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November 27, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

It's my great pleasure to apply for the position of . . . . I am a Ph.D student in Department of Biostatistics of University of Pittsburgh under the supervision of Dr. George Tseng and Dr. YongSeok Park. I had my Bachelor's and Master's degree in physics. The position is attracting to me because it fits my research interests and long-term career plan.

My research interest lies in both statistical methodology and application on genomics and bioinformatics. Nowadays, large amount of genomic data are publicly available and I have worked on developing data integration methodologies to increase statistical power, interpretability and understanding of disease mechanism. I am particularly interested in modeling and optimization for high-dimensional data, Bayesian methods, graphical models and statistical computing, which are capable of accommodating the high-dimensional nature of genomic data. I have one statistical methodology paper published in JASA and two others under second round of review in AOAS.

I have collaborated with biologists in the fields of cancer and psychiatry to analyze a broad range of genomic data (e.g. microarray data and sequencing data). I am eager to seek for new opportunities of collaborations in my future tenure-track research environment, and I believe in return collaborations will motivate practical methodological ideas. However, since genomics and bioinformatics are fast-evolving fields, I am open minded to expand my research towards new data types (e.g. imaging data, single cell data) in the future.

I was a teaching fellow for a special study class on Bayesian data analysis and will teach advanced R computing in Spring 2017. I taught three graduate-level classes as a guest lecturer and served as a teaching assistant multiple times. I enjoy interacting with students and helping understand statistics. I view teaching as a good opportunity to organize knowledge structure and motivate new ideas for research. Since I have solid training in statistics, machine learning and also physics, I am confident that I am capable of teaching any basic, advanced or interdisciplinary course related to statistics.

My dream career is to become a devoted statistician to serve both statistics and biology communities. My long term goal is to bridge between bioinformatics and statistics/machine learning.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Zhiguang Huo (Caleb)

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