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Anna Wienhard* (wienhard@math.princeton.edu), Department of Mathematics, Princeton University, Fine Hall - Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544, and **Marc Burger** and **Alessandra Iozzi**. *Rotation numbers, a generalized Maslov index and representation varieties.*

I will explain a construction of rotation numbers which generalizes both the classical rotation number of a homeomorphism of the circle as well as the symplectic rotation number. For Lie groups of Hermitian type these rotation numbers are intimately related to a generalization of the Maslov index and play an important role when studying the varieties of representations of such groups. (Received January 21, 2008)