1094-57-85 **Charles Frohman*** (charles-frohman@uiowa.edu) and **Joanna Kania-Bartoszynska** (jkaniab@nsf.gov). *The Kauffman bracket skein module of a connected sum of copies of $S^1 \times S^2$ at roots of unit.*

Let $A = e^{\pi \mathbf{i}/N}$ where N is an odd integer, be the variable in the Kauffman bracket skein relations. We prove that the Kauffman bracket skein module of $\#_k S^1 \times S^2$, of the connected sum of k copies of $S^1 \times S^2$ is the direct sum of two submodules. One is isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}$ and is generated by the empty skein. The other is isomorphic to the $SL_2\mathbb{C}$-characters of the fundamental group of $\#_k S^1 \times S^2$.

The second submodule is used to give a univeral construction of traces on the Kauffman bracket skein module of a surface with boundary at roots of unity. (Received August 12, 2013)