

Robert Nystrom
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Tuesday, Sept 7th, 2021

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Carol Chen

Dear Sir or Madam:

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to submit this letter on behalf of Ms. Carol Chen in support of her petition as an individual of extraordinary ability in the field of technology entrepreneurship and machine learning. I first came to know Ms. Chen in 2020 after finding her revolutionary writing about JIT Compilers on Hacker News, a social news website focusing on computer science and entrepreneurship. Since having met Ms. Chen, she has continued to receive numerous accolades in the field and I can attest to her being a top expert.

I am a seasoned technologist with over two decades of experience working as a software engineer for some of the worlds most successful technologies. From 2001 to 2010, I held numerous roles at Electronic Arts, the second-largest gaming company in the Americas and Europe by revenue and market capitalization, headquartered in Redwood City, California. While at Electronic Arts, I served as a Lead Software Engineer on the 2006 video game “Superman Returns”, where I was responsible for developing the tools and pipelines that housed and processed most of the data for the game. Since 2010, I have been a Software Engineer at Google where I am primarily responsible for designing and building changes to the Dart language, where I have implemented numerous core packages to the Dart ecosystem and the package manager. In addition to my role at Google, I am the author of two books: *Game Programming Patterns* and *Crafting Interpreters*.

As an expert in the field of technology and computer science and as a U.S. Citizen, I unequivocally support Ms. Chen in her application for an O-1A visa. Ms. Chen seeks an O-1 work visa to fulfill the position of Member of Technical Staff at Anthropic, in the U.S., where she will be responsible for contributing across the board to Anthropic’s technical infrastructure and research efforts. I understand that she will be primarily contributing to pretraining large language models at Anthropic, contributions which will in themselves significantly advance the field of machine learning, in addition to supporting safety research at Anthropic. As a colleague in the field who is familiar with her expertise, I am comfortable attesting that there is no one better-placed to take on such a role and advance the field in these critical ways.

In the time that I have known Ms. Chen I have been thoroughly impressed by her numerous career achievements that have garnered her continuing national and international acclaim, including:

- Ms. Chen's leadership as Software Engineer and inventor of the original software behind

Cohere's flagship product, Cohere API, which has drawn significant attention from numerous artificial intelligence luminaries including Geoffrey Hinton, a world renowned computer scientist with over 490,000 scholarly citations in leading academic journals.

- Ms. Chen's receipt of numerous internationally recognized awards including the Grand Prize in the 2018 Google Code-In competition, receipt of \$40,000,000 USD in venture capital funding from Index Ventures; \$150,000 USD in venture capital funding from Y Combinator, among others honors and accolades.
- Ms. Chen's membership in the Interact Fellowship, a well-established, prestigious industry network which only attracts individuals at the top of their fields; Ms. Chen's membership in Y Combinator, a prestigious technology accelerator with an acceptance rate between 1-2%; and
- Ms. Chen's authorship of numerous technical articles that have gone on to receive critical acclaim from the community of machine learning technologists including Yukihiro Matsumoto, creator of the Ruby software language in 1995, used by companies like Github, shopify, Groupon, Airbnb, Bloomberg, Soundcloud and many more.
- Ms. Chen's judging at Hack the North in 2021, a weekend-long programming contest that has been running since 2015 and was attended by over 3000 international participants.

Based on her past and continuing achievements which have been recognized at the highest level, Ms. Carol Chen continues to be a top expert in the field and has demonstrated the extraordinary ability demanded of an "Alien of Extraordinary Ability." Based not only on my own experience and expertise, but also by industry leaders and experts, I am confident that Ms. Chen will continue to have many successes. Therefore, I fully support her application for an O-1 visa so that she may continue her extraordinary work to enrich and advance the field in the United States.

Sincerely,

Robert Nystrom
Senior Software Engineer
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