On the clasp number of a knot

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Abstract. Every knot in $S^3$ bounds a singular disk in $S^3$ whose singular set consists of only clasp singularities. The clasp number $c(K)$ of a knot $K$ is the minimal number of clasp singularities among all such singular disks bounded by $K$. In this talk, we determine the clasp number of a certain knot by using a characterization of the Alexander module, and we investigate the clasp numbers of 2-bridge knots. This is a joint work with T. Kadokami.