

Yihui Xie
In the Middle of Nowhere
Omaha, NE 68022
Email: xie@yihui.name
Homepage: <https://yihui.name>

Hiring Manager
School of Ninja, Hacker's University
404 Not Found Road, Undefined 0x1234, NA

December 32, 2018

Dear Hiring Manager,

It is my honor and pleasure to write a letter of recommendation¹ for Dr. Emi Tanaka, a great hacker in my eyes.

Emi said it was heck of a praise² when I said Earo was a very impressive hacker. Well, the fact is that I have been actually impressed many more times by Emi, which is probably because Earo is a relatively low-key hacker, and I have seen a lot of cool things Emi posted on Twitter this year. If I were to write a full letter about them, it would probably take me two whole days. Below is a one-hour attempt to show the many ways in which she can be so cool.

¹Is this the first letter that contains GIFs ever in the history of human?

²<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/1023118510745038848>



- She added the ninja themes to **xaringan**³.
- The **anicon** package⁴ to insert animated icons or images or text⁵ in R Markdown / **xaringan** / Shiny.
- The **datalegreya** package⁶ that uses a special typeface to represent data directly with text (which is an even smarter idea than sparklines). Magic.

³<https://github.com/yihui/xaringan/pull/165>

⁴<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/1021683550171496449>

⁵<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/1010323499901075456>

⁶<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/1018823773162618882>

- She discovered the ultimate secret⁷ of the “Infinite Moon Reader” in **xaringan**: when an HTML page is automatically refreshed, the scroll position is preserved. This is extremely helpful when the document is long or has many pages, because otherwise you will have to scroll like crazy to the position where you last viewed. This feature is quite subtle and has been there for almost two years, and Emi was the first person (to my knowledge) who had discovered it and been excited about it.
- Obviously she is very good at hacking with CSS. Look at her **xaringan** slides⁸ with the shiny (I mean sparkling) r-ladies theme, and the content is pretty good, too!
- The joy over FiraCode⁹ (as it was supported in RStudio).
- She wrote one of the bestest **blogdown** tutorials¹⁰ (the level of details is amazing).
- And people truly appreciated¹¹ her **blogdown** seminar.

⁷<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/1012664098616590336>

⁸<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/1009591310150299648>

⁹<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/993662737099079680>

¹⁰<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/993003327074926592>

¹¹<https://twitter.com/certifiedwaif/status/1029640487399915520>

- Her website is one of the most beautiful websites I have seen. In particular, everyone loved her showcase.^{[12](#)} Did I mention that it was actually one of the four websites I highlighted in the R Markdown book^{[13](#)}?
- The shiny custom loader.^{[14](#)} Hahaha. Super fun^{[15](#)}, and magic.
- She can teach statistics courses.^{[16](#)} I barely remember what linear mixed models are.
- And she just started answering^{[17](#)} #rstats questions on Stack Overflow the other day! Thank you!!

Creative, enthusiastic, excellent taste of design, with great attention to details. That is my overall impression of this hacker.^{[18](#)}

¹²<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/990422351593406464>

¹³<https://bookdown.org/yihui/rmarkdown/basics-examples.html>

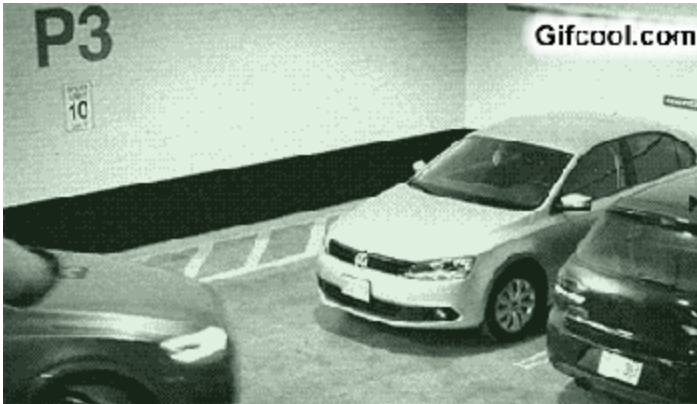
¹⁴<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/972727676459872256>

¹⁵<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/975321139550478336>

¹⁶<https://twitter.com/statsgen/status/1001293550531694592>

¹⁷<https://stackoverflow.com/a/51575804/559676>

¹⁸This letter was originally published in my blog at <https://yihui.name/en/2018/07/emi-tanaka/>.



Yihui Xie

Yihui Xie
Software Engineer
RStudio, PBC