香港浸會大學
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
*Department of Mathematics*

# 普及數學公開講座
# Public Lecture on Mathematics

# 美國最高法院：資料與數據
# U.S. Supreme Court: Facts and Figures

## 陸大章教授

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*HKBU Vice-President (Academic)*

**Date:** **27 March 2009 (Friday)**

**Time:** **4:15-5:15 pm** (Preceded by Reception at 3:45 pm)

**Venue:** **WLB203, The Wing Lung Bank Building,**
**Shaw Campus, Hong Kong Baptist University**

摘要

本演講共分三部份：

1. 簡介美國最高法院概況，特別闡述法院的組合成員。美國最高法院並非一定由9位大法官組成，人數也沒有被規定為單數，法院過往的組合曾經是6、8或10名大法官；

2. 簡述美國最高法院於2000年以5比4的票數決定喬治布殊為新一任美國總統的表決，這個表決直至現在都影響全球的政治和金融；

3. 以 The Second Rehnquist Court (1994-2005) 作為個案研究。這個法庭的9名成員維持了11年不變，時間之長在美國史上排名第二，並為過去180年之冠。本部份將會討論以下的數學問題：「怎樣建立一個可以保持票差的低階近似投票模式」。

## Abstract

There are three parts in this presentation:

1. A brief introduction to the U.S. Supreme Court is given, with particular emphasis on its composition. A surprising fact is that the number of Supreme Court Justices has not always been nine; indeed, it was never fixed as an odd number. At various times, there were six, eight, and ten Justices.

2. A 5-4 Supreme Court vote in 2000 that selected George W. Bush as the next U.S. President is described in some detail. It was a vote that would impact world politics and finances.

3. The Second Rehnquist Court (1994-2005) is chosen for a case study. This Court had the second longest reign in U.S. history, and the longest in over 180 years. The following Mathematical Problem is discussed: "Construct a low-rank approximation of the voting pattern that preserves the voting margins."

✦✦✦ **All are welcome** ✦✦✦

**The Medium of Instruction: Cantonese**
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