

**Meeting:** 998, Houston, Texas, ERDOS, Erdős Memorial Lecture

998-52-7                    **Bernd Sturmfels\***, University of California, Berkeley. *Tropical geometry.*

Tropical geometry is the geometry of the tropical semiring (min-plus-algebra). Its objects are polyhedral cell complexes which behave like classical geometric objects, such as convex polyhedra and complex algebraic varieties. We give an elementary introduction to this theory, with an emphasis on combinatorial aspects and applications in computational biology. (Received September 11, 2003)