Vance Blankers* (blankersv@northeastern.edu). Descendent Potentials on Hassett Spaces.

The Deligne-Mumford compactification of $\overline{M}_{g,n}$ is often considered the "standard" way to compactify the moduli space of curves. Hassett spaces form a family of alternative compactifications developed in 2002 by Brendan Hassett. In this talk we relate the intersection theory of $\psi$-classes on Hassett spaces to the same on $\overline{M}_{g,n}$ through an explicit change of variables of their respective generating functions. As a consequence, we are able to use an asymptotic limit of Hassett spaces to establish the Witten conjecture for $\kappa$-classes on $\overline{M}_g$, which leads to a recursive method for calculating all $\kappa$-class intersection numbers. This is joint work with Renzo Cavalieri. (Received September 16, 2019)