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Recommendation letter for Chen Feng

10-04-2025

I am writing this recommendation letter to support the application of Chen Feng for a position in the HK Laureate Forum.

I am a professor of Computer Vision and Human Sensing and have been director of Graduate Studies in the school of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science in Queen Mary University of London. I have supervised around 25 PhD students and more than 100 MSc and BSc students in their final year projects. I am also the program director for the MSc course in Machine Learning for Visual Data Analytics.

I am the academic supervisor of Chen in his PhD studies in Computer Science at Queen Mary University of London, and in this capacity have known him for more than 4 years. Chen has been mainly working on the problem of representation learning in the context of computer vision, particularly focusing on the challenges caused by lack of reliable annotations in various real-world problems. In this context Chen has addressed classification problems in scenarios involving missing data annotations, noisy data labels (i.e., data labels that are wrong, for example either because the annotators make mistakes, or because the labels are assigned in an automatic way), and data annotations that are in terms of broad categories, instead of fine-grained ones. These scenarios are of wide interest in real-world applications where there is often abundance of data, but lack of reliable labeling, for example in the case of data collected automatically on the internet, or from data in new domains.

Chen addressed those problems with rigour and by proposing novel and technically solid methodologies. His contributions to the field have been widely recognized and published in multiple top conferences, including CVPR, BMVC, etc. A couple of his works are currently under review -- I believe that they are excellent as well and expect to be published in top conferences or journals. His academic proficiency is also recognized as a reviewer for almost all major computer vision conferences including CVPR, ICCV, ICLR, AAAI, ICML, NeurIPS, BMVC, etc.

In addition to outstanding academic achievements, Chen has demonstrated excellent teamwork and leadership skills. He has played a key role and contributed in several research projects within my group, collaborated closely with several of my PhD students, and demonstrated the ability to flexibly propose solutions to complex problems.

Chen not only excels in research, but also shows interest and enthusiasm in teaching. He has been involved in several courses for master and undergrads as an assistant and his guidance and support of students has earned him respect.

In the time that I know him, Chen has demonstrated high intelligence, good intuition and excellent theoretical background and ability to understand not only the mechanics of complex works, but also why certain methods work well and others not. In these respects he is one of the best PhD students that I have had. He is highly ambitious with strong work ethics and integrity.

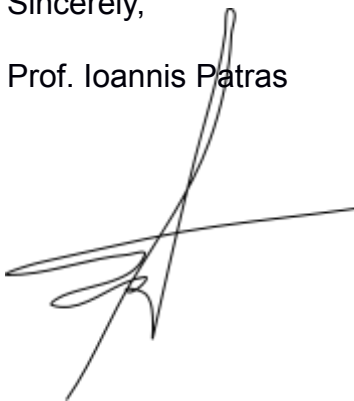
At a personal level, Chen has very good communication skills and is a pleasure to work with. He is open to collaborations, keen to contribute and has a friendly personality that made him liked to everyone in my group.

The HK Laureate Forum represents a unique opportunity for leading researchers and rising stars to engage in dialogue, exchange ideas, and shape the future of mathematics and computer science. Chen's participation in this forum would bring a fresh perspective grounded in both theoretical rigor and practical application. Moreover, his collaborative spirit and intellectual curiosity make him an ideal candidate to contribute meaningfully to the discussions and activities of the Forum.

In summary, I wholeheartedly endorse Chen's application to the HK Laureate Forum. His exemplary academic achievements, interdisciplinary mindset, and dedication to advancing the frontiers of AI make him an outstanding candidate. I am confident that his participation would not only enrich his own academic pursuits but also benefit the entire Forum community.

Sincerely,

Prof. Ioannis Patrás

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Ioannis Patrás'.