1063-37-238   **Yoshikata Kida*** (`kida@math.kyoto-u.ac.jp`), Department of Mathematics, Kyoto University, Kyoto, 606-8502, Japan. *Measure equivalence rigidity of amalgamated free products.*

Measure equivalence is an equivalence relation between discrete countable groups, defined in measure-theoretic terms, and is closely related to the theory of orbit equivalence and von Neumann algebras. It is known that higher rank lattices and mapping class groups of compact orientable surfaces satisfy rigidity in the sense of measure equivalence. Particularly, the mapping class group G is ME rigid, that is, any group that is measure equivalent to G is virtually isomorphic to G. This talk presents a construction of ME rigid groups given as amalgamated free products of two rigid groups. (Received August 17, 2010)