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**Jason Behrstock\*** ([jason.behrstock@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:jason.behrstock@lehman.cuny.edu)) and **Cornelia Drutu**. *Polynomial divergence and thick groups*.

In a metric space the divergence of a pair of rays is a way to measure how quickly they separate from each other. Understanding what divergence rates are possible in the presence of non-positive curvature was raised as a question by Gromov and then refined by Gersten. We will describe a construction we gave, with Cornelia Drutu, of groups with several interesting properties, some of which shed light on the above question. (Received August 06, 2013)