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Essential dimension for moduli stacks

I will present joint work with Angelo Vistoli and Zinovy Reichstein on essential dimension of the moduli stacks of curves and of abelian varieties. The main technical result used to compute this essential dimension is a “genericity theorem” which reduces the computation of the essential dimension of a smooth Deligne–Mumford stack to the essential dimension of its generic gerbe. I will sketch the proof of this result.