



Seminar/Talk

A transport approach to the cutoff phenomenon

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Host: Jan Maas

The cutoff phenomenon is a sharp transition in the convergence of high-dimensional Markov chains to equilibrium: the total variation distance remains close to 1 for a long time and then rapidly decreases to almost 0 over a much shorter time window. It was initially discovered in the context of card shuffling by Diaconis and Shahshahani, and since then observed in a variety of different models. In spite of its ubiquity, it is still largely unexplained, and most proofs are model-specific. In this talk, we discuss a high-level approach to establishing cutoff based on transport inequalities, and we illustrate it for a popular algorithm known as the Proximal Sampler. Based on joint work with Justin Salez.

Tuesday, June 30, 2026 05:15pm - 06:15pm

Office Bldg West / Ground floor / Heinzl Seminar Room (I21.EG.101)



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