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Andrew Berget* (berget@math.ucdavis.edu), Mathematical Sciences Building, One Shields Avenue, University of California, Davis, CA 95616. *The rank partition of a matroid.*

The rank partition of a matroid M is a subtle isomorphism invariant that measures how close M is to being a union of bases. It was used by Dias da Silva to characterize the vanishing of symmetrized tensors and irreducible character immanants. In this talk, I will explain how it relates to matroid base polytope decompositions using representation theory. No familiarity with matroids will be assumed. (Received February 23, 2010)