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Charles D. Frohman and **Joanna Kania-Bartoszyńska*** (jkaniaba@nsf.gov). *Structure of the Kauffman bracket skein module of a connected sum of copies of a product of a circle with a sphere.*

We describe the structure of the Kauffman bracket skein module of a 3-manifold which is a connected sum of copies of $S^1 \times S^2$. We discuss its relationship to the $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ -characters of the fundamental group of the manifold. (Received January 28, 2014)