

December 30, 2008

COMPANYNAME
street
city

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Ph.D. candidate working with Pedro Domingos at the University of Washington, in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. I am currently looking for a faculty position to take after finishing my degree, which I expect to complete in June of 2009. I am interested in applying for the position of assistant professor in the department of computer science.

My work is in the area of machine learning with a focus on statistical relational learning, methods that combine first-order logic and probability to represent the complexity and uncertainty inherent in most real-world problems. Markov logic is one of the most popular statistical relational representations today. In my thesis work, I developed a more powerful, multi-layered version of Markov logic, as well as the algorithms that are now the standard approach to weight learning in Markov logic. These algorithms are available in Alchemy, an open-source toolkit that has been downloaded over 3300 times. I also developed algorithms for learning complex Bayesian networks (treewidth ≤ 100) with very efficient inference (≤ 100 ms), and my work on adversarial machine learning (e.g., spam filtering) is already well-cited. My teaching experience includes working as a teaching assistant, tutoring undergraduates, and the preparation of a textbook on Markov logic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lowd