1051-14-30 Elizabeth Allman, Sonja Petrovic, John Rhodes and Seth Sullivant* (smsulli2@ncsu.edu). Identifiability of phylogenetic mixture models.

A statistical model is generically identifiable if the map from parameters to probability distributions is generically oneto-one. We show that tree parameters of two tree phylogenetic mixture models are generically identifiable for the Jukes-Cantor and Kimura 2 parameter models and verify computationally that the stochastic parameters are identifiable. These provide the first positive results on identifiability of phylogenetic mixture models with different trees. Proofs rely on a combination of algebraic geometry and combinatorics.

I will spend most of the talk explaining the background of phylogenetic models, mixture models, identifiability problems, etc. Then I will try to highlight some algebraic surprises that arise in the proofs. (Received July 24, 2009)