

It is well known that the Ping Pong Lemma can be applied to many two-generated subgroups of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ (using the action by Möbius transformations on the hyperbolic plane) in order to determine properties such as freeness and/or discreteness. In particular, there is a practical algorithm of Eick, Kirschmer and Leedham-Green which, given any two elements of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$, will determine after finitely many steps whether or not the subgroup generated by these elements is both discrete and free of rank two. In this talk, I will show that a similar algorithm exists for two-generated subgroups of $SL(2, K)$, where K is a non-archimedean local field (for instance, the p -adic numbers). Such groups act by isometries on a Bruhat-Tits tree, and the algorithm proceeds by computing and comparing various translation lengths, in order to determine whether or not a given two-generated subgroup of $SL(2, K)$ is both discrete and free.