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**Anand Deopurkar\***, anandrd@math.columbia.edu. *Limits of plane quintics via covers of stacky curves.*

Which stable curves are limits of smooth plane curves? I will describe the answer explicitly in the first non-trivial case, namely the case of plane quintics. To do so, we will interpret such a curve in terms of a branched cover, but with a twist: the base of the cover will be a stack. The answer will then follow from a nice compactification of the moduli space of stacky branched covers. (Received January 19, 2016)