1006-12-171 **Arne Ledet*** (`arne.ledet@ttu.edu`), Department of Mathematics, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-1042. *Essential dimension.*

We describe the concept of essential dimension for a finite group, as introduced by Buhler and Reichstein, and present some recent results, as well as various conjectures. (Received February 14, 2005)