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Jing Long Hoelscher* (jlong@math.arizona.edu), Dept. of Math, University of Arizona, 617 N. Santa Rita Ave., P.O. Box 210089, Tucson, AZ 85721. *Class numbers of function fields*. Preliminary report.

This talk will focus on the class groups of function fields. First I will give a description of the p -part of the class number of a \mathbb{Z}_p^d extension of a function field, which is similar to the one in the number field case. Then I will talk about recent progress towards the analogy of the Herbrand-Ribet theorem in function fields. (Received September 13, 2008)