

Salah Mohammad Memorial COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Title: Almost

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NECKERS 156 | TIME: 3:00PM

RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING IN THE MATH LIBRARY.

Abstract: For some problems in mathematics, we have algorithms. For others, we have none. Often, the proof of non-existence of an algorithm can feel severely contrived, so that the proof is unsatisfying --- we'd have to get fabulously unlucky where the algorithm fails. The worst-case complexity of the simplex method is horrible — if we encounter such an exotic example as to be in the worst case --- yet it runs without serious inconvenience every day.

What happens if, instead of asking for an algorithm that always works, we ask for one that works for everything except a very small set of pathological examples? Come and see.