

Out(F_n) AND ITS RELATIVES

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The outer automorphism group $Out(F)$ of a free group of finite rank shares many properties with linear groups and the mapping class group $Mod(S)$ of a surface, although the techniques for studying $Out(F_n)$ are often quite different from the latter two. Motivated by analogy, I will present some results about $Out(F_n)$ previously well-known for the mapping class group, and highlight some of the features in the proofs which distinguish it from $Mod(S)$.