1037-05-43 **L. Sunil Chandran** (`sunil@csa.iisc.ernet.in`), Dept. of Computer Science and Automation, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, **A. V. Kostochka*** (`kostochk@math.uiuc.edu`), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1409 W. Green St., Dept. of Mathematics, Urbana, IL 61801, and **J. Krishnam Raju** (`krjampan@cs.uwaterloo.ca`), David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. *Hadwiger number of Cartesian products of graphs.* Preliminary report.

The Hadwiger number $\eta(G)$ of a graph G is the largest integer n for which the complete graph K_n on n vertices is a minor of G. The main result of the talk says that the Hadwiger number of the Cartesian product $G_1 \,\square\, G_2$ of graphs G_1 with $\eta(G_1) = m$ and G_2 with $\eta(G_2) = h$ is at least $m\sqrt{h}(1 - o(h))$. The bound is asymptotically best possible when $m \geq h$. One of the corollaries is that the Hadwiger Conjecture holds for the Cartesian square of every graph. (Received January 15, 2008)