

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I take immense pleasure in recommending Atefeh for the admission in a joint doctoral program in Cryptography and Block chain at IIT Kharagpur and University of Manchester. I have known Atefeh Taghavi since 2013, when she started her Ph.D. thesis under my supervision.

During her Ph.D., Atefeh confirmed her ability to perform high-quality research. She is well motivated, hardworking, and independent. Naturally, she needed advice and guidance, but at the level of ideas, directions, priorities. It was very pleasant for the supervisor to see that once goals were set, one did not have to worry about Atefeh's progress. In due course, Atefeh would bring the results back. As the Ph.D. progressed, Atefeh was getting more and more independent, setting his own research goals.

Results of Atefeh's thesis were of a quality sufficient for publication at good journals as well presented several national and international conference. The quality of her results are demonstrated by the fact that a paper describing the core contribution of the thesis has been accepted to ***Knowledge-Based Systems***, one of the most prestigious journals in the field. The three published papers extracted from her thesis in ISI journals:

[1] **A. Taghavi**, E. Eslami, E. Herrera Viedma, R. Urena, "Trust based group decision making in environments with extreme uncertainty ", *Knowledge-Based Systems*, 191, 2020.

[2] **A. Taghavi**, E. Eslami, F. J. Cabrerizo, E. Herrera Viedma, "Analyzing Feedback mechanisms in Group Decision Making Problems ", *Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing*, 643, 2018.

[3] F. J. Cabrerizo, J. A. Morente-Molinera, W. Pedrycz, **A. Taghavi**, E. Herrera Viedma, "Granulating linguistic information in decision making under consensus and consistency ", *Expert Systems with Applications*, 99, p. 83-92, 2018.

During her studies, she had the opportunity to work with Dr. Enrique Herrera viedma's group in Spain as a visiting researcher. During this work she learned a lot and showed the spirit of teamwork and working in multicultural environments.

I firmly believe that Atefeh's intellectual abilities, willingness to develop as a person and individual characteristics will help her in her further education and work. She is not afraid of making mistakes and accepts them if there are such. However Atefeh has a very reasonable approach to all problems both academic and in life.

Due to her knowledge and great aptitude for learning, and her interest new experiences, especially interdisciplinary work with real-world applications, Atefeh would be an excellent candidate for this Ph.D. program.

Furthermore, she is very calm and polite with nice personality, I am sure that you will enjoy her presence in your academic team. Therefore I recommend her strongly to be admitted.

Sincerely yours,

 03/06/2022

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