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Neil J. Fullarton* (neil.fullarton@rice.edu). *Palindromic automorphisms of free groups.*

The palindromic automorphism group of a free group consists of automorphisms that take each member of some (fixed) free basis X to a palindrome on X ; that is, a word which is equal to its reverse. This group has striking connections with hyperelliptic mapping class groups and congruence subgroups of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z})$. I will demonstrate these connections in order to motivate the study of palindromic automorphisms, and discuss recent results in this area. (Received January 27, 2015)