

Letter of Recommendation for Evgeni Nikolaev

I have met Evgeni Nikolaev only a couple of times and know him best as part of the group that developed the computer package LOCBIF for the analysis of dynamical systems. I am also familiar with work on equivariant dynamical systems that he did as his thesis research.

LOCBIF was an outstanding computer program, one of approximately a half dozen "research strength" packages for the analysis of dynamical systems that have been written over the past twenty years. It was developed in Russia by a group of four that was led by Alex Khibnik and included Yuri Kuznetsov and Nikolaev. Algorithmic parts of LOCBIF and AUTO (Doedel) were extended by Kuznetsov into the packages CONTENT and now Matcont, so LOCBIF appears to be seldom used any more. I worked very closely for several years with Khibnik, and much of what I know about Nikolaev is second hand from him. He had a very high opinion of Nikolaev, viewing him as the most mathematically talented in the group. My impression of Nikolaev is that he is indeed an excellent mathematician. His work on equivariant dynamical systems is first rate, comparable to the work of Jeroen Lamb who is now an EPSRC Advanced Fellow in London.

I think Nikolaev is capable of having a strong research career in applied mathematics or bioinformatics, but I have not had enough contact with him to be more precise in my evaluation.


John Guckenheimer