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An Algebraic Characterization of Projective Planarity of Graphs

Abstract for the Combinatorics and Number Theory Seminar 2001 December 19

Hassler Whitney gave us the theorem that a graph G is planar if and only if there exists a graph G', on the same edge set as G, whose cocycle space is equal to the cycle space of G. We will discuss a similar theorem characterizing graphs that imbed in the projective plane. We will also discuss the difficulties involved in making similar statements for other closed surfaces.

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Last update: 2020/01/29 19:03