

## **Culler-Vogtmann's Outer space and the geometry of $\text{Out}(F_n)$**

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We discuss the use of the asymmetric metric on Outer space as a tool to probe the geometry of outer automorphism groups of free groups. Much of this is inspired by analogies with the work of Masur-Minsky on mapping class groups of compact surfaces. Our focus will be recent joint work with Mladen Bestvina.