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I have known Ivan Ivanov for more than 3 years. I have been the leader of the USSR International Physics Olympiad team for several years. Among other winners of the USSR Olympiad Ivan took part in winter (two weeks) and summer (a month) sessions of the team in 1991. The sessions included advanced lectures on physics. Seminars devoted to theoretical problems and intensive laboratory courses were alternated with frequent rounds of problem solving contests designed to reduce the number of candidates from 15 to 5.

Being only 15 years old, Ivan lacked some necessary skills but despite the spirit of competition that was present at the winter sessions he easily communicated with other members of the team managing to learn much from his fellows. At the Olympiad itself that was held in Havana Ivan received the special prize of the European Physics Society rating the first of 150 participants from more than 30 countries. This result represented remarkable progress made in six months. The Silver Medal at the International Physics Olympiad in Helsinki confirmed Ivan's outstanding knowledge of physics.

There is an established tradition that students who have won the IPhO in previous years work as instructors in the sessions of the succeeding IPhO teams. Ivan Ivanov is one of such students. The amount of work he has done was especially large last year. It is worth saying that Russian IPhO team won the first prize in the XXIV IPhO (Williamsburg, Virginia) last summer.

I am convinced that much of a student's success, e.g. in physics is determined by the way he has learned the subject before entering university : one who used to study ahead of others in school rarely fails to do so afterwards. Ivan is no exception to the rule. Attending advanced classes on group theory helps him much , so does the reading of original works and books on quantum mechanics. Taking into account my knowledge of Ivan Ivanov as a brilliant, perseverant and intelligent student, I feel confident about his ability to realize his undoubtedly huge potential. I highly recommend him for graduate study in your Institution.

Faithfully yours,

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