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Onur Alper* (alper@cims.nyu.edu), 251 Mercer Street, New York, NY 10012. *Defects of liquid crystals with variable degree of orientation.*

We will discuss the structure of line defects in minimizing configurations of the modified Ericksen model for nematic liquid crystals. Firstly, we will focus on a joint work with Fang-Hua Lin and Robert Hardt regarding the topological structure of defects. If time permits, we will also discuss a more recent result: that the line defects in this context have locally finite length. (Received March 20, 2017)