

# Parahoric torsors and degenerations

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# Fuchsian groups etc

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$$\prod_j [A_j, B_j] C_1 \dots C_m = I. \quad (1)$$

$$C_i^{n_i} = I, \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, m). \quad (2)$$

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- Let  $q : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow X$ , assume  $g(X) \geq 2$ , ramified over  $R \subset X$ . The isotropy subgroups at the points  $z_i \in q^{-1}(R)$  are cyclic of

$$\pi_{z_i} = \langle C_i \rangle$$

order  $n_i$  with  $C_i$  as generators.

- The *type of a homomorphism*  $\rho : \pi \rightarrow G$  is defined to be the set of conjugacy classes in  $G$  of the images  $\rho(C_i)$  and is denoted by  $\tau = \{\tau_i\}$ . Equivalently, the type of  $\rho$  is the set of isomorphism classes of the local representations  $\rho_{Z_i} : \pi_{Z_i} \rightarrow G, i = 1, \dots, m$ .

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- The aim: *describe this space in terms of objects defined on  $X$* . This theme starts with the work of Weil in 1938 and achieved in 1968 by Seshadri for the case  $G = GL(n)$  in his paper on  $\pi$ -bundles. The complete picture for the  $GL(n)$  case occurs in Mehta-Seshadri in 1980.



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- A  $(\pi, G)$ -bundle on  $\mathbb{H}$  is defined to be the trivial  $G$ -bundle  $\mathbb{H} \times G$  on  $\mathbb{H}$  with the  $\pi$ -structure given by  $\gamma(z, g) = (z, \rho(\gamma).g)$ , with  $\rho$  a homomorphism  $\pi \rightarrow G$ .

If  $G = GL(n)$  is the full-linear group, the  $(\pi, G)$ –bundles on  $\mathbb{H}$  have an equivalent description as  $\pi$ –vector bundles on  $\mathbb{H}$ . We recall that if  $V \simeq \mathbb{H} \times \mathbb{C}^n$  is a  $\pi$ –vector bundle on  $\mathbb{H}$ , the vector bundle  $W = q_*^\pi(V)$  (invariant direct image by  $q$ ) on  $X$  acquires a *parabolic structure* which consists of the data assigning a *flag to the fibre of  $W$  at every ramification point in  $X$  for the covering  $q$*  together with a tuple of *weights*.

The invariant direct image functor  $V \mapsto q_*^\pi(V)$  gives a fully faithful embedding of the category of  $\pi$ -vector bundles on  $\mathbb{H}$  into the category of parabolic vector bundles on  $X$  (morphisms being taken as isomorphisms). Moreover, we can realise every parabolic bundle with rational weights as  $q_*^\pi(V)$  for a suitable  $\pi$  and  $V$ .

# *Towards the general $G$ case: The Weyl alcove*

- Recall: The set of conjugacy classes of element in  $K_G$  gets identified with  $T/W$  which is the *Weyl alcove* since any element of  $K_G$  is conjugate to an element in the maximal torus upto an element of the Weyl group.

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- Since  $G$  is *simple*, then  $(Y(T) \otimes \mathbb{Q})/W_{\text{aff}}$  gets identified with the simplex (*the (rational) Weyl alcove*)

$$\mathcal{A} := \{x \in Y(T) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \mid (x, \alpha_0) \leq 1, (x, \alpha_i) \geq 0, \forall \text{ positive roots } \alpha_i\}$$

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- Let  $K_G \subset G$  be a maximal compact subgroup. For an arbitrary group  $S$ , let  $\text{Torsion}(S)$  denote the subset of elements of finite order in  $S$ . We then have the following identifications:

$$\text{Torsion}(K_G)/\text{conjugation} \simeq \text{Torsion}(T)/W$$

$$(Y(T) \otimes \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})/W \simeq (Y(T) \otimes \mathbb{Q})/W_{\text{aff}}.$$

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- where  $m_r(\theta) = -[(\theta, r)]$

Since  $G$  is simple and simply connected, upto conjugacy by the action of  $G(K)$ ,  $\{\mathcal{P}_\theta(K)\}_{\theta \in E}$  is the set of all parahorics and one can take  $\theta \in \mathcal{A}_\mathbb{Q}$ , the rational points of the Weyl alcove.

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- Similarly, we have in  $SL_3$ :

$$\mathcal{P}_{\theta_{\alpha_1}} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & z^{-1}A & z^{-1}A \\ zA & A & A \\ zA & A & A \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad (3)$$

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- And

$$\mathcal{P}_{\theta_{\alpha_2}} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & A & z^{-1}A \\ A & A & z^{-1}A \\ zA & zA & A \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad (4)$$

The standard Iwahori subgroup is:

$$\mathcal{P}_{\theta\alpha_2} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & A & A \\ zA & A & A \\ zA & zA & A \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad (5)$$

obtained by taking the evaluation map  $ev : G(A) \rightarrow G(\mathbb{C})$  and taking  $ev^{-1}(B)$ .

# Parahoric group schemes

By the main theorem of Bruhat-Tits, there exist smooth group schemes  $\mathcal{G}_\theta$  over  $\operatorname{Spec}(A)$  such that the group  $\mathcal{G}_\theta(A) = \mathcal{P}_\theta(K)$  and the group scheme is uniquely determined upto unique isomorphism by its  $A$ -valued points.

