1057-05-74 Joanna Ellis-Monaghan (jellis-monaghan@smcvt.edu), Dept. of Mathematics, St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT 05439, and Thomas Zaslavsky* (zaslav@math.binghamton.edu), Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, Binghamton University (SUNY), Binghamton, NY 13902-6000. Tutte functions of matroids. Preliminary report.

A Tutte function of matroids is a function $F: \mathcal{M} \to L$, from an arbitrary minor-closed class \mathcal{M} of matroids to a module L over a commutative ring B, that satisfies the parametrized deletion-contraction law $F(M) = \gamma_e F(M \setminus e) + \delta_e F(M/e)$ for every matroid $M \in \mathcal{M}$ and every point e in M that is neither a loop nor a coloop. Here γ_e and δ_e are arbitrary but fixed values in B. F is multiplicative if L is a commutative B-algebra and F also satisfies $F(M_1 \oplus M_2) = F(M_1)F(M_2)$. We are classifying all Tutte functions, following up previous work of Zaslavsky (1992) and Ellis-Monaghan–Traldi (2006) on multiplicative Tutte functions on relatively "large" classes \mathcal{M} of matroids, and Bollobás and Riordan (1999) on slightly restricted Tutte functions of graphic matroids with relatively "large" domain \mathcal{M} . (Received January 06, 2010)