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Robert Ellis. *Equivalence Relations and Automorphisms in Topological Dynamics.* Preliminary report.

The fact that there exists a (unique up to isomorphism) universal minimal flow M means that every minimal flow is a quotient of the form M/R for some *icer* (closed invariant equivalence relation) R on M . Thus minimal flows can be studied via the icers on M . Here the group G of automorphisms of M and its relation to the natural semigroup structure on M play a crucial role. Various subgroups of G and the so-called τ -topology on G can be exploited to understand the structure of the icers on M and hence develop the algebraic theory of minimal sets. In this talk I will preview some of the results in this direction which will appear in an upcoming volume in the Cambridge University Press London Mathematical Society Lecture Notes Series (co-authors David B. Ellis and Robert Ellis) (Received August 12, 2013)