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Birational Geometry of the Moduli Space of Curves with Marked Points.

A powerful tool in birational geometry is the cone of effective divisors of a variety. We examine this cone when the given variety is the moduli space of curves with one marked point, in some low genus cases. In particular, we identify divisors that lie on extremal rays of the cone - most notably, pointed analogues of Brill-Noether divisors that have been studied previously by Adam Logan. (Received September 13, 2008)