

Curriculum vitae

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family name, First name: LOEBL MARTIN
Nationality: Czech Republic
URL for web site: <http://kam.mff.cuni.cz/~loebl>

EMPLOYMENT

1989- present: Department of Applied Mathematics KAM MFF UK, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University Prague, Czech Republic
From 2007 Head of the Optimization group of KAM MFF UK
From 2008 Full Professor
2015- mid2023 Head of the Department of Applied Mathematics KAM MFF UK.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

1986 Prize of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (for a joint paper with J. Matousek)
1990 International Meeting of Young Computer Scientists (IMYCS) award
1990 – 1991 Humboldt Research Fellow, Forschungsinstitut für Diskrete Mathematik, Universität Bonn, Germany (12 months)
1993 Postdoctoral Fellow, DIMACS, Rutgers University, U.S.A.
1994 – 1995 NSERC Canada International Fellow, University of Waterloo, Canada
2018 Member of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic
2022. 1st vice-chair of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic

STAYS ABROAD

Long: Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, U.S.A. 2000 – 2001.
Short: Budapest, Technion Haifa, Paris 6, Paris 7, Poincaré Institute Paris, Bordeaux, Nancy, Rome, Pavia, Barcelona, Berlin, Bielefeld, Hamburg, Köln, Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, Royal Holloway, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Waterloo, Vancouver, Princeton, Berkeley, Stanford, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Rutgers University, Atlanta, Columbia University.

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Supervisor of 10 Ph.D. Students (7 Czechs, 2 Chileans, 1 Iranian, 8 finished, 7 have academic jobs):

Marek Janata (2005)

Ondrej Pankrac (2006) Assistant Professor Charles University Prague <http://iuuk.mff.cuni.cz/~pangrac/>

Jan Vondrak (2007) Associate Professor Stanford University U.S.A. <http://theory.stanford.edu/~jvondrak/>

Hossein Teimoori (2010) Kashani University Iran <http://ghiasodin.academia.edu/HosseinTeimooriFaal>

Jirka Fink (2011) Assistant Professor Charles University Prague <https://kam.mff.cuni.cz/~fink/>

Jose Zamora (2013) Assistant Professor Universidad Andres Bello Chile <http://mat-unab.cl/~jzamora/>

Pavel Rytir (2013) Lecturer Czech Technical University cs.felk.cvut.cz/en/people/rytirpav

Andrea Jimenez (2012) I was co-supervisor of Andrea's doctoral thesis Universidad de Chile; Universidad de Valparaíso Chile <http://ajimenez.cimfav.cl/>

Jakub Cerny started 2017

David Sychrovsky started 2021

Supervisor of several postdoctoral fellows, in particular

Anna DeMier (2006) Associate Professor UPC Barcelona <https://mat-web.upc.edu/people/anna.de.mier/>

Iain Moffatt (2006) Royal Holloway University of London <http://www.personal.rhul.ac.uk/uxah/001/>

RESPONSIBILITIES, COMMISSIONS OF TRUST

European Commission, REA scientific evaluator for FP7, H2020 and Horizon Europe.

2012 - 2016 member of the panel of Informatics of the Grant agency of Czech Republic GACR.

Prize of Jirka Matousek <http://kam.mff.cuni.cz/cenajm.html> I introduced this prize in 2015 for excellent doctoral students in memory of our colleague Jirka Matousek.

Member of hiring and reviewing committees in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany.
Reviewer for grant agencies in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Israel, Switzerland, U.S.A.

PUBLICATIONS

Coauthor of 35+ journal publications since 2000 (70+ total), for details see my web page.

PATENTS

U.S.A. patent number 08856940 (2015) Information Concealing.

Czech patent number 301799 (2010) Information Concealing.

