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*Between the Grid Minor Theorem and the Pathwidth Theorem*

One way to interpret the grid minor theorem is the following: forbidding a planar graph that is minor-universal for all planar graphs up to a given size forces the treewidth to be bounded. Similarly, the pathwidth theorem tells us that forbidding a tree that is minor-universal for all trees up to a given size forces the pathwidth to be bounded.

From this perspective, it is natural to ask what happens between these two. What can we say if we forbid a minor-universal outerplanar graph? What about a minor-universal series-parallel graph? In this talk, I will present some partial answers to these questions, filling part of the gap between trees and planar graphs