1067-57-1256   **Elizabeth Denne*** (`edenne@smith.edu`), Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063, and **John M Sullivan** and **Nancy C Wrinkle**. *Flat Ribbon Links in* $\mathbb{R}^2$. Preliminary report.

Knots and links are modeled as flat ribbons immersed in $\mathbb{R}^2$ without folding. This is a 2-dimensional analogue of thick knots and the new work grew out of the theory of ropelength criticality studies by the second and third authors (and others). This talk will give an update of this joint work in-progress. In particular, it will give examples of flat ribbon links, definitions and a discussion of the technicalities involved - that moving from 3 to 2 dimensions does not necessarily simplify the mathematics involved. (Received September 20, 2010)