1070-57-328   **Melissa Macasieb*** (`macasieb@math.umd.edu`) and **Kathleen Petersen** (`petersen@math.fsu.edu`). *Character varieties and symmetries of 2-bridge knots.* Preliminary report.

We investigate the relationship between the symmetry group of a 2-bridge knot group and the number of irreducible components of its $SL_2(C)$-character variety. (Received February 15, 2011)