

Generating big mapping class groups

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The mapping class group of a surface is the group of its homeomorphisms up to homotopy. A natural question to ask is: what is a good set of generators? If the surface is compact (or more generally of finite type) there are multiple satisfactory answers. If the surface is of infinite type, the question is wide open. I will discuss this problem and present a partial (negative) result in this context.

Joint work with Sebastian Hensel.