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Rhea Palak Bakshi* (rhea_palak@gwu.edu) and **Józef H. Przytycki**. *The Kauffman Bracket Skein Module of the Connected Sum of Two Handlebodies: A Counterexample.*

In this talk we disprove a twenty-two-year-old theorem about the structure of the Kauffman bracket skein module of the connected sum of two handlebodies. We achieve this by analysing handle slidings on compressing discs in a handlebody. We find more relations than previously predicted for the Kauffman bracket skein module of the connected sum of handlebodies, when one of them is not a solid torus. Additionally, we speculate on the structure of the Kauffman bracket skein module of the connected sum of two solid tori. This is joint work with Józef H. Przytycki. (Received August 14, 2020)