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**William G. Hager\*** ([whager@tlu.edu](mailto:whager@tlu.edu)). *The Minimum Distance Energy Function and Knots with Dihedral Symmetry*. Preliminary report.

There are a number of programs written that can relax polygonal knots and approximate local minima of the minimum distance energy function. Despite this, the exact minima or even critical knots of this energy function are largely unknown. I will describe current progress towards locating the minima of this energy function before presenting some results of my own. For example, the special case of six-segment knots with dihedral symmetry is interesting, in that there is a critical knot in the approximate location of an estimated minimum of the minimum distance energy. (Received February 10, 2014)