

Sections of surface bundles and Lefschetz fibrations
(joint work with R. Inanc Baykur and Mustafa Korkmaz)

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Abstract. We will discuss the possible self-intersection numbers for sections of surface bundles Lefschetz fibrations over surfaces, and the (un)boundedness of the number of critical points of a Lefschetz fibration with maximally self-intersecting sections, for fixed fiber and base genera. We will also calculate the stable commutator length of certain elements in the mapping class groups of surfaces with boundary.