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**Izabella Laba** and **Malabika Pramanik\*** (malabika@math.ubc.ca), 1984 Mathematics Road,  
Department of Mathematics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V5B 2E7, Canada.

*Maximal operators and differentiation theorems on sparse sets.*

In this work joint with Izabella Laba, we study maximal averages associated with singular measures on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Our main result is a probabilistic construction of singular Cantor-type measures supported on sets of Hausdorff dimension  $1 - \epsilon$ ,  $0 \leq \epsilon < \frac{1}{3}$  for which the corresponding maximal operators are bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R})$  for  $p > (1 + \epsilon)/(1 - \epsilon)$ . As a consequence, we are able to answer a question of Aversa and Preiss on density and differentiation theorems in one dimension. (Received September 01, 2009)