1049-51-94 **Jing Tao*** (jingtao@math.uic.edu), 3425 W Drummond Pl, 2B, Chicago, IL 60647. *Linear Bound for the Length of a Conjugating Element in the Mapping Class Group.*

Given two conjugate mapping classes $f$ and $g$, we produce a conjugating element $\omega$ such that $|\omega| \leq K(|f| + |g|)$, where $|\cdot|$ denotes the word metric with respect to a fixed generating set, and $K$ is a constant depending only on the generating set. As a consequence, the conjugacy problem for mapping class groups is exponentially bounded. (Received February 24, 2009)