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Charles D. Frohman and **Joanna Kania-Bartoszyńska*** (jkaniaba@nsf.gov). *Splitting of the Kauffman bracket skein algebra of a punctured surface.*

Kauffman bracket skein algebra of a surface is formed by taking linear combinations of framed links in a cylinder over the surface with complex coefficients, and modding out by the relations that define the Kauffman bracket link invariant. The multiplication comes from stacking one link above the other with the up and down direction given by the interval. We assume that the parameter involved in the Kauffman bracket skein relation is a root of unity. Unless that parameter is equal to 1 or -1 the algebra is non-commutative. We show that the appropriately localized skein algebra of a punctured surface can be split as a tensor product of two commutative sub-algebras. (Received September 12, 2016)