

# Stability of Higgs Bundles

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**Definition 0.1.** Let  $M$  compact Riemann surface. A  $GL_n$ -Higgs bundle is pair  $(V, \varphi)$  where  $V$  is a holomorphic rank  $n$  vector bundle and  $\varphi$  is a holomorphic section of  $\text{End}(V) \otimes K$ . That is  $\varphi \in H^0(\text{End}(V) \otimes K)$ .

**Definition 0.2.** Say two Higgs bundles  $(V, \varphi)$  and  $(V', \varphi')$  are isomorphic if there exists  $\psi : V \rightarrow V'$  inducing the commutative diagram

[[ DIAGRAMME ]]

Recall that for  $P$  a principal  $G$ -bundle, say that connection  $A$  on  $P$ , and  $\varphi \in \omega^1(M, \text{ad}(P) \otimes \mathbb{C})$  solve the Hitchin equations if  $F_A = [\varphi, \varphi^*]$  and  $\bar{\partial}_A \varphi = 0$ .

[[SIGN CONVENTION? / A THE CONNECTION OF THE ADJOINT?? ]]

Claim:  $V = (P \otimes \mathbb{C}^n)/G$  then  $(V, \varphi)$  is a Higgs bundle. Note that  $\Omega^1(M, \text{ad}(P) \otimes \mathbb{C}) = H^0(M, (\text{ad} P \otimes \mathbb{C}) \otimes K)$

Commutative diagram defining that map

$$(\text{ad} P \otimes \mathbb{C})_x \rightarrow \text{End}(V)_x \quad (1)$$

$$[p, m] \mapsto ([pg, v] \mapsto [pg, g^{-1}mgv]) \quad (2)$$

## 1 Stability

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $(V, \varphi)$  be Higgs bundle. Say  $E \subset V$  is  $\varphi$  invariant if  $\varphi(E) \subset E \otimes K$ . In such cases, say  $E$  is a Higgs subbundle.

A Higgs bundle is stable if  $\mu(E) < \mu(V)$  for all Higgs subbundles. Recall slope  $\mu(E) := \deg(\det(E))/\text{rank}(E)$

Example:  $(V, 0)$  is stable if and only if  $V$  is stable as a vector bundle. In fact, if  $V$  is stable then any  $\varphi$  gives rise to stable Higgs bundle. Furthermore, if  $(V, \varphi)$  and  $(V, \varphi')$  are isomorphic, then  $\varphi = \varphi'$ .

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{Higgs}} \subset \{(V, \varphi) \mid V \text{ stable}\} \rightarrow T^* \mathcal{M}_{\text{Vect}} \quad (3)$$

$$(V, \varphi) \mapsto \varphi \quad (4)$$

There is a 1-1 correspondence between self dual Hitchin Pair  $(F_A, E)$  upto Gauge and (semi?) stable Higgs bundles up to isomorphism

Example:

Let  $G = \text{SU}(2)$ . Then

$$\mathfrak{su}(2) \otimes \mathbb{C} \cong \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C}) = \{m \in \text{Mat}(2, \mathbb{C}) \mid \text{tr}(m) = 0\} \quad (5)$$

$\varphi \in H^0(\text{End}_0(V) \otimes K)$   $V$  of rank 2.

Remark:

$$\text{Hom}(L_1, L_2) \rightarrow H^0(L_1^* \otimes L_2) \quad (6)$$

[[ ISOM?? ]]

$M = \mathbb{P}^1$ ,  $V = \mathcal{O}(m) \oplus \mathcal{O}(n)$ ,  $K = \mathcal{O}(-2)$ . Let  $\varphi : \mathcal{O}(m) \oplus \mathcal{O}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(m-2) \oplus \mathcal{O}(n-2)$  then may regard  $\varphi$  as a matrix with elements forms in the relevant bundles.

Then  $\det(\mathcal{O}(m) \oplus \mathcal{O}(n)) = \mathcal{O}(m+n)$  As  $\deg(\mathcal{O}(m)) = m$ , there are no stable Higgs bundles in  $\mathbb{P}^1$ .

## 2 Moduli

**Proposition 2.1.** *If  $V$  is unstable vector bundle of rank 2, then there exists a unique  $L \subset V$  such that  $\deg(L) \geq \frac{1}{2}\deg(\Lambda^2 V)$*

$$0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow V \rightarrow L^* \otimes \det(V) \otimes 0 \quad (7)$$

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $g > 1$ . A rank 2 vector bundle  $V$  occurs in a stable Higgs bundle  $(V, \varphi)$  if and only if one of the following holds:*

- (i)  $V$  is stable,
- (ii)  $V$  is semistable and  $g > 2$ ,
- (iii)  $V$  is semistable and  $g = 2$ , and  $V = U \otimes L$ , and  $U$  decomposable or  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O} \rightarrow U \rightarrow \mathcal{O} \rightarrow 0$
- (iv)  $V$  is not semistable and  $h^0(L^{-2} \otimes \det(V) \otimes K) > 1$
- (v)  $V$  is not semistable and  $h^0(L^{-2} \otimes \det(V) \otimes K) = 1$  and  $V = L \oplus (L^* \otimes \det(V))$

Suppose  $V$  is not stable. Let  $L$  be the ( most ?) unstable subspace of  $V$ . Then

$$0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow V \rightarrow L^* \otimes \det V \rightarrow 0 \quad (8)$$

$$0 \rightarrow F \rightarrow \text{End}_0(V \otimes K) \rightarrow L^{-2} \otimes \det(V) \otimes K \rightarrow 0 \quad (9)$$

$$H^0(L^{-2} \otimes \det(V) \otimes K) = \text{Hom}(L, \dots)$$

$H^0(F) = H^0(\text{End}_0(V) \otimes K)$  if and only if  $V$  does not occur in a stable Higgs bundle.

[[ EXPAND THIS END SECTION ]]