August 2, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

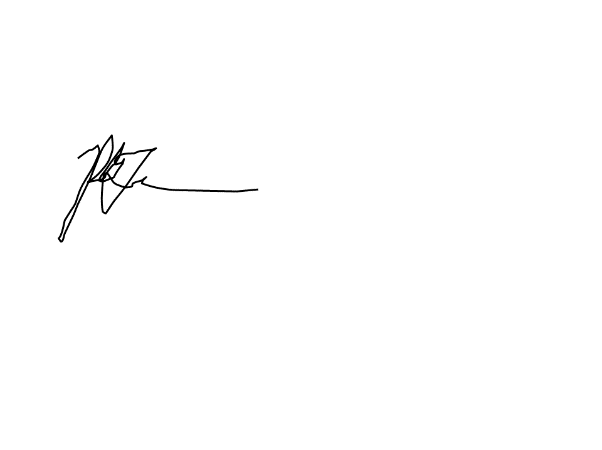
I write this letter to express my positive experience working with Eric Katzelnick as part of Northeastern University’s Level Data Analytics Bootcamp, July 2016. I am part of a multidisciplinary team that includes members from academia, the government (National Park Service), non-governmental organizations, and the EMC cloud computing corporation. I am a biologist; a full time professor at a research institution in Mexico but also adjunct faculty with the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park and the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Our team is building a data integration and visualization platform that responds to society’s need to understand, predict, and communicate the effects of climate change on biodiversity. Our pilot is to build the platform with data describing inter-annual changes in bird abundances across the eastern US from two major citizen science databases, eBird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) and Hawk Watch (Hawk Monitoring Association of North America).

We gave Eric free reign to write code to test whether the two datasets capture the same patterns in species abundance data. He accomplished this task. What really surprised me about Eric was his ability to think like a scientist and enthusiastically engage with the full meaning of the data. In other words, he was interested in learning about the ecological context of the data and our research questions, rather than simply write code that did not consider *why* he was writing that code. He demonstrated an interest in our broader goals and, rather quickly, he came up with several possible coding projects. He did not wait for us to tell him what to do but, instead, asked questions in a way that could flush out his own interests and approaches yet still be relevant to our research group. It was obvious that he is inquisitive, an independent thinker, and creative.

Eric coded everything in R, a program for which he seems to understand and use efficiently. He created nice maps that helped visualize his results.

I am sure Eric would be an asset to any company, project, or team that brings him into their fold.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard Feldman

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