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Ian Biringer, University of Chicago, Department of Mathematics, 5734 S. University Ave., Chicago, IL 60637, and **Juan Souto***, Department of Mathematics, University of Michigan, 2074 East Hall, 530 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1043. *Rank of the fundamental group of hyperbolic mapping tori.*

We prove that the fundamental group of the mapping torus of a pseudo-Anosov element f in the mapping class group of closed surface has rank $2g+1$ provided that f has sufficiently large translation distance in the curve complex. (Received January 22, 2009)