

# Higgs bundles, spectral data and applications

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# THE PLAN

## ① Higgs bundles

- The Hitchin fibration.
- Spectral data approach.
- Hyperkähler structure.

## ② Real slices of Higgs bundles

- A triple of involutions.
- Branes and Langlands duality.
- $(B, A, A)$ -branes and low rank isogenies.

## ③ Monodromy of $(B, A, A)$ -branes

- $(B, A, A)$ -branes and split real forms.
- Braids and polyhedrons.
- Character varieties.

Based on:

arXiv:1301.1981

arXiv:1111.2550

And work w/

D. Baraglia

1309.1195

1506.00372

& /w

S. Bradlow

1506.XXXXXX

# THE HITCHIN FIBRATION

CONSIDER A COMPACT RIEMANN SURFACE  $\Sigma$  OF  $g \geq 2$  AND  $K := T^*\Sigma$ .

A **Higgs bundle** is a pair  $(E, \Phi)$  for:  
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How can we construct families of them, and what can we say about their topology?



# A TRIPLE OF INVOLUTIONS $i_j : \mathcal{M}_{G_c} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{G_c}$

DEFINING FAMILIES OF BRANES IN  $\mathcal{M}_{G_c}$ . BARAGLIA-S. 2013

$G_c$  complex Lie group;

$G$  real form of  $G_c$  fixed by an anti-holomorphic involution  $\sigma$ ;

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Fixes an  $(A, B, A)$ -brane, some of whose give representations that extend to a 3-manifold bounding  $\Sigma$ .

$i_3 := i_1 \circ i_2$  fixes an  $(A, A, B)$ -brane, “pseudo real Higgs bundles”.

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BARAGLIA-S. 2013

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**Conjecture (Baraglia-S. 2013).** Since  $(A.B, A)$  are self dual, the dual brane for  $i_2$  is the one fixed by  ${}^L i_2$ .



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The dual  $(B, B, B)$  branes for  $i_1$  are supported over the moduli space of Higgs bundles for *Nadler's group*.

# $(B, A, A)$ -BRANES AND LOW RANK ISOGENIES

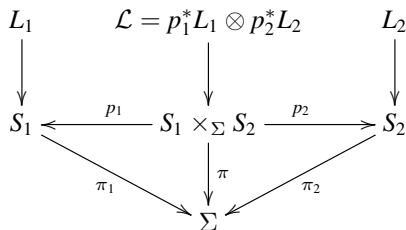
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$$\mathcal{I}_2 : \mathcal{M}_{SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{C})} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{SO(4, \mathbb{C})}$$

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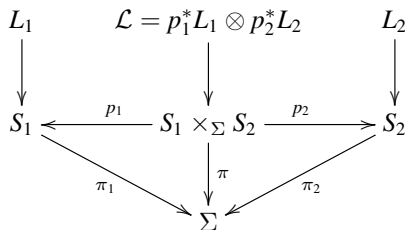


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The induced map is a  $2^{2g+1}$  fold-cover  $\mathcal{I}_2 : \mathcal{M}_{SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R})} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{SO(2, 2)}$ , of certain components in  $\mathcal{M}_{SO(2, 2)}$ .

# $(B, A, A)$ -BRANES AND SPLIT REAL FORMS

CONSIDER  $G$  THE SPLIT REAL FORM OF  $G_c$

## Theorem (S., 2013)

*The space  $\mathcal{M}_G$  intersects the smooth fibres of the Hitchin fibration  $h : \mathcal{M}_{G^c} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{G^c}$  in torsion two points.*

For Example: the smooth fibres for  $SL(n, \mathbb{C})$ -Higgs bundles are  $\text{Prym}(S, \Sigma)$ .

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Since we have a finite covering of the Hitchin base, we can study the monodromy action of loops in the base.

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FOR  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ -HIGGS BUNDLES AND  $L$ -TWISTED RANK 2 HIGGS BUNDLES



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For rank 2 Higgs bundles the Hitchin base is  $H^0(\Sigma, K^2)$  and the discriminant is given by differentials with multiple zeros.

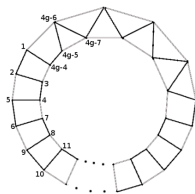




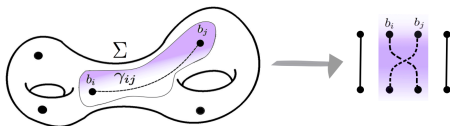
FOR  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ -HIGGS BUNDLES AND  $L$ -TWISTED RANK 2 HIGGS BUNDLES

For rank 2 Higgs bundles the Hitchin base is  $H^0(\Sigma, K^2)$  and the discriminant is given by differentials with multiple zeros.

For  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  (S. '11)



$L$ -twisted Higgs bundles (Baraglia-S. '15). It is an affine moduli space - topology determined by the **monodromy** and the **twisted Chern class**.



The monodromy action is given by Picard-Lefschetz transformations.

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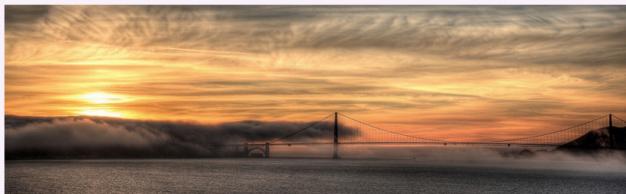
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(2) and (4) in [Goldman '88], (3) in [Xia '97, '99], (5) in [Gothen '01]

What is next?



San Jose, California, USA.



San Francisco's view from Alcatraz.

Higgs bundles and their spectral data have had applications in different research areas of mathematics and physics. This weekend workshop is intended to bring young researchers in the area to highlight advances in their research, and inspire new perspectives from which to study Higgs bundles and its applications.

- **Lara Anderson**, Virginia Tech, USA.
- **Lucas Branco**, University of Oxford, UK.
- **Olivia Dumitrescu**, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany.
- **Laura Fredrickson**, The University of Texas at Austin, USA.
- **Victoria Hoskins**, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.
- **Marina Logares**, ICMAT, Spain.
- **Alessia Mandini**, PUC, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- **Ana Peón-Nieto**, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany.



# Spectral data for Higgs bundles

September 28 to October 2, 2015

at the

American Institute of Mathematics, San Jose, California

organized by

Joergen Ellegaard Andersen, David Baraglia, Philip Boalch, and Laura Schaposnik



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March 31, 2015 | Comments Off on New perspectives on Higgs bundles, branes and quantization: June 13 – 17, 2016

## New perspectives on Higgs bundles, branes and quantization: June 13 – 17, 2016

Organized by: Lara B. Anderson, David Baraglia, Laura P. Schaposnik, and Vivek Shende

Dates: June 13 – 17, 2016

The aim of this workshop is to connect recent developments and open questions in the study of branes in the moduli space of Higgs bundles with other areas of mathematics and theoretical physics: differential and algebraic geometry, compact and non compact Calabi-Yau integrable systems, curve and brane quantization, and string vacuum spaces. In particular, one of the goals of the workshop is to bring to wider attention some of the problems in other parts of mathematics and physics that have arisen recently and which can be tackled from the perspective of Higgs bundles and spectral data.

Application deadline: April 13, 2016. Applicant will be notified soon after this date of their acceptance.

Gracias!