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Action of the absolute Galois group on dessins d'enfants and Beauville surfaces

Abstract A foundational result in Grothendieck's theory of dessins d'enfants is that there is an action of the absolute Galois group on the set of all dessins.

In this talk, based on joint work with Andrei Jaikin-Zapirain, I shall attempt to describe this action and show that it is faithful already on the subset of the (more accessible) regular dessins. If time permits I will indicate how this fact can be also used to prove some conjectures of F. Catanese about Beauville surfaces.