

Re: Aleksandar Aksentijevic

To whom it may concern.

I feel I have been privileged to collaborate with Aleksandar. I lecture in Computer Science Department of Birkbeck College, and about 18 months ago Aleksandar, who at the time was completing his PhD in the Cognitive Psychology Department, consulted me about an idea he had come up with for a measure of the complexity of a string of characters, designed to correspond to the way in which human observers judge complexity. Together we worked out the details, and presented a paper at the 8th International Conference of Cognitive Science in Sydney, showing that the measure correlated well with other complexity measures, both subjective and objective, reported in the psychological literature. Since then we have explored the possibility that the measure might have an application to DNA sequences, and preliminary results look promising.

Aleksandar is enormously stimulating to work with. He is full of ideas, and has that rare quality, the vision to see where they might lead. If anything comes of our DNA experiments it will be entirely due to his vision. He has tremendous enthusiasm and energy, together with the discipline needed, to carry through his ideas and his vision. As one experienced in judging academic ability, I would also say he has very considerable academic talent.

I will be sorry to see Aleksandar leave Birkbeck, and not just because I will lose proximity to a good friend and stimulating collaborator. It will be Birkbeck's loss. Academic communities need the Aleksandars of this world. I prophesy that whoever takes him on will take someone who will be instrumental in driving research forward.

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