

On the flat braidzel length of links

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Abstract. It is known that any link has a flat braidzel surface as a Seifert surface. We introduce the flat braidzel length of a link defined as the minimal length of all braids which represent flat braidzel surfaces for the link. In this talk, we study relationships between the flat braidzel length and the Alexander-Conway polynomial and give a lower bound for the flat braidzel length. If time allows, we will show that, for any integer n greater than or equal to three, there exists a knot whose flat braidzel length is n .