1039-57-50Thomas R Fleming* (tfleming@math.ucsd.edu), Department of Mathematics, 9500 Gilman
Dr, 0112, La Jolla, CA 92093-0112. Milnor invariants for spatial graphs.

Link-homotopy has been an active area of research for knot theorists since its creation by Milnor in the 1950s. We introduce a new equivalence relation on spatial graphs called component-homotopy, which reduces to link-homotopy when the graph is a disjoint union of circles. Unlike previous generalitions of link-homotopy to spatial graphs, our new relation allows analogues of some standard link-homotopy results and invariants. (Received February 29, 2008)