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LABORATOIRE
DES SCIENCES
DU NUMÉRIQUE
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UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES

Dear colleagues,

With pleasure I write this recommendation letter to support the application of Dr. Simon Ramondenc to a postdoc position at the Alfred Wegener Institut. I am Assistant Professor (Maître de conférences) in the Computer Science department at Université de Nantes, where I perform research in formal verification of parametric programs/systems.

I first met Simon Ramondenc in late 2016 when he visited the systems biology group in my department. The purpose of his visit was to develop a new methodology for analyzing biological models in the form of Python programs and learning from this analysis the most adequate parameter values with respect to experimental data. In this context, we worked together on a method based on a recent verification technique, called Statistical Model Checking, which in particular allows to incorporate biological uncertainty and parameter variability inside biological models. I was impressed by Simon Ramondenc's capacity at understanding complex state-of-the-art techniques from computer verification and adapting them to the context of oceanography. Despite his biological background, he was able to handle these new techniques and implement them in his biological models. From this implementation, Simon Ramondenc was able to meet his initial goals, which were to identify parameter values under which the object of the study best fits experimental data. I was struck by Simon Ramondenc's programming abilities, which is not common for researchers with a biological background, as well as by his seriousness, dedication and curiosity.

I also had the pleasure of assisting to Simon Ramondenc's PhD defense and was again struck by the amount of scientific experiments and results that he achieved during his PhD. I believe that few PhD students are able to obtain such in-depth understanding on such a wide range of topics.

I believe that Simon Ramondenc's application to the AWI INSPIRES program is a great opportunity for him to pursue his work on marine ecology and biological oceanography modeling and analysis. I have no doubt that he possesses all the necessary skills and dedication to be extremely successful in this line of work.

For all these reasons, I strongly recommend Simon Ramondenc for his application to this postdoc position as part of the AWI INSPIRES initiative. If any questions arise from this recommendation, please feel free to contact me.

Benoît Delahaye, PhD, Ass. Professor
Université de Nantes
February 14, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Delahaye', written over a horizontal line.