

962-20-1338

Daniel C. Cohen* (cohen@math.lsu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, and **Frederick R. Cohen*** (cohf@math.rochester.edu), University of Rochester. *On the cohomology of braid groups with symplectic coefficients.*

There is a natural map from the braid group to the mapping class group which gives rise to a symplectic representation of the former. We discuss the problem of computing the cohomology of the braid group with coefficients in various modules arising from this symplectic representation, and some connections which arise in the context of this problem. (Received October 03, 2000)