Colloquium

Michigan State University Department of Statistics and Probability

Jonathan Taylor

Department of Statistics Stanford University

Suprema of random fields with applications

Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:20 a.m. - 11:10 am Refreshments 10:00 am C405 Wells Hall

Abstract:

We describe an integral geometric approximation to the tail distribution of smooth random fields derived from Gaussian fields. The main tool is a formula for computing expected integral geometric invariants such as the Euler characteristic of the excursion set of a smooth Gaussian field. The terms in this formula relate to Weyl's classical volume of tubes formula as well as a formula for the Gaussian measure of a tube around a domain in Euclidean space. We sketch some applications of the results to a typical (if somewhat oversimplified) population study in neuroimaging as pioneered by Keith Worsley.