Tropical algebra and geometry is a new trend in mathematics. It has recived a lot of attention since the 1950’s by mathematicians all over the world: from Europe, EEUU, Rusia, etc. Tropical algebra is also called max-plus algebra. Several optimization problems arising in job scheduling, location analysis, transportation networks, decision making and discrete event dynamical systems can be formulated and solved in the framework of tropical geometry.

Tropical methods have been used by economists [Paul Klemperer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Klemperer)  and O.  Shiozawa. Tropical geometry and algebra are related to convex and discrete geometry (polytopes and polyhedra) and to matroid and oriented matroid theory.

A warning on the adjetive “tropical”. It might be misleading. Tropical mathematics have no relationship whatsoever with the geographic tropics, nor with tropical countries, clima, diseases, etc.