1007-20-157 **Lucas Sabalka*** (sabalka@math.uiuc.edu). *Discrete Morse theory and graph braid groups.*

If Γ is any finite graph, then the *unlabelled configuration space of n points on* Γ, denoted $U\mathcal{C}^n\Gamma$, is the space of n-element subsets of Γ. The *braid group of* Γ *on n strands* is the fundamental group of $U\mathcal{C}^n\Gamma$. We apply a discrete version of Morse theory to these spaces, for any n and any Γ, to obtain presentations for the corresponding braid groups. (Received February 18, 2005)