Michael Damron* (mdamron6@gatech.edu), School of Mathematics, Georgia Institute of Technology, 686 Cherry St., Atlanta, GA 30332, and Jon Fickenscher (jonfick@princeton.edu), Department of Mathematics, Fine Hall, Washington Rd., Princeton, NJ 08544. The number of ergodic measures for minimal shifts of low complexity.

Consider a one-dimensional minimal shift on a finite alphabet, and let p(n) be the number of distinct words in the system of size n. In 1985, M. Boshernitzan proved that if $\lim \inf_n p(n)/n = \alpha$ is finite, then the system has at most $\lfloor \alpha \rfloor - 1$ ergodic measures. This bound was recently shown to be tight by V. Cyr and B. Kra, but no improvement has been found. I will discuss work with J. Fickenscher in which we show an improved bound in the setting of "eventually constant complexity growth," meaning that p(n) - p(n-1) is eventually constant. The methods involve introducing and analyzing what we call Special Rauzy Graphs, which allow us to track the interdependencies of words of size n as n increases. (Received December 24, 2015)