On the arc index of knots and links

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Abstract. Every knot or link L can be embedded in the union of finitely many half planes which have a common boundary line such that each half plane intersects L in a single arc. Such an embedding is called an arc presentation of L. The arc index of L is the minimal number of pages among all arc presentations of L. It is known that the arc index of a knot is closely related to the minimal crossing number of the knot. In this talk, we present a small survey on arc index and compute the arc index of some of Pretzel knots and Montesinos links.