Dear Admissions Committee,

During my three years of study at Renmin University of China, I thought I was used to the existence of digital tech, but the show-up of ChatGPT has made me rethink the impact of technology on productivity. I realized how unfortunate it would be not to master these essential skills in a world driven by digital technology. In the past decade, digital technologies have deeply permeated economic research methodologies, making it crucial to master such technologies to succeed. While the purely theoretical curriculum has deepened my understanding of economic analytical methods, the lack of practical application of digital technology has left me unable to apply this knowledge in real-world settings. To overcome this limitation and advance further on my path in economics, I decided to apply for the MA in Economics Department at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Throughout my undergraduate studies, I have received comprehensive training in the economics curriculum, which has built a solid theoretical foundation in economic analysis. Courses such as microeconomics and macroeconomics have equipped me with an intuitive understanding of economic systems' fundamental logic. Meanwhile, game theory and information economics have strengthened my ability to analyze complex interactive behaviors. My econometrics coursework also introduced me to data processing tools like Stata. However, despite this theoretical training, I feel that I lack practical application skills. I understand that to solve real-world problems in the field of economics, it is necessary to bridge the gap between theory and practice through digital technologies.

The COVID-19 lockdowns and my preparation for the National Entrance Examination for Postgraduate took up a significant portion of my time during my undergraduate years, preventing me from engaging in internships directly related to my major. However, I did not stop pursuing self-driven learning during this period. In my spare time, I took the initiative to learn programming languages such as C and C++, gaining basic syntax and applications. Additionally, I used VBA scripts to streamline data processing tasks during my work in the student union and participated in the university's New Year's push in WeChat, where I explained how HTML code worked in SVG effects. I believe that my foundational programming knowledge, along with my planning pre enrollment studies in algorithms and data structures, will enable me to keep pace with the Economic Data Science concentration and further sharpen my skills.

Given my academic interests and career aspirations, I believe that the MA in Economics Department at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the best choice for me. I am fully aware that, as a student without engineering background, the program will be challenging. Nevertheless, I am passionate about this field and willing to devote the time and effort necessary to overcome any obstacles. I sincerely hope to have the opportunity to study at your university and climb toward my goals.

Sincerely,

Liu Renshi