



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Department of Statistics

STATISTICS COLLOQUIUM

*Joint seminar with the Committee on Computational and Applied
Mathematics (CCAM)*

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Wave Propagation in Inhomogeneous Media: An
Introduction to Generalized Plane Waves

WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM
Jones 303, 5747 S. Ellis Avenue

ABSTRACT

Trefftz methods rely, in broad terms, on the idea of approximating solutions to PDEs using basis functions which are exact solutions of the Partial Differential Equation (PDE), making explicit use of information about the ambient medium. But wave propagation problems in inhomogeneous media is modeled by PDEs with variable coefficients, and in general no exact solutions are available. Generalized Plane Waves (GPWs) are functions that have been introduced, in the case of the Helmholtz equation with variable coefficients, to address this problem: they are not exact solutions to the PDE but are instead constructed locally as high order approximate solutions. We will discuss the origin, the construction, and the properties of GPWs. The construction process introduces a consistency error, requiring a specific analysis.

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