1086-11-1667 **Ekin Ozman**, **Rachel Pries*** (pries@math.colostate.edu) and **Colin Weir**. *The p-rank of Jacobians of cyclic covers of the projective line.* Preliminary report.

The distinction between ordinary and supersingular elliptic curves can be generalized to (Jacobians of) curves of higher genus. If C is a curve defined over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$, its p-rank f measures the number of p-torsion points on its Jacobian or, equivalently, the length of the slope 0 segment of the Newton polygon of its L-function. For all $g \geq 3$ and all p and all $0 \leq f \leq g$, Faber and Van der Geer proved that there exists a smooth curve of genus g over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ with p-rank f. A similar result for hyperelliptic curves was proven by Glass and Pries. In this talk, we discuss a new result about p-ranks of curves which are a cyclic cover of the projective line. The proof uses the method of degeneration to the boundary of a Hurwitz space. (Received September 24, 2012)