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*N-chain groups of homeomorphisms of one-manifolds.*

We study the algebraic structure of finitely generated groups of homeomorphisms of one-manifolds. We concentrate on groups generated by homeomorphisms, each supported on a single interval lying in a chain of intervals, subject to some mild dynamical conditions. These groups have many remarkable properties, including either having a simple commutator subgroup or having a wandering interval. (Received September 19, 2016)