

Berkeley Algebraic Statistics Seminar

Organizer(s): Andrew Critch and Shaowei Lin

Wednesday, 2:00–3:00pm, 939 Evans

Nov 30 **Bernd Sturmfels**, UC Berkeley

Geometry of the Restricted Boltzmann Machine

The restricted Boltzmann machine is a graphical model for binary random variables. Based on a complete bipartite graph separating hidden and observed variables, it is the binary analog to the factor analysis model. We study this graphical model from the perspectives of algebraic statistics and tropical geometry, starting with the observation that its Zariski closure is a Hadamard power of the first secant variety of the Segre variety of projective lines. We derive a dimension formula for the tropicalized model, and we use it to show that the restricted Boltzmann machine is identifiable in many cases. Our methods include coding theory and geometry of linear threshold functions. This is joint work with Angelica Cueto and Jason Morton.