SIMONE SEVERINI, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada *Combinatorics of unitary matrices*

The combinatorial structure of orthogonal matrices is a topic of study that remained dormant for many years after the first independent stubs by Fiedler, Brualdi, et al., from the mathematics community; by Lande and Louck, from the physics community. This was the area that I chose for my Ph.D. research. I will survey what we have done so far, why we should be interested in the topic and what we should do next.