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By the age of fourteen, I'd watched almost every series that was remotely related to comic books. My favorite one was, and still is, *The Flash*. It had everything I liked: superheroes, pretty girls, and Star Wars references. As I got deeper into my academic studies, I realized that the concepts the show dealt with—time travel, multiple universes, and black holes—were real topics discussed by the scientific community; I was bewildered. I started researching, and after devouring all of Michio Kaku's books and being fascinated by Neil deGrasse Tyson's ability to make everything sound cool, I knew I wanted to become a scientist.

Even as an unenlightened eighth-grader, I quickly became drawn to the most mysteriously fascinating branch of science: quantum mechanics. Quantum mechanics, in general terms, studies our reality at a level in which our basic understanding of how things work is not applicable; light waves behave like particles, particles coexist in simultaneous higher dimensions, and higher dimension are able to create even more particles. The basic principles of this theory are so abstract that even renowned physicist Niels Bohr said, "Those who are not shocked when they first come across quantum theory cannot possibly have understood it."

Still, the unexplored areas of quantum theory inevitably create unexplored opportunities. Current research suggests that the potential uses of quantum mechanics include particle accelerators, medical imaging techniques, the next generation of computers and smartphones, and everything in between. Even more so, this theory (in addition to developing the plot of almost every modern science fiction movie) has brought scientists closer to explaining the answers to fundamental questions about our existence, thereby revolutionizing our understanding of the natural world.

During my undergraduate studies, I intend to work towards a degree in Physics, as I believe this career choice will enable me to broaden my knowledge about quantum theory and diversify my skills. Personally, I am truly interested in the simple, yet elegant approach science and mathematics provide to understand the world around us, as well as the sophisticated and logical explanations they provide. To me, the fact that everything we experience in our daily life—and even everything that we don't in the quantum world—can be explained with pure numbers and equations is particularly intriguing.

Richard Feynman believes that, “Quantum mechanics describes nature as absurd from the point of view of common sense. And yet it fully agrees with experiment. So I hope you can accept nature as She is—absurd.” Quantum theory takes an unprecedented approach as to how science perceives our universe. It operates in ways so unfamiliar to the human mind that we’re sometimes confused by it; however, it’s this theory’s uniqueness that sparks my imagination the most. Indeed, like the black hole in the season one finale of *The Flash* (yes, I know this stuff), I believe this branch of science will eventually become a gateway to endless possibilities and applications, and as a future college student, I aspire to learn more about them.