

THE NORMAL CLOSURE OF A BOUNDING PAIR MAP IN ITS MAPPING CLASS GROUP

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Venue: Room 102, SCMS

Abstract:

The Torelli subgroup in the mapping class groups consists of mapping classes that act trivially on the homology of the surface. Johnson proved that the Torelli subgroup is normally generated by genus 1 bounding pair maps. Generalizing Johnson's result, we give two descriptions of the normal subgroup generated by genus n bounding pair maps using the Chillingworth and the Casson-Morita invariants. This work is joint with Lei Chen and Justin Lanier.