Teaching Statement Ching Nam Hang

Teaching is a fundamental element of my intended academic career path. The opportunity to impart knowledge to students at different stages, from freshmen to advanced graduate students, is a compelling aspect that draws me towards academia over industry research labs. In my perspective, effective teaching should focus on providing a thorough understanding of essential concepts and emphasizing core methodologies. Integrating industry-related topics, some drawn from my own professional experience, can foster a stronger connection between theory and practice.

During my Ph.D. (2019-2023), I fulfilled the role of a Teaching Assistant for several courses. In particular, I facilitated lessons for undergraduate courses, including *Introduction to Computer Studies* and *Artificial Intelligence: Past, Present, Future*. As I progressed to become a senior Ph.D. student, I also instructed a graduate course entitled *Convex Optimization and its Applications in Computer Science*. My responsibilities encompassed delivering tutorials and designing and grading assignments.

With my academic background in data science, machine learning, optimization theory, AI, and software programming, I am equipped to teach a broad spectrum of courses, including but not limited to:

- 1. Problem Solving and Computer Programming (Undergraduate)
- 2. Fundamentals of Data Science (Undergraduate)
- 3. Data Structures for Data Science (Undergraduate)
- 4. Introduction to Large Language Models (Undergraduate and Graduate)
- 5. Trustworthy AI in Healthcare (Undergraduate and Graduate)
- 6. Artificial Intelligence (Undergraduate and Graduate)
- 7. Machine Learning (Undergraduate and Graduate)
- 8. Introduction to Convex Optimization Theory and Applications (Undergraduate and Graduate)

Engaging undergraduates with research activities and direct interaction with faculty members is a crucial component of the teaching experience. I am eager to involve undergraduate students in summer research projects and encourage semester-long independent studies. I am also interested in designing new courses collaboratively with university faculty. Given the opportunity, I would be keen to develop a graduate course on AI in healthcare and a research seminar on automated machine learning with an emphasis on implementation and implications of Trustworthy AI in healthcare.

My teaching experience extends beyond the university setting, having extensively engaged with K-12 students. I have provided mathematics and artificial intelligence (AI) training to students from the Singapore International School (Hong Kong) and over a hundred primary students from China. I also served as an instructor, teaching Python programming to local high school students at the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE). Additionally, I taught Python programming to gifted middle and high school students through a project supported by the Gifted Education Fund from the Education Bureau of Hong Kong. As a volunteer at the annual Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival in Hong Kong from 2017 to 2019, I guided students at various levels through challenging mathematical puzzles.

In addition to my teaching roles at the university, I gained entrepreneurship experience during my Ph.D. studies through managing a tech startup that specializes in AI-driven solutions for ed-tech. As a cofounder of a tech startup supported by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP), I am well-equipped not only to teach a relevant course on Technology Entrepreneurship, similar to the course *CS183: Startup* at Stanford University taught by Peter Thiel, but also to serve as a mentor for undergraduate students in tech entrepreneurship. Leveraging my five years of experience with the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU) grant under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) and the HKSTP incubation programme, I can effectively coach students to become university startup founders. Additionally, the startup successfully hosted project-based virtual summer internships for two years, allowing me to mentor and work alongside over forty undergraduate students from Princeton University on various projects.