



CLAREMONT CENTER  
for MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

CCMS COLLOQUIUM

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USER-FRIENDLY TAIL BOUNDS FOR SUMS  
OF RANDOM MATRICES

by

**Joel Tropp**

California Institute of Technology

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**Abstract:**

Random matrices have come to play a significant role in computational mathematics and statistics. Established methods from random matrix theory have led to striking advances in these areas, but ongoing research has generated difficult questions that cannot be addressed without new tools.

The purpose of this talk is to introduce some recent techniques, collectively called matrix concentration inequalities, that can simplify the study of many types of random matrices. These results parallel classical tail bounds for scalar random variables, such as the Bernstein inequality, but they apply directly to matrices. In particular, matrix concentration inequalities can be used to control the spectral norm of a sum of independent random matrices by harnessing basic properties of the summands. Many variants and extensions are now available, and the outlines of a larger theory are starting to emerge.

These new techniques have already led to advances in many areas, including partial covariance estimation, randomized schemes for low-rank matrix decomposition, relaxation and rounding methods for combinatorial optimization, construction of maps for dimensionality reduction, techniques for subsampling large matrices, analysis of sparse approximation algorithms, and many others.

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**Wednesday, October 3, 2012, at 4:15pm**

Millikan 134, Pomona College

Refreshments at 3:45 p.m. in Harry's Room (Millikan 209)  
and wine and cheese after the talk in Harry's Room (Millikan 209)

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*The dinner will be hosted by Prof. Deanna Needell.  
Please contact Prof. Needell if you are interested in attending the dinner*