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Michael Hull and **Ilya Kapovich*** (kapovich@math.uiuc.edu), 1409 West Green Street, UIUC
Department of Mathematics, Urbana, IL 61801. *Counting conjugacy classes in $Out(F_N)$.*

We show that if a f.g. group G has a non-elementary WPD action on a hyperbolic metric space X , then the number of G -conjugacy classes of X -loxodromic elements of G coming from a ball of radius R in the Cayley graph of G grows exponentially in R . As an application we prove that for $N \geq 3$ the number of distinct $Out(F_N)$ -conjugacy classes of fully irreducibles ϕ from an R -ball in the Cayley graph of $Out(F_N)$ with $\log \lambda(\phi)$ on the order of R grows exponentially in R . Here $\lambda(\phi)$ is the dilatation or the stretch factor of ϕ . (Received August 30, 2017)