



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
8283 BUNCHE HALL
BOX 951477
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1477
(310) 825-1011
FAX (310) 825-9528

November 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to strongly recommend **Cong Xie**. Cong has been meeting with me often to talk about his research. Cong is extremely smart. It is a pleasure to interact with him. During the last few months, a typical interaction with him would be as follows: He comes to my office and tells me about a question he is trying to solve. I give me a bunch of references that might help him solve the question. After a couple of days, I get an e-mail from him with a new result developed using the references I gave him.

Cong's research deals with the effect on growth of policies that affect innovation and learning. In his research, he aims to fit to data a model that incorporates macro and I/O literatures. He develops results on the nonparametric identification of the primitive functions and distributions in the model and, to fit the model to data, he employs nonparametric estimation techniques. I will leave to Cong's main advisor, Hugo Hopenhayn, to discuss the model and its theoretical contribution within the macro and I/O fields. In terms of novelty outside those fields, I think Cong's analysis of his model, showing the identification power of it, is innovative and useful.

I am confident that Cong Xie will bring a lot of positive externalities to any group he will interact with. He understands the pros and cons of the different approaches and is willing to learn them and get the best of each. I strongly recommend him for a position in your department.

I would be glad to provide any additional information you might need.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R L M".

Rosa L. Matzkin
Charles E. Davidson Professor of Economics