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On the Linearity of Certain Mapping Class Groups


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Abstract: S. Bigelow proved that the braid groups are linear. That is, there is a faithful representation of the braid group into the general linear group of some field. Using this, we deduce from previously known results that the mapping class group of a sphere with punctures and hyperelliptic mapping class groups are linear. In particular, the mapping class group of a closed orientable surface of genus 2 is linear.

Key Words: Mapping class groups, Braid groups, Linear groups



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