

ALGEBRA DAY ON THE HUDSON

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A Solution to the Conjugacy Problem for a large class of one-relator groups.

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Abstract:

In this talk I will introduce ongoing work (joint with Bob Gilman and Alden Walker) whose goal is to show that any one-relator group whose relator is a commutator is biautomatic and hence has solvable conjugacy problem. This would answer a question of Baumslag asking whether groups of this form are necessarily automatic. Our arguments rely on a method of proving a group is biautomatic introduced by Gilman which is based on ideas from small cancellation theory. In applying Gilman's techniques, we take advantage of the symmetry in the commutator relator. I will outline our results to date and provide an overview of the remaining steps in the proof of our theorem.