

1056-20-1483

**Joel Louwsma\*** ([louwsma@caltech.edu](mailto:louwsma@caltech.edu)), Department of Mathematics 253-37, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125. *Stable Commutator Length in Braid Groups*. Preliminary report.

We study stable commutator length in, and extremal quasimorphisms on, braid groups. After introducing these concepts, we explain our algorithm for computing stable commutator length in the three-strand braid group. Then we discuss how these techniques may or may not generalize to higher-strand braid groups. (Received September 21, 2009)