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## ONE WORLD OPTIMIZATION SEMINAR

November 29<sup>th</sup> 2021 @ 15:30 CET (Central European Time)

**DAMEK DAVIS**

(Cornell University)

### **Avoiding Saddle Points in Nonsmooth Optimization**

**Abstract.** This talk asks: Do common first-order methods avoid saddle points of nonsmooth functions? Our main result shows that for a "generic" class of semialgebraic functions, randomly initialized proximal methods and stochastically perturbed subgradient methods converge only to local minimizers.

*The link of the zoom-room of the meeting and the corresponding password will be announced the day before the talk on the mailing list of the seminar, to which one can subscribe on <https://owos.univie.ac.at>.*