Andrew Riddle

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inquire about the Python technical trainer/developer job posted on the Enthought website and to express my interest in adding to your effort to disseminate the greatest programming language to the masses.

With a background in both scientific programming in Python and teaching, I believe I have the ideal mix of programming knowledge and teaching experience to help inform new users in the scientific community/data science field of the capabilities and advantages of Python. Through my astronomy research, first at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and then at the University of Texas at Austin, I taught myself how to program in Python and developed those skills to perform most of my research activities. Some highlights from my research include:

* Create a user interface to query a database of hundreds of stars based on several search parameters and return a sorted list to the user based on other command line options.
* Combine with shell scripts to perform real-time image processing on data taken from the 0.8-m telescope at McDonald Observatory.
* Develop my own MCMC algorithm to perform an analysis on observational data from Keck Observatory to find the best 9-parameter fit to the data.

I have 7 semesters as a teaching assistant for lower and upper level undergraduate astronomy classes., where I enjoyed working with students to teach them new things. I have demonstrated excellent oral and written communication through presentation of 5 seminars at UT Austin and 3 successful proposals for telescope time at the LCOGT network of telescopes and at McDonald Observatory. I have also presented several posters at meetings of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and the Cool Stars conference. My presentation skills were recognized at the 227th meeting of the AAS in 2016, where I won the Chambliss Award for my poster presentation on my graduate research.