

Mapping class group actions on spaces of surface group representations

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The mapping class group of a compact surface acts on the moduli space of representations of its fundamental group into a Lie group G . When G is compact, the action exhibits chaotic dynamics. When G is noncompact semisimple, components exist where the action is proper, extending the properness of the action on Teichmüller space. In general the action mediates between these two extremes. This talk will survey the relation between dynamical properties of these actions and geometric structures on the surface.