainly work with large volumes of data, my work inexplicably consists of hefty amounts of coding used to process the data, and as a result, I must have an absolute grasp of coding knowledge to remain ahead in this highly saturated and competitive market. However, I have realized that my coding skills are not up to the level I want them to be. This has been one of the major driving forces towards pursuing a computer science degree for the program will allow me to polish and intensify my coding skills, thereby noticeably improving my work performance.

In today's world, it is impossible to imagine day-to-day operations without computers, and soon they will be integrated into the fabric of our daily lives on a more fundamental level as

technology continues to advance. Therefore, the idea of a seamless, connected future relies on data analysis and its effective processing that will allow companies to develop products to transform the world. It is then an inarguable truth that data science will be at the core of the future world, making possession of the knowledge of computer science and data analysis an invaluable asset. Moreover, as the effectiveness of machine learning increases, historical and statistical data can be utilized for research and bring advancements in medicine, disease diagnosis, and surgery, thereby saving countless lives.

Ultimately, the OMS CS program at Georgia Tech is the ideal choice for me as the course's online nature allows me to develop my knowledge of computing without sacrificing my work. Moreover, given that the university is one of the leading technological schools globally, learning from world-renowned professors and work with talented individuals will substantially help build my professional career. In the future, combining my computer science knowledge with my multistudy background will be paramount in fulfilling my long-term goal of developing an enterprise that will design data products, allowing people to make crucial decisions in different fields based on existing data. Therefore, the Master's degree in Computer Science is an essential stepping stone that will bring me closer to achieving my goal of being part of the revolution that will advance humanity and change the world for the better.