

1123-57-218

**Yuanan Diao, Pengyu Liu\*** (pliu10@uncc.edu) and **Gabor Hetyei**. *The braid index of homogeneous braids*. Preliminary report.

It is well known that any link can be represented by the closure of a braid. The minimum number of strands needed in a braid whose closure represents a given link is called the braid index of the link. In an earlier paper, the authors showed that if a link has a reduced alternating diagram which is also the closure of a braid on  $n$  strands, then the braid index of the link is exactly  $n$ . In this talk we present a new result that generalizes the above result to the class of homogeneous braids. (Received August 26, 2016)