1138-05-360James Oxley and Simon Pfeil*, simon.pfeil@snc.edu, and Charles Semple and Geoff
Whittle. Matroids with many small circuits and cocircuits.

Tutte proved that a non-empty 3-connected matroid with every element in a 3-element circuit and a 3-element cocircuit is either a whirl or the cycle matroid of a wheel. This result led to the Splitter Theorem. More recently, Miller proved that a matroid of sufficient size with every pair of elements in a 4-element circuit and a 4-element cocircuit is a tipless spike. This result simplifies the proof of Rota's conjecture for GF(4). Here we investigate matroids having similar restrictions on their small circuits and cocircuits. In particular, we completely determine the 3-connected matroids with every pair of elements in a 4-element circuit and every element in a 3-element cocircuit, as well as the 4-connected matroids with every pair of elements in a 4-element circuit and every element in a 4-element cocircuit. (Received February 13, 2018)