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Jorge V Pereira and **Sergey Yuzvinsky*** (yuz@uoregon.edu), Dept. of Mathematics, Univ. of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. *Upper bound on the number of split fibers in a pencil of curves.*

We prove that every pencil of plane curves with nonsplitting general fiber has at most 5 splitting (i.e. completely reducible) fibers. (Received September 21, 2006)