Youngmin Park, PhD
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Search Committee
Department of Mathematics
107 McAllister Building
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Search Committee Members,

I am applying for the position of Assistant Teaching Professor in The Pennsylvania State University Department of Mathematics. I completed a PhD in mathematics at the University of Pittsburgh under the supervision of G. Bard Ermentrout, and I am now a postdoc at the University of Pennsylvania under the supervision of Maria N. Geffen.

I am an ambitious applied mathematician who positions himself at the forefront of discoveries in both mathematics and the physical sciences. At Pittsburgh, I developed my mathematical repertoire by applying dynamical systems theory to reduce the dimensionality of famous neural models, aiding in novel insights into these systems. At the University of Pennsylvania, I introduce ground-breaking insights and models for data produced by one of the world's leading auditory labs.

Penn State offers an excellent academic environment in which I can continue teaching at the highest standards. Penn State's mission to "meet or exceed the skill standards required to succeed as scholars in their chosen programs and will thrive as engaged citizens and peer educators within a global society" perfectly aligns with my goals as a teacher.

My teaching portfolio boasts four years of teaching at different capacities (lectures, recitations, grading), at different levels (calculus sequence, differential equations, linear algebra, and discrete math), for three terms per year (Spring, Summer, and Fall). My teaching evaluations are consistently strong. As a result of my teaching I was shortlisted for the Elizabeth Baranger teaching award, the most prestigious teaching award at the University of Pittsburgh.

In my academic work, I have written three papers spanning diverse topics from single neurons (coupled oscillators) to the population-level (neural field models) under the supervision of my doctoral advisor. We also published a pedagogical book chapter in computational neuroscience. I maintained collaborations from my masters institution, and published a fourth journal paper in dynamical systems theory. My research resulted in winning the prestigious Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, which is awarded to doctoral students of exceptional promise and ability. I was the first math-bio student at Pitt to receive this award.

As part of my application I include a curriculum vitae and teaching statement. Please request additional details as needed, and I look forward to our correspondence.

Sincerely, Youngmin Park, PhD