## The $\mathrm{SL}(2,\mathbb{R})$ action on Moduli space

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There is a natural action of the group  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  of  $2 \times 2$  matrices on the moduli space of compact Riemann surfaces. This action can be visualized using flat geometry models. I will survey some recent developments in the area, and give some applications to the study of billiards in polygons and other problems.