December 5, 2015

Graduate Admissions Committee
Re: applicant Ningjie Wei

Dear Graduate Admissions Committee:

I am delighted to provide a reference for Mr. Ningjie Wei. I have known him as a student in my Fall 2015 graduate course "CSE596: Intro Theory of Computation." He is completing a Master's in Industrial Engineering and this is his first term taking CS courses, "CSE531: Algorithms" being the other. I am an Associate Professor with long service at UB.

Mr. Wei is vying with one other for top student in the class of 18, most of whom intend PhD study (for which this course used to be required). He also asks the best questions in lecture, ones of general value for the rest of the class, and I've often had him post them to our *Piazza*-based forum so I can expand on my in-class answers.

I should say that he started out asking me "TCS-newbie"-type questions after class or in office hours, but (a) small wonder since he's new to CS overall, and (b) that was done by October 1. Now his first questions to me about assignments are, say, about the extra-credit thing I put on the last problem which could have been original research 20 years ago. . . —and which he just solved in a 5-page mini-paper in impeccable 11-point LaTeX with multicolor vector-graphics typeset illustrations. So although I have not had the kind of research-level discussions I've had with others of our own second-year theory students, I can vouch for his capability and creativity in research contexts.

His English is strong in speaking as well as writing. I would not be able to tell that he hasn't grown up in the NYC area. In sum I can recommend him most highly and I will be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Kenneth W. Regan