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Lvzhou Chen* (lzchen@math.uchicago.edu). *Stable commutator length in generalized Baumslag–Solitar groups.*

The stable commutator length (scl) is a complexity measurement on loops in a space, and is a characteristic function on the fundamental group. However, it is hard to compute scl in general and thus difficult to study it. By investigating surfaces in spaces, we explain how scl can be computed and why it is rational in Baumslag–Solitar groups, as well as many other graphs of groups. We also exhibit some interesting behaviors not found for scl in free groups. (Received August 31, 2018)