

FROM PARADOXICAL DECOMPOSITIONS IN GROUPS TO SEMIGROUP C^* -ALGEBRAS

BRITA NUCINKIS (ROYAL HOLLOWAY)

ABSTRACT. I will give a short introduction to paradoxical decompositions in groups and how this relates to the notion of amenability. Even though it has been prodded from all directions, it is still unknown whether the famous Thompson group F is amenable or not. I will then show how studying semigroup C^* -algebras for certain submonoids of F might give us at least some partial answers.