

## Nikola Jevtić

### TEACHING STATEMENT

Throughout my academic life I have learned to appreciate good teachers, the ones that could deliver their ideas clearly, and that could engage all the students in the class. Those professors managed to instill not only the knowledge about the topic they taught, but also a deeper desire to learn more. The best teachers achieved this by showing their own enthusiasm and desire to learn from their students.

I believe that a good teacher never stops learning. Teaching is yet another level for understanding the material, and it is a great opportunity for self improvement. Moreover, it offers a great reward when the students surpass the teacher and generate new and insightful ideas. So far, I was not in the position to teach a lot, but I hope I will have the opportunity to teach some of the topics that excite me most in my faculty career.

#### Past experience

I was first exposed to teaching while tutoring high school students in math during my undergraduate education. At that time I discovered I enjoyed teaching and decided to pursue it in the future. In my first official appointment, during my undergraduate years, I held discussion sessions in Circuits Theory for junior students. I designed and solved problems similar to those they were likely to encounter at the exam, and also had duties helping them in their lab experiments, an integral part of the class.

During my graduate years at UCSD, I had two TA appointments, one for the Information Theory graduate class, where I held office hours, graded and helped design problems for homeworks, the midterm and the final exam. The other was Discrete Mathematics, an undergraduate class at the Computer Science and Engineering department. My responsibilities included Web publication of homework solutions, office hours and grading midterms and the final exam.

#### Teaching Interests

My teaching interests would include all the areas I find exciting and eager to expand my knowledge in. I would be most enthusiastic teaching *Information Theory* or *Machine Learning* classes. I believe there are important advances, some very recent, in these fields, along with the precise and mathematically rationalized way of thinking expected from anyone working in science.

Another interesting class I would like to teach is *Graphical Models*, a very interesting field with broad applicability from speech recognition and image processing, to turbo coding, and gene mapping.

After working in speech recognition, I would be able to share some of my experiences regarding *Signal Processing*, *Algorithms Design and Analysis* or *Speech Processing* (both *Coding* and *Recognition*).

I would also be very excited if given an opportunity to teach some of the basic math classes like *Analysis* or *Algebra*.