I never knew what computer science would be for me. I was first introduced into computer science the summer before beginning undergraduate college at Morehouse College. I was accepted into the Google HBCU-CSSI summer institute. Here I learned python for the first two weeks of the camp, and worked on a python project the last week of the camp. Previously, I was set on majoring in chemistry during my undergraduate years. I did this on a whim because of how well I did in chemistry in highschool. I also took Advanced Placement Chemistry in highschoo, which I thought truly solidified my decision to major in chemistry. After attending this camp, I decided I wanted to delve deeper into computer science. Starting computer science a few weeks before college was very beneficial to me. The first year of computer science at Morehouse College didn’t seem to bad to me and things were moving smoothly. I passed every class with flying colors and also never really needed any assistance for any of the assignments. It truly made me think computer science was not as bad as people made it to be. I even secured an internship with Optum under UnitedHealth Group! Then after this experience, I had a sense of imposter syndrome. What I learned at college and what was presented at the internship were two completely different worlds for me At the internship, I was thrown into the deep end dealing with technologies such as Swift, Objective-C, TypeScript, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, some database schema, sprite creation, and much more that was so new to me! In addition to not knowing the technologies, I also did not have the mathematical foundation needed to understand some of the concepts we were talking about. The hightest math course I took at the time was Algebra II and Trigonometry. At the internship, we were dealing with Calculus fundamentals. In addition to not having the mathematical foundation, the only language I had dealt with at the time was C++ and that was only an introductory course! I was mind boggled at how much I didn’t know and how much work I perceived had to be done. In my head I started to question whether I was fit for this field. Then come sophomore year of college and I am accepted to work at this research lab. Here we worked on various projects. At first I was placed on a team to deal with inputting data manually into a spreadsheet. It was such a tedious task. As I continued to work in the lab, I was given various projects to work on. The first one I remember was dealing with a sphero ball. Here I was tasked to program a script to make the sphero ball do various actions. It was a great introduction to programming in the research lab. Then I was moved to a team to scrape data from youtube which was my favorite project. We created a program where we would enter someone’s username, and from there we would scrape data to see the number of subscribers, some comments and more metadata that could be used for analysis. This was a great project that had me interested in learning more about the capabilities of coding. Then there was a shift to virtual learning. After transitioning to virtual learning, I started to have more struggles than I expected. This was the first time I ever failed a class and it was hard to get help due to everyone adjusting to the new way of learning. My struggles became so bad that there was a point in my career when I questioned do I even want to continue in computer science. I asked this question the beginning of my junior year. The college was completely virtual and I was still adjusting to this style of learning. I remember just feeling so lost and not knowing what my future would hold for me. I had my doubts until there was another shift in my perspective. Enter SCGI. My first introduction to SCGI was my junior year of undergrad at Morehouse College. I was asked to participate in a HPC in the City 2020 hackathon hosted by SCGI. At first I was a little nervous because I did not believe I had the technical skills to help my teammates. I was a struggling student in computer science and held imposter syndrome due to my previous experiences in computer science. After accepting the invitation to the hackathon, I was rather surprised at what happened next. I was paired with some individuals who were working on a COVID-19 Transmission and Economic correlation. I did not have the mathematical skills to truly understand what was going on with the SIR model or how to even make any meaningful changes to the base code already given. It was thanks to my mentor Max Curie for helping me go through what I did not understand and break it down into terms that made it easy to understand. After his help, I was able to contribute to the project and that made me feel better about myself! At this hackathon, we also won the viewer’s choice award so it felt as if our efforts were noticed! This was a great experience because I was forced to try something that I have been struggling with in the past years. This made me see computer science in a different light. This was actually one of my first introductions into data science that was used in a practical application. Thanks to this hackathon, I wanted to learn more abot front end due to all the charts and layouts. I also wanted to learn more about data science but was not sure in which aspect yet. During my junior year summer, I got to work on frontend like I wanted to! The first experience I had with frontend was with Black Venture Capital Consortium. Here, there was a bootcamp for two weeks on frontend development. It was very beneficial the information we were learning. We were learning about React and what could be implemented with it. Here I felt a sense of imposter syndrome and was burnt out because of how much work I was doing but not really feeling like my efforts were being noticed. Not until the end of the bootcamp at least. After this bootcamp, I interned with Optum under UnitedHealth Group again was able to work on the website for our Enterprise Provider Search project. This was a great experience for me. I was able to contribute more to the team than the last time I interned with this company. Once again, however, I kind of felt imposter syndrome, but thanks to the encouragement of Ryan Tyler and some of my teammates and mentors, I was able to shake that feeling and be proud of what I did accomplish. I began to want work on frontend development some more. Senior year I started to branch out more and try new things with coding. I became a lead with the Black Venture Capital Consortium for Software Engineering in hopes that I could help individuals advance in tech as best as I could. I also had an internship with AutoDesk, where I was learning some machine learning fundamentals and also dealing with sending data back and forth between a client and server for gesture recognition. I began a frontend course that helped me learn more about React. I was able to put these skills to use in another hackathon. I participated in another hackathon hosted by SCGI. This hackathon was the 2022 ADMI hackathon. I was paired with some teammates from the AUC and we were working on showing the gentrification within certain districts within California. This project sparked much interest in me because of my new found passion for frontend development. I was able to create a map that displayed GeoJSON data around the districts and also display the differences in what the districts looked like previously versus what it looked like in the present day This hackathon truly reminded me that a lot of tasks and challenges can be solved just through a few steps. The first step is simply getting a grasp of the problem trying to be solved. Once there is a sense of direction for the problem, simply start. Starting can be one of the hardest things to do with most activities in life, especially if there is any sense of self-doubt. By starting a task, that’s more progress made than pondering if I could do the task. To this current day I still do not know which direction I want to explore in computer science. Recently at this SCGI coding institute, I have learned so much that has gained my interest. I have always wanted to get into Unix/Linux, and this coding institute provided me with that opportunity. I also knew that I wanted to be able to help others in areas that they struggle. I was able to help individuals at this institute as well. I also learned about working in a professional setting at this institute. I do know which path I will end up on, but it will be okay with a sense of direction, starting the process and staying consistent with the process. Also I understand that life in technology itself is a journey. The more experiences I have with tech, the better. Only time will tell where I will be.