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September 25, 2019

Sridhar Kota
University of Michigan, Mechanical Engineering Department
Herrick Professor of Engineering
2350 Hayward St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Dear Professor Kota:

I am writing in response to research opportunities in your lab, which are posted on the Compliant Systems Design Laboratory website. I am a junior student majoring in computer science at the University of Michigan, and will graduate in April 2021. I transferred from Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), and my major at SJTU is mechanical engineering. I am very interested in your soft robot project. I feel that I am prepared for the research in your lab because of my interdisciplinary background, academic foundation and communication skills.

First, my interdisciplinary background matches the research well. With background in both mechanical engineering and computer science, I can apply many new techniques such as machine learning and computer vision in mechanical engineering field. Nowadays, the research in mechanical engineering requires more and more techniques from computer science. With sound understanding on these tools, I am confident that I can make a difference in your project.

Second, my solid academic foundation enables me to contribute in your lab. My GPA for courses except politics courses is 3.86. Especially I earned A or A+ for some courses related with your research field. For example, I earned A in Design and Manufacturing I and my course project is to develop a soft robot to grasp objects. With sufficient training in mechanical engineering, I am eligible to conduct analysis, building, experiment and reporting.

Lastly, I am skilled at cooperating with other researchers. With abundant social activities and academic service, I learned how to cooperate with others efficiently, which is a transferrable skill. I have served as a teaching assistant, and I gradually learned how to communicate technical information clearly and efficiently. Other experiences such as serving as an advisor in Advising Center in my institute also improved my communication skills. I believe this skill prepares me to cooperate with researchers in your lab to accomplish a large project.

I would like to join your lab and contribute to your soft robotics project. I have enclosed my resume and I will reach out before October 15th to talk about the possibility of the research opportunity.

Sincerely

Yixuan Wang