It is a great pleasure for me to know that Abdus Salam Azad is applying for the Graduate program at the department of Computer Science at Stanford University. Azad completed his B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 2014. He was graduated with a CGPA of 3.95/4.00 securing the 3rd position out of 153 students in his class. It is a tremendous achievement considering that the top 5% students of the country get admission into BUET. Because of this excellent result, he was selected to be appointed as a lecturer of this University immediately after his graduation. So I was lucky to have him as a colleague also. Currently, he is pursuing his M.Sc. degree and has already completed his course works with a CGPA of 4.00/4.00. Based on my interactions with him as a teacher as well as a colleague, I feel very happy to write a recommendation for him as a worthy candidate for your graduate program.

Azad first came to my notice when he was an undergraduate student of my course CSE 303 (Database). I found him participating actively during the lectures of the course and I was very impressed by his intellectual questions and eagerness to solve assignments. He obtained the highest grade A+ in that course. Later, during the postgraduate study, he took another course CSE 6602 (High Dimensional Data Management) offered by me. This course included a project work where Azad came up with a very promising idea for searching and describing images with natural language sentences. To understand the semantic of images, he proposed a two-phased method, where in the first phase the objects within the images will be identified and the semantic relations between them will be learned by a Semantic Composition Recursive Neural Network in the second phase. We are currently working further on this problem and hope to produce promising outcomes.

Besides the excellent academic record, Azad also excels in programming and development activities. Under my supervision, he, along with two of his classmates, won the gold prize in an Android Application Development Contest, arranged by Samsung R&D, Bangladesh. The idea of the app was very intriguing. The app implemented a platform where the community members can collaborate to write stories together. Azad is currently working with me on another project of designing interactive digital textbooks for a governmental organization of Bangladesh, where he developed a part of android E-book reader software. In this year-long development project, he has been working with dedication and playing an important role in the team so far.

I was also impressed with Azad’s teaching capabilities when we together conducted a course (CSE 472: Machine Learning Lab) at BUET. In that course, he designed some creative assignments and few research projects for the students. As a teacher, I found him to be very popular among the students because of his easy-to-understand, interactive lectures and helpful attitude. He is also a pleasant, well-mannered, and cooperative person among his friends and colleagues.

I personally believe Azad has a very strong foundation for higher studies. In particular, he is well acquainted with the knowledge of artificial intelligence research areas. One of his recently published articles in the reputed IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics journal proves his competencies, potential, and the perseverance to work on a research problem relentlessly which is much needed for a Ph. D. research. Without any reservation, I strongly recommend him for admission into the graduate program of your university along with any possible financial assistance.

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