BOOKS

Martin Loeb, Discrete Mathematics in Statistical Physics, ISBN 978-3-834-89329-1(Print)
978-3-528-03219-7(Online), Vieweg+Teubner Verlag (2010);

M. Klazar, J. Kratochvil, M. Loeb, R.Thomas, P. Valtr (eds) Topics in Discrete Mathematics: Dedicated to Jarik Nešetřil on the Occasion of his 60th birthday, ISBN 978-3-540-33700-3, Springer Verlag, Series Algorithms and Combinatorics (2006); received **Prize of Rector of Charles University**.

M. Loeb, J. Nešetřil, R. Thomas (eds) A Journey Through Discrete Mathematics: A Tribute to Jiri Matousek ISBN 978-3-319-44479-6 Springer Verlag; received **Prize of Dean of MFF of Charles University 2018**.

Horizon 2020 MSCA FUNDING

I am the coordinator of the H2020 MSCA-RISE cooperative staff exchange project called Combinatorial Structures and Processes (CoSP) 2018- 2024. The partners are Charles University (Czechia), CNRS (France), Technion (Israel), Los Alamos National Security (U.S.A.), Princeton University (U.S.A.), Rutgers University (U.S.A.) and Simon Fraser University (Canada).

Other projects

Coordinating [Critical Distribution System \(CRISDIS\)](#): the Czech Ministry of Interior covid motivated project VI04000107 (2021-2022).

Partner of E-POKUTY, TACR grant n. TL05000450 (spring 2021- spring 2023).

MAJOR COLLABORATIONS (I like to connect things)

I started my academic career with research in graph theory and algorithms. My master thesis was related to discrete optimisation and my doctoral thesis focused on combinatorial functions growing extremely fast; this is related to logics: unprovability in Finite Set Theory. With **Jirka Matousek** and **Jarik Nešetřil** (my supervisor) we achieved several interesting results. My first paper with **Ron Aharoni** is from the field of infinite combinatorics.

I started working on matching theory with **Svatopluk Poljak**. In a series of papers we characterized complexity of subgraph packing, solving a problem posed by Lovasz.

In a joint paper with **Paul Erdos**, **Zoltan Furedi** and **Vera Sos** we studied the discrepancy of hypergraphs and introduced the extensively studied **Loeb-Komlos-Sos Conjecture**.

My view of mathematics changed in the second half of the 1990's when I read a seminal paper of Kasteleyn which started the theory of Kasteleyn orientations. In spring 2016 in Berkeley I attended a lecture of Valiant, and he spoke equally enthusiastically about the same Kasteleyn's paper. With **Anna Galluccio** we proved the formula conjectured by Kasteleyn in the beginning of sixties (the Arf-invariant formula); our method was implemented by **Jan Vondrak**.

The work with Galluccio and Vondrak provides also a new formula for the Permanent, and this led to working with **Stavros Garoufalidis** in the Knot theory. We have a paper in Combinatorica 2005 and in Math Annalen 2006 on the coloured Jones polynomial. As a follow-up I wrote M. Loeb, [Chromatic Polynomial, q-Binomial Counting and Colored Jones Function](#) Advances in Mathematics 211-2, 2007 which I consider as one of my most original results.

A problem from informatics let me to study repeats in DNA with **Lukas Kencl** and **Jenny Blamey**. I find the problem of DNA repeats fascinating. See Advances in Mathematics 197 (2005) (with **Marcos Kiwi** and **Jirka Matousek**) for my earlier result motivated by bioinformatics.

Next period 2008—2019 is described below in more detail.

From 2019, I am fascinated by the discrete optimisation (again) and by the algorithmic game theory. With **Jirka Fink** and **Petra Pelikanova** we optimised the winter road maintenance plans in the Plzen region of the Czech Republic. From the beginning of 2021, The results appeared in the journal **Discrete Optimisation**.

I coordinated a multidisciplinary project CRISDIS to design a distribution system for crises (like Covid-19 pandemics) based on an autonomous behaviour of the actors. Our work seems to be the first rigorous analysis of **rationing**. See

D.Sychrovsky, J. Cerny, S. Lichau, M. Loeb [Price of Anarchy in a Double-Sided Critical Goods Distribution System](#) 22nd International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems AAMAS 2023.

