

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

4:15 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, 2005
Sequoia Hall Room 200
(Cookies at 3:45 in 1st Floor Lounge)

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Sequential Selection Based on Ranks

Often, when sitting in a hiring committee, a question asked is: "Does the candidate improve the quality (average/median/etc.) of the department?" In general, the problem we consider in this talk is sequential selection of candidates who show up in a random fashion, where a decision must be made whether or not to hire a given candidate before other candidates are interviewed, and once a decision is made it cannot be revisited. The procedures we consider are based on ranks: after being interviewed, a candidate is ranked with respect to her/his predecessors. We consider selection rules that improve the upper p -percent of the retained group (hence "PRANKS"). We describe the evolution of the quality of the series (hence "SERIESLY") of hired candidates and how quickly the retained group grows.