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*Zeros of linear combinations of  $L$ -functions near the critical line*

In this talk I will present a recent joint work with Yoonbok Lee, where we investigate the number of zeros of linear combinations of  $L$ -functions in the vicinity of the critical line. More precisely, we let  $L_1, \dots, L_J$  be distinct primitive  $L$ -functions belonging to a large class (which conjecturally contains all  $L$ -functions arising from automorphic representations on  $\mathrm{GL}(n)$ ) and  $b_1, \dots, b_J$  be real numbers. Our main result is an asymptotic formula for the number of zeros of  $F(s) = \sum_{j \leq J} b_j L_j(s)$  in the region  $\mathrm{Re}(s) \geq 1/2 + 1/G(T)$  and  $\mathrm{Im}(s) \in [T, 2T]$ , uniformly in the range  $\log \log T \leq G(T) \leq (\log T)^\nu$ , where  $\nu \asymp 1/J$ . This establishes a generalization of a conjecture of Hejhal in this range.