November 20, 2024

Admissions Committee  
Northeastern University  
Khoury College of Computer Sciences

Dear Members of the Admissions Committee,

I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation for Jiazheng Su, who is applying to your program. Jiazheng is a senior Computer Science student at Boston University who has been a student intern in our group since January 2024. Over the past year, I have observed his significant growth as a computer scientist and a problem solver.

When Jiazheng joined our internship program, he needed to develop several real-world skills that are often beyond the academic curriculum. For example, he had to learn how to use a Linux editor and master advanced version control skills, including branch management, conflict resolution, and pull requests. Despite the steep learning curve, Jiazheng enthusiastically embraced these challenges and quickly adapted to our group’s workflow. He also showed a keen interest in learning advanced topics such as code profiling, handling large datasets, and submitting batch jobs on our cluster.

One of Jiazheng’s first major projects was to optimize an existing application developed by a former student intern. This application, written in Python, processed unstructured text but was not efficient. To address this, I asked Jiazheng to rewrite this application in Perl – a language that is better suited for this application but which Jiazheng was not familiar with. Jiazheng approached the task with remarkable curiosity and determination. He dove into learning Perl and navigated the inevitable challenges with diligence and perseverance, independently resolving issues along the way. The resulting application was significantly more efficient and is now actively used by our team.

His latest project included developing an interactive application to visualize the waiting time for various categories of jobs on our cluster. For this project, I asked Jiazheng to use Python Shiny, a new framework that had only recently been released. Once again, Jiazheng enthusiastically took on the challenge, quickly mastering the tool. Within just a few weeks, he developed a functional application featuring a variety of informative graphs that provided valuable insights into our internal data. This project demonstrated not only his ability to learn cutting-edge tools independently but also his creativity and commitment to delivering meaningful results.

Jiazheng’s strong work ethic, adaptability, and eagerness to tackle unfamiliar challenges make him an outstanding candidate for your rigorous graduate program. His intellectual curiosity and commitment to expanding his technical expertise ensure that he will excel in your program and continue to grow as a skilled computer scientist.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

**Katia Bulekova**

Manager of Scientific Programming and Applications

Research Computing Services, IS&T

ph: 617.358.0959

**Boston University**