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Charles D. Frohman and **Joanna Kania-Bartoszyńska*** (jkaniaba@nsf.gov). *The Kauffman bracket skein module of a connected sum of copies of $S^1 \times S^2$.*

We describe the structure of the Kauffman bracket skein module of a 3-manifold which is a connected sum of k copies of the product of a circle with a sphere, where the variable in the Kauffman bracket skein relation is a root of unity. We show how this module is related to the $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ -characters of the fundamental group of the 3-manifold. (Received September 16, 2013)