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Developments in Oriented Hypergraphs

Abstract for the Combinatorics Seminar 2011 June 27

An oriented hypergraph is an oriented incidence structure that is a hypergraphic extension of signed graphs. I will introduce the main concepts and obstacles relevant to the classification of circuits of $\{0,+1,-1\}$ -matrices, and discuss recent progress towards a complete circuit classification of representable matroids. As time permits, I will also discuss related work on the hypergraphic laplacian, as well as a new decomposition result for contraction in representable matroids.

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