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Jing Tao* (jingtao@math.uic.edu), 3425 W Drummond Place, 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 ω 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 January 31, 2009)