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Diego A Vela* (dav2@rice.edu), 6100 Main Street, MS-136, Houston, TX 77005. *Infection By A String Link.*

Knots and links play an important role in 3-manifolds and the equivalence relation of concordance of knots and links plays an important role in 4-manifolds. We will discuss our work that shows, loosely speaking, that we cannot hope to classify knot concordance without simultaneously classifying link concordance for links of an arbitrary number of components. Cochran-Friedl-Teichner considered generalized satellite operations $R: SL(m) \rightarrow AS$, called “infection by a string link”, where $SL(m)$ is the set of concordance classes of m -component links, AS is the set of concordance classes of algebraically slice knots, and the “pattern” knot R is some ribbon knot. They proved that, for any such knot K there exists some R , m and L such that $R(L)=K$. We show that one cannot put an upper bound on m . Links arise from knots since the spine of a Seifert surface is essentially a link. Our obstructions are related to the Alexander polynomials of such links. (Received September 09, 2014)