Eric **Crisp**

ecrisp@upenn.edu | +1 (302) 528 - 2477 | linkedin.com/in/ecrisp

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Dear Anthropic Hiring Team,

I have always pursued challenges in that align with my interests and for years now, I have been navigating my career from aerospace towards software development, particularly artificial intelligence and machine learning. At this inflection point, I have left the aerospace sector behind in pursuit of long-term interests: leading a career centered around leaving a positive impact on society. This has led me to pursuing a masters degree at the University of Pennsylvania, where I plan to excel by leveraging my technical and interpersonal skills to positively affect change on a technology impacting the global scale. Given my experience as an aerospace engineer at Blue Origin, success in conducting fundamental and applied research, and a lifelong passion of working to benefit society, I believe I am a strong candidate for the Residency position with Anthropic.

As in all industries, command over domain knowledge is critical for success; however, creating artificial intelligence requires more than domain specific knowledge; it involves merging diverse experiences and insights into a product capable of meeting the expansive needs of the customer – ethically. Some of the aerospace domain knowledge I have collected encompasses topics such as developing optimized pseudo-inverse Jacobian-based weighted least squares algorithms and physics simulations for flight software development when building the Real Time Modeling (RTM) capability at Blue Origin, or hardware design and manufacturing practices through leading several production engines from design to orbit at Firefly Aerospace and even the full product development life-cycle a lunar landing rocket engine. Each of these domains are interdisciplinary and helped develop the skills in I bring to the software development field such as data-based design and decision making, team leadership and mentorship, and delivering complex projects to completion. While these skills are valuable and have transferable aspects, if I were given this opportunity at Anthropic, I would also leverage all of my breadth, experience, and motivation to hit the ground running.

During my undergraduate and graduate research, I sharpened my critical thinking, logical reasoning, and independent study skills which have helped me become a versatile engineer capable of independent work with little oversight and yielding valuable results. For example, in one year I took on a master's thesis involving fundamental electrodynamics and electrochemistry, a topic previously foreign, learned the content needed, developed my hypothesis, determined how to test it, analyzed the results, applied them into a new application and successfully defended a coherent and useful thesis to a panel of chemists. Although my research focused on a different topic, at its core I internalized the value of a complete understanding of the relevant fundamentals, how to conduct insightful scientific research, and the power of strong communication. I would bring value to Anthropic as a Residency because I have not only successfully demonstrated an ability to communicate and independently understand complex concepts without losing sight of both the meaning and impact is a transferable skill, but I am also eager to apply these skills to learn more in this field.

Thus far, I have demonstrated the relevance of my software development work at Blue Origin, research efforts and publications in academia, as well as demonstrated passion and interest in artificial intelligence research. In the interest of following my passions, I have decided that my career should pursue artificial intelligence, specifically, the Residency role at Anthropic. After learning about my technical and research background, hopefully you would agree.

Sincerely,

Eric Crisp