963-49-196    **Joseph H Fu*** (`fu@math.uga.edu`), Department of Mathematics, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30605. *A notion of criticality for ropelength.* Preliminary report.

We give the correct definition of criticality for the ropelength problem, and show that any critical point for the simplest ropelength braid problem is a standard double helix. (Received January 23, 2001)