From the spring of 2021 I participate in project E-POKUTY aiming at improving the traffic fines collection in Prague using methods of the artificial intelligence and the game theory. See

D.Sychrovsky, S. Desai, M. Loeb, Rule Enforcing Through Ordering, 14th Conference on Decision and Game Theory for Security GameSec 2023.

Selected publications 2008-2019 (ordered thematically, the full list is in my web page).

M. Loeb, I. Moffatt, The chromatic polynomial of fatgraphs and its categorification, *Advances in Mathematics* 217, 2008. This is the main result from Iain Moffatt's stay in Prague. We discovered new algebraic connections of the graph polynomials of embedded graphs and the Jones polynomial of knots. This work's suggested explorations of graphs are still quite open.

M. Klazar, M. Loeb, I. Moffatt, The Potts model and chromatic functions of graphs, *Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré D (Combinatorics, Physics and their Interactions), European Mathematical Society* 1(1) 47- 60 (2014).

This work confirms one of my suggestions: that the Potts partition function with a magnetic field contribution is as strong as the strongest studied graph polynomials. It is plausible that with simple preprocessing such Potts partition function can distinguish non-isomorphic graphs.

M, Loeb, J.-S. Sereni, Isomorphism of weighted trees and Stanley's isomorphism conjecture for caterpillars, *Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré D (Combinatorics, Physics and their Interactions), European Mathematical Society* 2019. This paper proves the extensively studied Stanley's isomorphism conjecture for the class of special trees called caterpillars. This special case was investigated since the formulation of the conjecture in the 1990's.

M. Kiwi, M. Loeb, [Towards the Distribution of the Size of a Largest Planar Matching and Largest Planar Subgraph in Random Bipartite Graphs](#), *Electronic J. Combinatorics* 15(1) 2008 R135. I like to work with Marcos and this is another joint paper broadly related to the one on bioinformatics mentioned above.

M. Kang, M. loeb, [The enumeration of planar graphs via Wick's theorem](#) *Advances in Mathematics* 221 (5) 2009. This paper is studying an interested method for enumeration.

M. Loeb, L. Zdeborova, The 3D Dimer and Ising Problems Revisited, *European J. Combinatorics* 29/3, 2008. The paper simplifies and generalises my previous work on applications of the Kasteleyn method to the 3-dimensional Ising problem (one of the main objectives of this proposal). Lenka Zdeborova, now in Institute de Physique Theoretique, Saclay, France, was a bright physics student in Prague. We keep speaking with Lenka about mathematics, physics and informatics; we jointly organise the Czech Workshop on Complex Systems.

M. Loeb, [Binary linear codes via 4D discrete Ihara-Selberg function](#), *Annales de l'Institute Henri Poincaré D (Combinatorics, Physics and their Interactions), European Mathematical Society* (2019). This paper belongs to my favourites: it provides a formula how to express the weight enumerator of an arbitrary binary linear code as a single infinite product. In particular, this paper opens up a fundamentally new way to study the logarithm of the Ising partition function for 3D cubic lattices. This new approach generalises the formula of R. Feynman from the beginning of 60's from the cycle space of the planar graphs to general binary linear codes.

M. Loeb, P. Somberg, Discrete Dirac Operators, Critical Embeddings and Ihara-Selberg Functions, *The Electronic Journal of Combinatorics* 22, 1 (2015). In 2007 I learned about the work of Cimasoni and Reshetikhin on the Arf-invariant formula, and of Mercat on discrete analytic functions. Kenyon defined discrete Dirac operators on critical planar graphs and observed that the dimer partition function is determined by the local geometric information of a critical planar embedding. I became fascinated by attempts of Cimasoni to extend the results of Kenyon to the graphs critically embedded on a surface of genus bigger than zero. I realised that one needs to use the theory of Kac-Ward-Feynman-Sherman based on products and rotations. At that time, these results were forgotten. I explained them in Prague to Somberg, Cimasoni and Masbaum and it resulted in several papers of Cimasoni and also our paper.

