# Lattice paths, linear algebra and combinatorics Day 1

#### Carolina Benedetti Velásquez



with Jerónimo Valencia

Mathematics Sin Fronteras October 28th, 2021





spanning trees:



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 bases:





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A matroid M = (E, B) on the ground set E is such that B consists of subsets of E where:

$$\triangleright \ \mathcal{B} \neq \emptyset$$

▶ For all  $A, B \in \mathcal{B}$ , for all  $a \in A - B$  there is  $b \in B - A$  such that  $A - a + b \in \mathcal{B}$ .

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#### Ejemplos:

grafos: G = (E, B) where E are the set of edges and B is the collection of trees.

*k*-ev: Let V be a k-dim. vector space in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $M_V = ([n], \mathcal{B})$  where  $\mathcal{B} = \{J : |J| = k, p_J \neq 0\}.$ 

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$$V = \langle (2,0,0,1), (1,1,0,2) \rangle \rightsquigarrow A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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others: transversal matroids, algebraic matroids, 0/1-generalized permutaedra...

"Anyone who has worked with matroids has come away with the conviction that matroids are one of the richest and most useful ideas of our day."

-Gian Carlo Rota

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### Alternative to bases

Let M = (E, B) be a matroid.

- $I \subseteq E$  is *independent* if  $I \subset B$  for some basis B.
- $D \subseteq E$  is *dependent* if is not independent.
- $IC \subseteq E$  is a *circuit* if C is minimally dependent.
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For instance, let k = 6, n = 13,  $U = \{1, 2, 5, 9, 11, 12\}$ ,  $L = \{4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13\}$ .



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then  $B = \{2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13\}$  is a basis of M[U, L]. • LPMs are linear.

What we want: consider matroids  $M_1, M_2, M_3$  as given below:

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• How can we understand from a matroidal porint of view this relationship? • The algebro-geometric importance of this relies on the fact that the sequence  $M_1 \subset M_2 \subset M_3$  corresponds to a point in the *full flag variety*  $\mathcal{F}\ell_3$ .

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¡Muchas gracias!