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THE EXTERNAL VERTICES CONJECTURE IN CASE N = 4*

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Abstract. The determinantal conjecture of M. Marcus and G. N. de Oliveira is known in many special cases. The case of 3×3 matrices was settled by N. Bebiano, J. K. Merikoski and J. da Providência. The case $n = 4$ remains open. In this article a technical conjecture is established implying a weakened form of the determinantal conjecture for $n = 4$.

Key words. Normal matrix, Unitary matrix, Determinant.

AMS subject classifications. 15A15, 15A57.

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