# Homotopically trivializing the circle in the framed little disks 

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Consider the space of one framed little disk.


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An action of the framed little disks and a choice of trivialization of the circle action should be homotopically the same as an action of the genus zero Deligne-Mumford-Knudsen spaces $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0, n}$

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## A framework for Kontsevich's statement

Conjecture/Theorem (Kontsevich, 2005)
An action of the framed little disks and a choice of trivialization of $S^{1}$ should be homotopically the same as an action of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$

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Theorem (Kontsevich?; D.-Vallette)

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The homotopy pushout of:

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## Outline of Proof of Main Theorem

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The (weak) homotopy pushout of $F L D \leftarrow S^{1} \rightarrow *$ is $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$.

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- Show that the pushout $P_{h}$ of $r F L D \leftarrow S^{1} \rightarrow t A n$ is a weak homotopy pushout


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- Show that the pushout $P_{\mathcal{M}}$ of $F L D \leftarrow F L D(1) \rightarrow t A n$ contains $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ as a deformation retract
- Show that the pushout $P_{h}$ of $r F L D \leftarrow S^{1} \rightarrow t A n$ is a weak homotopy pushout
- Show that the map from the second pushout to the first pushout is a weak homotopy equivalence of operads


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There are relations coming from $B$ :

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## $F L D(1)$ and the affine group



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## Definition

Aff $\mathbb{C}$, the affine group of $\mathbb{C}$, is $\mathbb{C} \rtimes \mathbb{C}^{*}$ with this product.

## $t A n$ and the affine group

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\left(c_{1}, r_{1}\right) \circ\left(c_{2}, r_{2}\right)=\left(c_{1}+r_{1} c_{2}, r_{1} r_{2}\right)
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## Describing $P_{\mathcal{M}}$

## Describing $P_{\mathcal{M}}=F L D *_{F L D(1)} t A n$

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$$
(c, r) \in t A n
$$



## Describing $P_{\mathcal{M}}=F L D *_{F L D(1)} t A n$



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## Reminder

$\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ consists of at least trivalent trees with vertices labeled by: a configuration of points in the plane up to conformal equivalence

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$\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ consists of at least trivalent trees with vertices labeled by: a configuration of points in the plane up to Aff $\mathbb{C}$

## Goal <br> Homotope away all blue edges

## Homotoping away the blue edges



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## Conclusion

$\overline{\mathcal{M}}(n)$ is a deformation retract of $P_{\mathcal{M}}(n)$.

## Homotoping away the blue edges



## Conclusion

$\overline{\mathcal{M}}(n)$ is a deformation retract of $P_{\mathcal{M}}(n)$. The map $\overline{\mathcal{M}} \rightarrow P_{\mathcal{M}}$ is a map of operads.

## Describing $P_{h}$

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## Definition

$n F L D(n)$ consists of configurations of $n$ framed little disks so that the vector from the center of the first disk to the center of the second disk, along with all of the radius vectors, are positive reals.

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## Definition

$n F L D(n)$ consists of configurations of $n$ framed little disks so that the vector from the center of the first disk to the center of the second disk, along with all of the radius vectors, are positive reals.

## Observation

Every point in $P_{h}$ can be realized "uniquely" as a tree with alternating bivalent and at least trivalent vertices, with markings on the bivalent vertices from $t A n$ and on the other vertices from $n F L D$.

## Showing $P_{h}$ is a weak homotopy pushout

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- The framed little disks $F L D(n)$ are homeomorphic to the product $S^{1} \times n F L D(n) \times\left(S^{1}\right)^{n}$


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## Showing $P_{h}$ is a weak homotopy pushout

- The framed little disks $F L D(n)$ are homeomorphic to the product $S^{1} \times n F L D(n) \times\left(S^{1}\right)^{n}$
- The inclusion of the circle into the trivializable annuli is a pointed cofibration
- Weak equivalences and cofibrations of spaces interact nicely with coproducts and products


## Taking stock

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$$
P_{\mathcal{M}}^{\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}} \underset{\sim}{\sim} \overline{\mathcal{M}}
$$

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$$
P_{h} \quad P_{\mathcal{M}} \stackrel{\sim}{\sim} \underset{\mathcal{M}}{\sim}
$$

## Taking stock

$$
P_{h} \longrightarrow P_{\mathcal{M}} \stackrel{\sim}{\sim} \underset{\sim}{\sim} \overline{\mathcal{M}}
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$$
P_{h} \longrightarrow P_{\mathcal{M}} \stackrel{\sim}{\sim} \underset{\sim}{\sim}
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## Taking stock

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \tau \\
& P_{h} \longrightarrow P_{\mathcal{M}} \stackrel{\sim}{\sim} \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\sim} \overline{\mathcal{M}}
\end{aligned}
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A criterion to show that a map is a weak equivalence
A map of spaces $f$ is a weak equivalence if its range has an open cover, closed under finite intersection, and the restriction of $f$ to each element of the cover is a weak equivalence.

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U

## Taking stock

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A criterion to show that a map is a weak equivalence
A map of spaces $f$ is a weak equivalence if its range has an open cover, closed under finite intersection, and the restriction of $f$ to each element of the cover is a weak equivalence.

$$
\tau^{-1}(U) \longrightarrow U
$$

## Describing the local weak equivalence

$U$ consists of configurations that can be simultaneously separated into certain partitions.


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A point in $U(\{2,3\} ;\{2,3,4\})$

## Describing the local weak equivalence

$U$ consists of configurations that can be simultaneously separated into certain partitions.

## Simplifying assumptions

- Restrict to $\mathcal{M}$ inside $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$
- Discard inappropriate and ambiguous separations in the preimage
- This cover is not closed under finite intersection



## Justifying the restriction to $\mathcal{M}$

## Problem

It is not enough to achieve a weak equivalence on neighborhoods over $\mathcal{M}$; these need to have appropriate limiting behavior at the boundary.

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## Solution

Find a deformation retraction that is fixed fiberwise and that has appropriate limiting behavior.

## Picturing the retraction



## Picturing the retraction



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## Issues with the straight line homotopy



- Making sure disjoint pairs stay disjoint


## Issues with the straight line homotopy



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## Issues with the straight line homotopy



- Making sure disjoint pairs stay disjoint
- Making sure nested pairs stay nested


## A solution to the problem



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Homotope through $\theta$ rather than along the distance.

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$$
\theta=\arccos \left(\frac{r_{0}^{2}+r_{1}^{2}-\Delta^{2}}{2 r_{0} r_{1}}\right)
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This formula makes sense as long as the radii are nonzero. $\theta$ is either in $[0, \pi)$ or is a positive imaginary number.

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This formula makes sense as long as the radii are nonzero. $\theta$ is either in $[0, \pi)$ or is a positive imaginary number.
$c_{t}=\frac{c_{1} r_{0} \sin (t \theta)+c_{0} r_{1} \sin ((1-t) \theta)}{r_{0} \sin (t \theta)+r_{1} \sin ((1-t) \theta)}, \quad r_{t}=\frac{r_{0} r_{1} \sin (\theta)}{r_{0} \sin (t \theta)+r_{1} \sin ((1-t) \theta)}$

## Some evidence



## Some evidence



## Some evidence



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