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An Introduction to Phased Matroids and the Phased Matroid Grassmannian

Abstract for the Combinatorics Seminar 2013 September 24

Phased matroids are combinatorial objects that play the same role for the complex numbers that oriented matroids play for the real numbers. They were introduced in 2012 as a potential tool for various problems in geometry and topology. I'll discuss the state of the field, focusing on progress toward a combinatorial model for the Grassmannian $G(r, \mathbf{C}^n)$.

(I talked about the same material last spring, but the ideas have been clarified since then.)

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