Title: What is tropical geometry?

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Abstract: Tropical geometry is a recent field of mathematics where classical algebraic geometry meets combinatorics. In this talk, I will introduce basic concepts and ideas of tropical geometry. I will focus on “tropical linear algebra” and illustrate several examples showing how much tropical linear algebra can differ from the classical linear algebra that we learn in the classroom. If time permits, I will introduce a combinatorial object, called a “matroid”, which is a combinatorial analogue of matrices.