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Surya Thapa Magar* (suryalg@math.ksu.edu). *Skeleta of algebraic curves and surfaces*. Preliminary report.

Given a smooth algebraic surface Z in $(\mathbb{C}^*)^3$ defined by a polynomial f and any unimodular triangulation of its Newton polytope Δ , we give a tropical geometric construction of a 2-dimensional cell complex S and show that Z is homotopy equivalent to S . (Received September 16, 2014)