Yi Qian

9308 Cherry Hill Rd•Apt 406•College Park, MD 20740•518-522-7333•yiqian@cs.umd.edu

August 12, 2014

Derek Hewlett
Computer Science
American University
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Mr. Hewlett,

I am a second year computer science PhD student at University of Maryland College Park, and am writing to apply for the adjunct faculty position for Discrete Structure this fall.

As a PhD student studying cryptology and complexity, my passion in computer science theory extends to the teaching of theory courses such as Discrete Structure. For the past two semesters in University of Maryland College Park, I have been a teaching TA for CMSC 250 Discrete Structure. The weekly TA duties include leading discussion sections and grading quizzes. For the discussion part, I mostly help students solve problems and occasionally give lectures on new materials.

Overall, I am patient with students and very confident with my capability in teaching the course. Both my instructor and my students have positive comments on my job. For example, one of my students leaves the following comment anonymously in his course evaluation, which I very much appreciate.

"I was already lucky to have the best Professor teaching the class. It seems like a miracle that I also had the best TA for the same class. Simply put, Yi can teach. He can cut through any complications and explain things in their most basic form. He explains exactly what you need to know and how to solve a problem without going off on tangents or getting lost in thought. The only possible fault he could possibly have had was that sometimes if there was too much content to cover in one day, he would noticeably rush through material. This seems like an obvious action to take for anyone teaching."

During the semester, there are several students from other sections (they are supposed to attend discussion sections led by other TAs) choose to audit my lectures. I am glad to see that most of my students enjoy my lecture and learn the material. With such a pleasant experience, I would love to explore more teaching opportunities.

For the above reasons, I believe I am a perfect candidate for the position. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Yi Qian