

Essential dimension of algebraic tori

Roland Löttscher

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In this talk I will introduce the novice to the concept of essential dimension and present results on the essential dimension of algebraic tori.

Essential dimension is an invariant of algebraic objects measuring the number of parameters needed to define them. In the first part I will explain this concept and discuss its basic properties and examples, whereas in the second part I will present joint work with M. Mac Donald, A. Meyer and Z. Reichstein about the essential dimension of (torsors of) algebraic tori.