

Cover Letter

February 2, 2016

Dear Committee Members,

I wish to apply for the tenure track Assistant Professor position in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Virginia Commonwealth University. Currently, I am a PhD candidate at University at Buffalo - SUNY in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering under the supervision of Dr. Kui Ren.

During my PhD study, my primary research topic is exploring the novel ideas and techniques to solve practical problems and security issues for mobile sensing and cyber physical systems. In the context of mobile sensing systems, I am interested in smartphone-enabled crowdsourcing approaches that can help build large-scale information infrastructures conveniently at a very low cost. I also study cyber-physical system security from the physical layer, leveraging various related characteristics to enable inherently secure and dependable wireless communications. My research made important contributions in the cyber-physical research community and have been published in several highly selective research venues on sensor and sensor-enable smart systems. As for a research agenda immediately after my PhD, I will focus on two hot topics in the cyber-physical domain: mobile crowdsourcing system and sensor-assisted mobile authentication system. My ultimate goal is to explore untapped challenges brought by emerging technologies and investigate novel ideas and techniques to tackle practical problems for today's and tomorrow's cyber physical systems.

As a graduate student, I was very fortunate to have valuable opportunities to teach and mentor students, and I enjoyed them immensely. As my teaching statement indicates, my teaching roles have included teaching assistant, guest lecturer, and mentor. I feel confident about lecturing courses in areas of cyber physical system, smartphone sensing, cloud computing system, smartphone security, and applied cryptography. I feel excited about the opportunity to mentor great graduate students. My ultimate goal is to foster their diverse talents and strengths and guide them on the way to become self-motivated leading researchers. In doing so, I will bring the highly supportive and collaborative culture in which I have been raised by my graduate school professors.

Enclosed are my curriculum vitae, teaching philosophy, research plans and references list. letters of recommendation are being sent under separate cover, and if desired, I would be happy to provide documents in support of my application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is needed.

Sincerely yours,

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and Engineering
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