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Automorphism groups of free groups, subgroups and functor categories

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Automorphism groups of free groups are related to mapping class groups and gives rise to nice subgroups IA , analogous to Torelli groups, with two fundamental filtrations: the Johnson-Andreadakis one, and its lower central series. All these objects carry a deep structure and are very hard to approach. In this talk, we will give a survey of what the use of functor categories can bring to their study, in particular: some stable homological computations with twisted coefficients or nice and precise ways to express stable properties (most of them being still open), in the spirit of representation stability.

Presenter: Prof. DJAMENT, Aurélien (Paris)