January, 2008

Dear Assessor

I enthusiastically recommend Sasha Rubin for a postdoc or research fellowship position related in the area of theoretical computer science and its applications. Sasha would be a great addition to any research group in the area; I have no doubt that he would contribute to research results and ideas while working in any such group, and is able to develop new techniques in areas related to logic, automata, verification, analysis of algorithms, and applications of these.

I have known Sasha for 7 years. I first met him when he came to discuss some coursework while he was an honours student in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Auckland. I immediately noticed his sharp and keen mind. I subsequently supervised his Doctorate between 1999 and 2004. During this time he developed mathematical maturity and co-published papers in the top tier conferences LICS, STACS and CAV. He showed his enthusiasm, determination, and creativity to solve hard and combinatorial problems related to logic and automata. He is one of the founders of the theory of automatic structures; the area that has attracted the attention of many theoretical computer scientists. For example, Sasha has presented invited lectures on automatic structures at the following workshops: Dagstuhl Seminar 07441'Algorithmic-Logical Theory of Infinite Structures' in October 2007; and Durham 'Finite and Algorithmic Model Theory' in January 2006. I trust that Sasha's PhD thesis results were instrumental in attracting so many researchers into the area of automatic structures.

In the last three years Sasha has been a Postdoctoral Fellow in the theory group in the Department of Computer Science in Auckland.

He has travelled widely, helping to raise his profile in the international logic and theoretical computer science community. In particular he has recently collaborated with students in RWTH Aachen, resulting in solutions of some open problems in finite model theory and automatic structures. I would like to point out that Sasha has established a good collaboration environment with top experts in the area of automata and applications. These include Moshe Vardi, Erich Gradel, Valentin Goranko and their students.

His main research area is in the intersection of Mathematical Logic and the Theory of Computation. Moreover he has worked in Formal Verification with Moshe Vardi, one of the initiators of the automata-theoretic approach to verification.

In closing, Sasha has always shown enthusiasm to develop ideas with others. Sasha is always keen to learn, he is an excellent collaborator, and he is also a good presenter of results. All in all, Sasha is an excellent candidate and I can already see him developing into a well-established researcher.

Sincerely

Professor Bakhadyr Khoussainov
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