

- ▶ SIMON THOMAS, *A descriptive view of combinatorial group theory*.
Mathematics Department, Rutgers University, 110 Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway,
New Jersey 08854-8019, USA.
E-mail: sthomas@math.rutgers.edu.

It is well-known that descriptive set theory provides a framework for measuring the relative complexity of many naturally occurring classification problems. But it is less well-known that descriptive set theory also provides a framework for explaining the inevitable non-uniformity of many classical constructions in mathematics. In this talk, I will illustrate this point by considering two constructions from combinatorial group theory related to the word problem for finitely generated groups and the Higman-Neumann-Neumann Embedding Theorem.