



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

Department of Statistics

STATISTICS COLLOQUIUM

---

REBECCA WILLETT

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Low Algebraic Dimension Matrix Completion

MONDAY, November 6, 2017 at 4:30 PM

Eckhart 133, 5734 S. University Avenue

*Refreshments before the seminar at 4:00PM in Jones 111*

#### ABSTRACT

The past decade of research on matrix completion has shown it is possible to leverage linear dependencies to impute missing values in a low-rank matrix. However, the corresponding assumption that the data lies in or near a low-dimensional linear subspace is not always met in practice. Extending matrix completion theory and algorithms to exploit low-dimensional nonlinear structure in data will allow missing data imputation in a far richer class of problems. In this talk, I will describe how models of low-dimensional nonlinear structure can be used for matrix completion. In particular, we will explore matrix completion in the context of unions of subspaces, in which data points lie in or near one of several subspaces, and nonlinear algebraic varieties, a polynomial generalization of classical linear subspaces. Low Algebraic-Dimension Matrix Completion (LADMC) is a novel and efficient method for imputing missing values and admits new bounds on the amount of missing data that can be accurately imputed. The proposed algorithms are able to recover synthetically generated data up to predicted sample complexity bounds and outperform standard low-rank matrix completion in experiments with real recommender system and motion capture data.

This is joint work with Daniel Pimentel-Alarcon, Gregory Ongie, Laura Balzano, and Robert Nowak

---

For further information and inquiries about building access for persons with disabilities, please contact Jonathan Rodriguez at 773.702.8333 or send him an email at [jgrodriguez@galton.uchicago.edu](mailto:jgrodriguez@galton.uchicago.edu). If you wish to subscribe to our email list, please visit the following website:  
<https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/subscribe/statseminars>.