

Geometry Seminar

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4:00p.m., HH-3013

On a theorem of Nielsen

Abstract

Consider the free group F_n in n letters. The group of automorphisms $Aut(F_n)$ of F_n is (still) not a well-understood object. Modern techniques to study $Aut(F_n)$ are geometrical and topological, a trend that started in the 1980's with influence of ideas, among others, by John Stallings. Research on $Aut(F_n)$ it is currently a highly active area among geometers and group theorists. In this talk I will describe Stallings's folds and use them to give an elementary proof that $Aut(F_n)$ is finitely generated. The talk will only assume familiarity with the notion of group and basic topology, students are very welcome to attend.