1126-57-154   **Yuanan Diao*** (`ydiao@uncc.edu`), 11908 Three Vistas Ct, Charlotte, NC 28277, and **Gabor Hetyei** and **Pengyu Liu**. *HOMFLY polynomial formulation and braid index.*

In this talk I will discuss the HOMFLY polynomial in closed forms for special link diagrams such as closed braids, and how such closed forms may be used to prove results concerning the braid index of a link. (Received January 10, 2017)