13 June 2020

Smart Manufacturing and AI team
Micron Technology

Recruiter / Hiring Manager,

My name is Colton Grainger; I am a math Ph.D. student on leave from the University of Colorado at Boulder, having worked over the last year in the Data Engineering and Curation Section at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. My professional interests include wrangling messy data, modeling complex systems, and prototyping solutions to ambiguous problems.

In the wake of COVID-19, and because I want to contribute technical expertise to my community and hometown, Boise, I have decided to pivot in my career trajectory to take a **Data Engineer** position at Micron beginning Summer 2020, rather than returning to graduate school on a teaching assistantship in the Fall.

My immediate qualifications to work on the Smart Manufacturing and AI team at Micron include

1. over three years of scientific computing experience in various **programming, scripting, and query languages**;
2. a year of professional **data engineering** experience at the National Center for Atmospheric Research; and
3. background in **mathematics and data science** that drives me to produce quality code and documentation.

For example, at NCAR, I worked independently under two project scientists on the reduction of meteorological data from binary image files using Python and SQLAlchemy. Starting from scratch, I designed a metadata schema and ingest system for a ~60 TB collection of scanned images to reduce each ~6 MB image to ~2 KB of meteorological time-series metadata, and I developed this workflow to completion over a year.

The analogous value I would add to the Smart Manufacturing and AI team would be in (i) communicating openly, frequently, and enthusiastically with my peers and supervisors; (ii) authoring bullet-proof data workflows to feed machine learning models; and (iii) collaborating with an agile team to progress on technical projects at a mind-numbing speed.

As a Boise native making an early career transition from pure mathematics towards data engineering, I want to emphasize that I have intense desire to learn and improve professionally in both the short term (~3 months) and long term (~5 years). Hence, I am committed to rapidly assimilating technical familiarity with cloud computing platforms (AWS, AZURE, GCP, Snowflake, etc) and ETL tools (SSIS, NiFi, Matillion, Fivetran, etc) if hired.

A subset of the technical tools I am confident using now looks like: apache, bash, `git`, debian, Excel, `gcloud`, Java, MongoDB, MySQL, `nginx`, numpy, pandas, `PostgreSQL`, `python3`, `scipy`, `statistics`, SQLAlchemy, and `unittest`. I would need to "book up", but I could also be proficient in: `Perl`, R and C dialects.

Thank you for your consideration,

Colton Grainger