Meeting: 1006, Lubbock, Texas, SS 15A, Special Session on Discrete Groups, Homogeneous Spaces, Rigidity

1006-51-122 **Azer Akhmedov*** (`akhmedov@math.ucsb.edu`), 6681 Berkshire Terrace, Apt.14, Goleta, CA 93117. *Travelling Salesman Groups.*

I will introduce the so-called travelling salesman groups. First, I will report some results regarding the nature of this class of groups and then discuss two important applications: 1)in the quasi-isometric non-rigidity of group varieties; 2)in the theory of amenable groups. (Received February 11, 2005)