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10 November 2026

Professor Rui Shen (申睿)
School of Management and Economics
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen
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Dear Professor Shen,

I am writing to apply for the Post Doctoral Fellow position (PR2026/035/01) in your group at the School of Management and Economics, CUHK-Shenzhen. The lab's emphasis on *data cleaning* and on using cleaned data for research in finance, accounting, economics, and management matches how I already work, and I would like to contribute to that pipeline.

Most of my research rests on large, messy raw data that I turn into analysis-ready panels. For my job market paper on Taobao apparel return policy, I clean and link order, price, insurance, and return records so that any number traces back to the code that produced it, then estimate a structural model of purchase, return, and whether to buy return-shipping insurance. With Professors Kohei Kawaguchi and Kei Kawai, I help build and maintain analysis-ready panels from Japanese bookstore point-of-sale records—tens of billions of records across more than 1,000 stores—merging them with product attributes scraped from the web. To turn unstructured product images and listings into analyzable variables, I use Python pipelines that combine web scraping, APIs, and AI-based OCR, with tests at each step so the cleaned data stay auditable. I organize the cleaned records in a relational database so that orders, products, prices, and returns can be linked and queried consistently across projects. I use R for structural estimation, simulation, and counterfactuals; and C++ for performance-critical tasks such as Monte Carlo simulation and iterative equilibrium solving, on SLURM and AWS.

I am comfortable both building the data infrastructure and using it for empirical research, and I would be glad to bring that combination to your group's projects. I am available from February 2027. My curriculum vitae, application form, and a representative paper are attached; two referees' contact details are listed on the CV.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,
Ke Cheng HSU