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Linear Automorphism Groups of Relatively Free Groups

Alexander Yu. OLSHANSKII

Department of Mathematics



Vanderbilt University, USA

e-mail: [alexander.olshanskiy@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:alexander.olshanskiy@vanderbilt.edu)

and

Department of Higher Algebra MEHMAT,

Moscow State University, RUSSIA

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 [Authors](#)

**Abstract:** Let  $G$  be a free group in a variety of groups, but  $G$  is not absolutely free. We prove that the group of automorphisms  $\text{Aut}(G)$  is linear if and only if  $G$  is a finitely generated virtually nilpotent group.



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[math@tubitak.gov.tr](mailto:math@tubitak.gov.tr)

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