Meeting: 998, Houston, Texas, SS 19A, Special Session on Algebraic Geometry

998-14-392 **Jenia Tevelev*** (tevelev@math.utexas.edu). *Higher-dimensional versions of stable rational curves.*

The space of ordered n-tuples of points on a projective line has a compactification, due to Grothendieck and Knudsen, with many remarkable properties: It has a natural moduli interpretation, namely it is the moduli space of stable n-pointed rational curves. It has a natural Mori theoretic meaning, namely it is the log canonical model of the interior. For a curve in the interior, there is a description of the limiting stable n-pointed rational curve, due to Kapranov, in terms of the Tits' tree.of PGL_2. We study these properties for the higher-dimensional versions of the Grothendieck-Knudsen space, the Chow quotients of Grassmannians. (Received March 02, 2004)