Tell us about your interest in engineering or what you hope to achieve with a degree in engineering. Describe what appeals to you about Cornell Engineering and how it specifically relates to your engineering interest or aspirations.\*

Inquisitive and Destructive.

These are the two words that described me best during my growing years. It was always my inquisitiveness to understand how & why’s that lead to the destructive streak. The earliest recorded act is of me completely dismantling a Robot that my doting mother bought for my fourth birthday. I was very keen to understand how its hands moved and probably for the first time I saw a gear coupled to a motor. The price was a mere sacrifice of the robot itself. The disdain in my father’s eyes and the glee in mine is in the video is for all to see. There were many other similar incidents as I grew up. Breaking the prism to decipher the splitting of white light, opening up dry cells and getting my hands black, dismantling telephones mouth piece to see the diaphragm, the list is endless.

The joy of making

However, the destructive streak eased up a bit once I discovered the joy of making. First it was a simple pin hole camera when we were learning basics of optics in grade five. Then came my first electric circuit, oh the sheer joy of seeing the LED glow when I connected two oil pins – they were my switch. More complex electro magnet followed. When my Physics teacher asked me to place it in the Lab for other students to see, my chest swelled by a few centimeters. I also remember making an electrolysis set-up, which I named an ‘oxygen generator’. This fast tracked my entry into the school’s prestigious Physo club.

In grade six I was admitted in the ‘Robotics’ club. My joy knew no bounds. Working on the circuits, soldering and making my first car was out of the world experience. I would spend hours on making many contraptions – an infra ray blocker to confuse remote control of TV, motion sensor bell etc. My father would forcibly wean me away from these things so that my grades at school don’t suffer. But I would still steal moments to catch up on my evolutions. Regrettably during exams my mother would lock up my kit, a period I would detest. The first flying object that I made were the rockets made out of cardboard and propelled by HP air. Later I used a 2 litres Coke bottle to make the rockets sturdy. I was thrilled when in a competition we were able to fly and cross the 100 m mark. I have also made a quadcopter, the joy of seeing it fly was something that I will cherish for a long time.

Then came computers

Somewhere in grade seven I was introduced to HTML and immediately fell in love. It started with ‘Hello World’ and the amazement has never ceased. The best thing about writing codes is that every day is a new challenge, a new evolution. The sheer joy of going through that cycle of evolving a logic, writing a code, multiple cycles of compiling-debugging, and finally getting the output. It is such an adrenalin rush, that nothing else really compares to it. When I am coding, its happiness in truest form. Hours don’t matter, outside world doesn’t exist. Therefore, the only thing that I want to keep doing for rest of my life is Computers.

I hope to someday evolve and work on AI. I have always been curious about Artificial Intelligence in Computers. The ability to make a program that can ‘think’ is something I crave for. I would love A.I to be a part of my future. The wide range of avenues and applications that it has are very exciting and I would love to be given an opportunity to contribute to this ever-growing and mysterious field of computer science.