

1125-14-1962 **Nathan Pflueger*** (pflueger@math.brown.edu). *Special divisors on general k -gonal curves.*

We discuss a version of the Brill-Noether theorem for algebraic curves with a degree k map to the projective line. Our result gives an upper bound on the dimensions of the spaces of special divisors on a general such curve, which holds with equality in a wide range of cases. The proof is based on tropical geometry; specifically, we completely describe the special divisors on metric graphs consisting of a chain of loops, extending work of Cools, Draisma, Payne, and Robeva. (Received September 19, 2016)