Stanford University
Department of Statistics

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

4:15pm, Tuesday, November 23, 2010
Sequoia Hall Room 200
Cookies served at 3:45pm, 1st Floor Lounge.

Speaker: John Chambers
Department of Statistics,
Stanford University

Title: R, Other Languages and Object-Oriented Programming

Abstract:
R has taken over a substantial portion of the computing for research in statistics and for the analysis of data. The key to coping with future challenges, however, may be to realize that neither R nor any single system is sufficient. As open source software for statistical computing, R is unexcelled. But serious statistical projects often need to use multiple languages, for computational efficiency, for dealing with very large data or simply to exploit existing software.

A central role for interfaces between languages has been part of R’s design since the first version of S, its original predecessor. Recent developments show promise for making such interfaces easier to use and more effective, particularly with respect to C++, Java and other widely used object-oriented programming languages.