

1035-57-851

Ryan Derby-Talbot* (rdt@aucegypt.edu), 113 Kasr El Aini Street, PO Box 2511, Cairo, 11511, Egypt. *Stabilization and amalgamation of Heegaard splittings.*

We investigate the relationship between stabilization and amalgamation of Heegaard splittings of 3-manifolds. In particular, we are interested in how many stabilizations are needed to make a Heegaard splitting isotopic to a splitting that is an amalgamation along a given incompressible surface. We outline a strategy for approaching this problem and highlight several results. (Received September 17, 2007)