

1116-14-1780 **Anand Deopurkar***, anandrd@math.columbia.edu, and **Anand Patel**. *Picard groups of Hurwitz spaces*.

Hurwitz spaces are moduli spaces of simply branched covers of the projective line. I will address a fundamental question about their geometry—the question of their Picard group. It is conjectured that the Picard group is torsion. I will motivate this conjecture and sketch a proof for Hurwitz spaces of covers of degree up to five. (Received September 21, 2015)