

Study Seminar on Matroid Theory

FALL 2012

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Organizers: Laura Anderson and Thomas Zaslavsky.

Meetings on Wednesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., in LN-2206.

All are invited. This will be a very elementary introduction to the basics of matroids, based on James Oxley, *Matroid Theory*, second edition. Zaslavsky hopes to teach a course on matroid theory in the spring; this could be (optional) preparation for it.

Wednesday, September 5

Jackie Kaminski

Ch. 1, Sect. 1: Definitions by independent sets and by circuits. The main examples (1): Vector matroids.

Wednesday, September 12

Jackie Kaminski

Ch. 1, Sect. 1: The main examples (2): Graphic matroids.

Simon Joyce

Ch. 1, Sect. 2: Definition by bases.

Wednesday, September 19

Simon Joyce

Ch. 1, Sect. 2: Definition by bases.

Wednesday, October 3

Kaitlin Reissig

Ch. 1, Sect. 3: Definition by and properties of rank.

Wednesday, October 10

Alex Schaefer

Ch. 1, Sect. 4: Definition by and properties of closure.

Wednesday, October 17

Alex Schaefer

Ch. 1, Sect. 4: Properties of closure.

Wednesday, October 24

Tom Zaslavsky

Ch. 1, Sect. 5: Small examples and geometrical drawings. (Emphasis on affine representation and on projective and affine geometries over tiny fields.)

Wednesday, October 31

Jackie Kaminski

Ch. 1, Sect. 7: The lattice of flats.

Wednesday, November 7

Jackie Kaminski

Ch. 1, Sect. 7: The lattice of flats: more!

Wednesday, November 14

Tom Zaslavsky

Why matroids? Or, what is matroid theory about? (With a quick explanation of orthogonal duality of vector configurations vis-à-vis matroid duality.)

Wednesday, November 21

(Thanksgiving holiday)

Wednesday, November 28

Simon Lepkin

Ch. 1, Sect. 6: The main examples (3): Transversal matroids.

Wednesday, December 5

Craig DeFelice

Ch. 2, Sect. 1, first half: Duality (part 1).

Wednesday, December 12

Ch. 2, Sect. 1, second half: Duality (part 2).

Ch. 2, Sect. 2: Duality (part 3).

Departmental home page.

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