

Meeting: 1000, Albuquerque, New Mexico, SS 14A, Special Session on Braids and Knots

1000-57-191 **Louis H. Kauffman*** (kauffman@uic.edu), Math UIC, 851 South Morgan Street, Chicago, IL 60607-7045. *A Self-Linking Invariant of Virtual Knots*. Preliminary report.

We discuss a self-linking invariant for virtual knots, defined by $sl(K)$ = the sum of the signs of the crossings that have an odd interstice in the Gauss code. The talk will discuss this invariant and generalizations of it related to quantum link invariants and graph coloring. (Received August 24, 2004)