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*Pseudo-Anosovs and the dynamics of surface homeomorphisms.*

This talk will survey various aspects of the dynamics of pseudo-Anosov homeomorphisms. We will focus on the stretch factor (or dilatation) of a pseudo-Anosov and give various interpretations of this number via, e.g., intersection numbers of curves, lengths of curves, and length in moduli space. Moreover, the spectrum of attainable stretch factors is discrete, and every stretch factor is an algebraic integer. Time permitting I will discuss other dynamical properties such as ergodicity and the existence of dense orbits. (Received September 16, 2013)