THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
5734 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60637-1546
TEL: (773) 702-7100   •   FAX: (773) 702-9787
INTERNET: ucmath@math.uchicago.edu

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To whom it may concern:

I am very pleased to write a letter in connection with Peter Thomas's application for a Faculty position.

I have known Peter for nearly ten years. He took my course on Differential Equations and did so well with it that I invited him to join my Research Group, which he did on transferring from the Committee on the Conceptual Foundations of Science to the Mathematics Department. He then worked with me on a number of problems involving a model of the structure of the visual cortex. This model was formulated as a kind of Heisenberg XY model involving vector spins. Peter used the model to investigate many aspects of the functional organization of the visual cortex. In my opinion he did a great job and his work led to a very good thesis on models for the development of cortical maps in which Peter used techniques from statistical mechanics and group theory to produce a way to study how cortical maps interact and distort each other. We are presently writing up a series of papers on this for publication. The first has just been accepted by Physical Reviews Letters.

Peter is definitely one of the best students I have supervised. He knows a good amount of neuroscience, and has a very good background in mathematics, physics and philosophy. I have also found him to be an excellent lecturer and teacher. I believe Peter has great potential as a leading worker in Computational Neuroscience and as an outstanding teacher and research worker.

Yours sincerely,

Jack D. Cowan
Professor