

PRETZEL LINKS, MUTATION, AND THE SLICE-RIBBON CONJECTURE

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Let p and q be odd integers with $1 < p < q$. We show that the mutant 2-component pretzel links $P(p, q, -p, -q)$ and $P(p, q, -q, -p)$ are not concordant, using 3-fold branched covers and Donaldson's diagonalisation theorem. As a corollary we confirm the slice-ribbon conjecture for 4-stranded 2-component pretzel links. (This is joint work with Paolo Aceto, Min Hoon Kim, and JungHwan Park.)