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Irreducible components of varieties of representations

A longstanding problem asks for a classification of the irreducible components of the algebraic varieties parametrizing the representations with fixed dimension vector of a finite dimensional algebra. The case of truncated path algebras has been resolved in a sequence of papers, partly by the speaker, partly in collaborations of the speaker with Babson-Thomas, Bleher-Chinburg, Shipman, and Goodearl. We will present an overview.