Commutators and Bounded Cohomology of Groups
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For an element x of a group $[G, G]$, the commutator length $cl(x)$ of x is defined as the minimal number n such that x can be written as a product of n commutators. There is also the notion of bounded cohomology of G. After introducing these two seemingly unrelated concepts, I will discuss them for the mapping class group of a surface.