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Lizhen Ji* (lji@umich.edu), Dept of Math, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. *On constructing an invariant complete geodesic metric on the outer space.* Preliminary report.

In this talk, we will discuss a construction of a complete geodesic metric on the outer space of metric graphs, which is invariant under the outer automorphism group $Out(F_n)$ of free group F_n . One ingredient is to relate the outer space to the moduli space of compact tropical curves. (Received January 10, 2012)