COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

11/22/2010

To Whom It May Concern

Outside committee member approval request

I would to request that Dr. John Lafferty from Carnegie Mellon University be the outside committee member on my thesis committee. Dr. Lafferty is a CMU faculty in Machine Learning Department, Computer Science Department, and Department of Statistics. He researches a number of topics in machine learning and computational statistics, with basic research on theory, methods, and algorithms. Recent areas of focus include nonparametric methods, sparsity, the analysis of high-dimensional and large data sets, graphical models, and applications to language processing, text analysis, and information retrieval. Dr. Lafferty is one of the best in the Machine Learning field and has worked with many graduate students. In particular Dr. Lafferty is a pioneer and a current expert in the graph-based inference, which is the topic of my thesis.

Dr. Lafferty’s bio is attached.

Thank you

Michal Valko

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