Seminarium geometrów

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The smallest quotients of $Out(F_n)$ and mapping class groups.

Abstract: We will see how the classification of finite simple groups and some representation theory can be used to determine the smallest quotients of $Out(F_n)$ and mapping class groups. In both cases the smallest non-abelian quotients are obtained by first passing to the automorphism of the abelianisation of, respectively, free and surface groups, and then taking the smallest quotient of the relevant algebraic group.