Information theory and statistics for large alphabets
Oct. 24-28, 2011

MEALS

*Breakfast (Buffet): 7:00–9:30 am, Sally Borden Building, Monday–Friday
*Lunch (Buffet): 11:30 am–1:30 pm, Sally Borden Building, Monday–Friday
*Dinner (Buffet): 5:30–7:30 pm, Sally Borden Building, Sunday–Thursday
Coffee Breaks: As per daily schedule, in the foyer of the TransCanada Pipeline Pavilion (TCPL)
*Please remember to scan your meal card at the host/hostess station in the dining room for each meal.

MEETING ROOMS

All lectures will be held in the new lecture theater in the TransCanada Pipelines Pavilion (TCPL). LCD projector, overhead projectors and blackboards are available for presentations.

SCHEDULE

Sunday

16:00	Check-in begins (Front Desk - Professional Development Centre - open 24 hours)
	Lecture rooms available after 16:00 (if desired)
17:30–19:30	Buffet Dinner, Sally Borden Building
20:00	Informal gathering in 2nd floor lounge, Corbett Hall (if desired)
	Beverages and a small assortment of snacks are available on a cash honor system.

Monday

7:00–8:45	Breakfast
8:45–9:00	Introduction and Welcome by BIRS Station Manager, TCPL
9:00–10:30	Introductions (5 minutes per person)
10:30–10:50	Coffee Break, TCPL
10:50–11:35	Dean Foster, *Spectral dimensionality reduction for HMMs*
11:35–13:00	Lunch
13:00–14:00	Guided Tour of The Banff Centre; meet in the 2nd floor lounge, Corbett Hall
14:00–15:00	Mesrob Ohanessian, *Canonical estimation in a rare-events regime*
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break, TCPL
15:30–16:15	Ramon van Handel, *Estimating Markov order*
16:15–16:45	Serdar Yuksel, *Topological properties of stochastic kernels*
16:45–17:30	Sidharth Jaggi, *Large networks and large alphabets*
17:30–19:30	Dinner

Tuesday

7:00–9:00	Breakfast
9:00–10:00	Peter Orbanz, *Bayesian nonparametrics*
10:00–10:30	Coffee Break, TCPL
10:30–11:30	Sonia Petrone, *More Bayesian nonparametrics*
11:30–12:15	Jaeyong Lee, *Species sampling and related problems*
12:15–13:30	Lunch
13:30	Group Photo; meet on the front steps of Corbett Hall
13:40–14:40	Alon Orlitsky, *Foreseeing the unseen: probability estimation over large alphabets*
14:40–15:00	Coffee Break, TCPL
15:00–16:00	Prasad Santhanam, *Compression and prediciton over large alphabets*
16:00–16:30	Krishna Viswanathan, *The pattern-maximum-likelihood estimator*
16:30–17:15	Pascal Vontobel, *Bethe approximation of the pattern maximum likelihood distribution*
17:30–19:30	Dinner

Wednesday

7:00–9:00	Breakfast
9:00–10:00	Greg Valiant, *Symmetric property estimation*
10:00–10:30	Paul Valiant, *More symmetric property estimation*
10:30–11:50	Coffee Break, TCPL
10:50–11:35	Tugkan Batu, *Testing properties of discrete distributions*
11:35–12:05	Ronitt Rubinfeld, *Testing properties of collections of distributions*
12:05–13:30	Lunch
	Free Afternoon
17:30–19:30	Dinner

Thursday

7:00–9:00	Breakfast
9:00–10:00	Balazs Szegedy, *Graphs, combinatorics, and other points of interest*
10:00–10:30	Michael Mahoney, *Approximate computation and implicit regularization in data analysis*
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break, TCPL
11:00–11:30	Alexandr Andoni, *Sublinear algorithms via precision sampling*
11:30–12:00	David Woodruff, *Sublinear time optimization for machine learning*
12:00–13:30	Lunch
13:30–14:30	En-hui Yang, *Large alphabet problems in lossless and lossy compression*
14:30–15:00	Aaron Wagner, *Some open problems in probability estimation*
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break, TCPL
15:30–16:30	Al Hero, *Screening for structure in high dimensional correlation networks*
16:30–17:30	Open Problems
17:30–19:30	Dinner

Friday

7:00–9:00	Breakfast
9:00–9:30	Sujay Sanghavi, *Robustness and flexibility in high dimensions*
9:30–10:00	Venkatesh Saligrama, *A mutual information formula for sparse signal processing*
10:00–10:20	Coffee Break, TCPL
10:20–10:50	Anima Anandakumar, *High dimensional graphical model selection*
10:50–11:20	Dayu Huang, *Goodness of fit tests with large alphabets*
11:20–11:50	Discussion
11:50–13:30	Lunch
Checkout by 12 noon.	

** 5-day workshop participants are welcome to use BIRS facilities (BIRS Coffee Lounge, TCPL and Reading Room) until 3 pm on Friday, although participants are still required to checkout of the guest rooms by 12 noon. **