Maryanthe Malliaris\* (mem@math.berkeley.edu), Group in Logic, University of California, Berkeley, 910 Evans Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720. Characteristic sequences in unstable theories. Preliminary report.

We describe a program of studying the combinatorics of the parameter space of unstable formulas by associating to each  $\varphi$  in T a sequence of hypergraphs (the "characteristic sequence") and looking for graph-theoretic dividing lines which are both model-theoretically meaningful and allow for strong decompositions. (Received August 16, 2008)