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Dirk Schuetz*, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Durham University, Science Laboratories,
Durham, DH1 5PN, England. *Cohomology of planar polygon spaces.*

We study the topology of the moduli space of polygonal planar curves with given side-length vector. By a conjecture of Walker the side-lengths are determined by the cohomology ring of the moduli space. We show that this conjecture is true for a large class of length vectors, and that an analogous conjecture holds if one considers polygonal curves in 3-space.

This is joint work with Michael Farber and Jean-Claude Hausmann. (Received January 22, 2008)