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Diffeomorphisms of reducible 3-manifolds

Friday, 19 September 2025 09:30 (1 hour)

I will talk about joint work with Corey Bregman and Jan Steinebrunner, in which we study the moduli space B Diff(M), for M a compact, connected, reducible 3-manifold. We prove that when M is orientable and has non-empty boundary, B Diff(M rel ∂M) has the homotopy type of a finite CW-complex. This was conjectured by Kontsevich and previously proved in the case where M is irreducible by Hatcher and McCullough. The theory we develop to prove this theorem has other applications, and I'll provide an overview of these.

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