

1126-55-378

John M Sullivan* (sullivan@math.tu-berlin.de) and **Robert B Kusner**
(kusner@math.umass.edu). *Ropelength and the space of unlinks*. Preliminary report.

We consider various configurations of unlinks (of two and three components) that are critical for ropelength, and explore how these may be related Morse-theoretically to the topology of the space of unlinks. (Received January 17, 2017)