

Title: **Assessing the authority of a ranking of many objects**

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Abstract: For better or for worse, rankings of institutions, such as universities, schools and hospitals, play an important role today in conveying information about relative performance. They inform policy decisions and budgets, and are often reported in the media. However, in many instances the authority of a ranking is particularly difficult to assess. In this talk we shall consider some of the statistical properties of rankings of many objects, particularly properties that can be described theoretically in relatively simple terms. We shall discuss the extent to which rankings are robust and interpretable, and address properties of bootstrap methods that are sometimes used to assess the authority of rankings.

Keywords: Bootstrap, high dimension, sparsity.