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Homotopy invariance of configuration spaces

Given a closed manifold M , the configuration space of n points in M , $F(M, k)$ is the set k distinct points in M . Levitt showed that if M is 2-connected then $F(M, 2)$ only depends on the homotopy type of M . When M is a smooth projective variety, Kriz constructed a model for the rational homotopy type of $F(M, k)$. In this talk we show that a variant of the Kriz model works for any sufficiently connected closed manifold, and discuss the related problem of the homotopy invariance of $F(M, 3)$.