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Dori Bejleri* (bejleri@math.harvard.edu), Science Center 525, Harvard University, One Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, and **Kenny Ascher**. *The locus of rational maps with marked poles inside the Kontsevich space*. Preliminary report.

A rational function in one variable gives rise to a map $f : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ and a generic such map of degree n has n poles. Marking the poles gives an embedding of the space of degree n maps, unramified over infinity, into the Kontsevich space $\bar{M}_{0,n}(\mathbb{P}^1, n)$ of n -pointed genus 0 stable maps of degree n . What is the closure of the image of this embedding? Phrased another way, which configurations of pointed trees of rational curves can appear as the limit of a family of degree n rational functions as the n poles collide? We will address this question and explain motivation coming from the theory of elliptic surfaces and twisted stable maps. (Received January 19, 2021)