

1127-37-413

**Tanya Firsova\***, 138 Cardwell Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506. *Non-contractibility of deformation spaces.*

Deformation spaces were introduced by Adam Epstein and were used to prove transversality between dynamically interesting loci. He asked if deformation spaces are always contractible. We give a simple geometric condition that ensures that a deformation space is not contractible and conclude non-contractibility of a class of deformation spaces. This is a joint work with Jeremy Kahn and Nikita Selinger. (Received February 08, 2017)