M. Loeb, G. Masbaum, [On the optimality of the Arf invariant formula for graph polynomials](#) *Advances in Mathematics* 226 (2011) We continued to discuss mathematics with Gregor Masbaum and we

managed to prove Norine's conjecture for the Ising partition function. This result provides an exponential complexity lower bound in a very restricted but commonly used model of computation. I was invited to speak about the result by communities across fields. The paper is involved but the arguments are well understood. I believe this may be one of my most important results.

E. Berger, K. Choromanski, M. Chudnovsky, J. Fox, M. Loebl, A. Scott, P. Seymour, S. Thomasse, Tournaments and colouring, J.Comb.Theory, Ser.B 103(1) 1- 20 (2013). This is my recent work on colourings in the structural graph theory.

R. Aharoni, M. Loebl, The Odd Case of Rota's Bases Conjecture, Advances in Mathematics 282 (2015) 427-442. I heard from Aharoni about the Rota's bases conjecture, that it is implied (for each even size) by the Alon-Tarsi conjecture, and a beautiful enumeration proof of this fact by Onn. I found a non-commutative generalization of Onn's proof, and it was the beginning of our joint work. This paper contains proof of 'half of Alon-Tarsi conjecture'. One objective in this research area has been to understand the List coloring conjecture. In the course of our work with Ron a group formed including Berger, Chudnovsky, Kotlar and Ziv, which extensively collaborates.

R. Aharoni, N. Alon, E. Berger, M. Chudnovsky, D. Kotlar, M. Loebl, R. Ziv [Fair representation by independent sets](#) in: A Journey Through Discrete Mathematics: A Tribute to Jiri Matousek, Springer (2017). This is my recent work in structural graph theory and the topological methods.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO EARLY CAREERS OF EXCELLENT RESEARCHERS

Jan Vondrak, Associate Professor, Stanford University <http://theory.stanford.edu/~jvondrak/>
Jan wrote his master thesis (1999) resulting in influential papers [GLV1, GLV2] under my supervision. After obtaining his master degree Jan completed doctoral studies at MIT (2005, supervisor M.X. Goemans). After the doctorate at MIT Jan completed his doctoral studies at Charles University in 2007 under my supervision. Jan is interested in optimization of submodular functions, approximation algorithms, algorithmic game theory and probabilistic combinatorics. We have 3 joint papers related to algorithmic and computational aspects of the theory of Kasteleyn orientations. We regularly discuss mathematics.

Jirka Fink, Assistant Professor, Charles University <https://kam.mff.cuni.cz/~fink/>
Jirka wrote his master thesis and doctoral thesis (2011) in applied discrete mathematics under my supervision. After obtaining the doctorate Jirka continued to do applications and scientific computation in his postdocs and he is becoming a leader in this field.

Diana Piquet, Researcher, Czech Academy of Sciences <http://uivty.cs.cas.cz/~piquet/>
Diana wrote her doctoral thesis in 2008. Her supervisor was Jarik Nesetril and I contributed in a major way to Diana's supervision. Her thesis was on the **Loebl- Komlos- Sos Conjecture** mentioned in my CV. This has been a leading topic of Diana's research. A group of researchers including Jan Hladky, Maya Stein, Julia Bottcher and Peter Allen established around her. Diana won prestigious fellowships, and she is clearly established at the frontiers of research in graph theory worldwide.

Iain Moffatt, Royal Holloway University of London <http://www.personal.rhul.ac.uk/uxah/001/>
Iain did his postdoc with me in 2006 and since then we have completed 3 publications. It is clear from Iain's achievements that he established himself as a leader in the community of graph polynomials.