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Matt Clay and **Caglar Uyanik*** (caglar.uyanik@yale.edu). *An atoroidal subgroup alternative for $Out(F_N)$.*

We prove an analog of Ivanov's subgroup alternative theorem for mapping class groups in the $Out(F_N)$ setting. Precisely, we show that every subgroup \mathcal{H} of $Out(F_N)$ either contains an atoroidal element or a finite index subgroup \mathcal{H}' of \mathcal{H} fixes a nontrivial conjugacy class in F_N . The techniques involve hyperbolic geometry, dynamics and ergodic theory. (Received August 28, 2018)