# Our theorem

- The conjugacy classes at the  $C_i$ 's allows us to define a  $m$ -ple of points in the rational Weyl alcove which we denote by  $\theta_\tau = \{\theta_i\}$ . These correspond to the rational "parabolic" weights at the points of  $\mathcal{R}$  in the classical sense of Seshadri and Mehta-Seshadri.

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- Since the genus  $g \geq 2$ , one can prove that there exists a Galois cover  $p : Y \rightarrow X$ , with Galois group  $\Gamma$ , ramified precisely at  $\mathcal{R}$  with the prescribed ramification indices  $d_i$ .

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- Since the genus  $g \geq 2$ , one can prove that there exists a Galois cover  $p : Y \rightarrow X$ , with Galois group  $\Gamma$ , ramified precisely at  $\mathcal{R}$  with the prescribed ramification indices  $d_i$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{G}_{\theta_\tau, X}$  be a parahoric Bruhat-Tits group scheme associated to  $\tau$ . This is obtained by a gluing of the "constant" group scheme with fibre  $G$  with the parahoric group schemes at the points of  $\mathcal{R}$  with parahoric structures determined by  $\theta_\tau = \{\theta_i\}$ .



- The set  $M_X(\mathcal{G}_{\theta_{\tau,X}})$  of  $S$ -equivalence classes of semistable  $\mathcal{G}_{\theta_{\tau,X}}$ -torsors on  $X$  gets a natural structure of an irreducible normal projective variety of dimension

$$\dim(G)(g-1) + \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{2} e(\theta_{\tau}) \quad (6)$$

In fact, the variety  $M_X(\mathcal{G}_{\theta_{\tau,X}})$  is the coarse moduli space for the functor of isomorphism classes of  $\mathcal{G}_{\theta_{\tau,X}}$ -torsors on  $X$ .

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- Let  $\overline{K}_G = K_G / \text{centre}$ . There exists a Fuchsian group  $\pi$  and a bijective correspondence between the space  $R^{\tau}(\pi, K_G) / \overline{K}_G$  of conjugacy classes of homomorphisms  $\rho : \pi \rightarrow K_G$  of local type  $\tau$  and the set of  $S$ –equivalence classes of *semistable*  $\mathcal{G}_{\theta_{\tau,X}}$ –torsors.

- This correspondence induces a homeomorphism

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- The moduli space had several years prior to this work been constructed in a Tannakian manner (with Biswas and Nagaraj) following Nori. But the parahoric theme did not occur there. The stack  $Bun(\mathcal{G}_{\theta_{\tau,X}})$  was constructed and studied in a paper by J. Heinloth on “Uniformizations”. In the early nineties, there was an attempt by Bhosle and Ramanathan, but this on hindsight gives only a partial answer.

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- In a paper with Biswas and Yashonidhi Pandey, we give a differential geometric picture of this story in the spirit of Atiyah-Bott-Donaldson-Ramanathan-Subramaniam.

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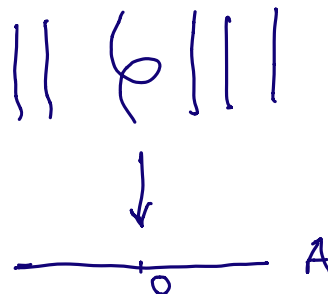
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$$\begin{array}{c} C_A \\ \downarrow \text{projective, flat} \\ o \in A \end{array}$$



(7)

$C_K$  a smooth projective curve of genus  $g \geq 1$  and  $C_o = (C, c)$  the closed fiber.

Assume further that  $C_A$  is regular over  $k$ .

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- $Bun_G^{ss}(C_K)$  open substack of Ramanathan (semi)stable  $G$ -bundles.
- Aim: To construct a flat degeneration of  $Bun_G(C_K)$  and consequently a degeneration of  $Bun_G^{ss}(C_K)$ .

# History

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- Here if  $C_o$  is not irreducible (as we have assumed), then one has to choose a polarisation  $L$  on  $C_o$ . "The" example would be the "dollar curve". This is the starting point of Oda-Seshadri.



- Then what is needed to compactify the  $\overline{Pic_d(C_o)}$  are "depth 1" sheaves  $F$  of rank 1, i.e. every non-zero subsheaf has support of dim 1, the "pure" sheaves in Simpson.

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- $F$  is "torsion-free" in the sense that each element of  $\mathfrak{m}_c$  which is non-zero on any (analytic) component of  $C_o$  through  $c \in C_o$  is not a zero-divisor of  $F$ .

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- The key point is that in the general reducible stable curve cases, one has to work with objects which are "semistable" even in the rank 1 case.

# Multidegree

- One can define "multi-degree"  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_s)$  of the ample  $L$  on  $C_o$  and the multi-rank  $r = (r_1, \dots, r_s)$  of  $F$  where  $s$  denotes the number of components.



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- Torsion-free  $F$  of rank 1 is (semi)stable if and only if

$$\forall 0 \neq E \subset F, \mu_L(E)(\leq) < \mu_L(F). \quad (10)$$

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- Later in 1999 Nagaraj-Seshadri generalized for all rank and all degree
- Around 1999 Ivan Kausz constructed the stack and also obtained a modular compactification of  $GL(n)$  by these methods.

# Seshadri's approach

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- 'semistable' via GIT.
- Flatness of degeneration

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{M}_A^{tf} \\ \downarrow \\ A \end{array} \quad (11)$$

gets reduced to a question over  $A$  of *reducedness* of

$$Z_{r,A} = \{(X, Y, t) \in M_{r \times r} \times M_{r \times r} \times A \mid XY - YX = t\} \quad (12)$$

at  $(0, 0)$ .

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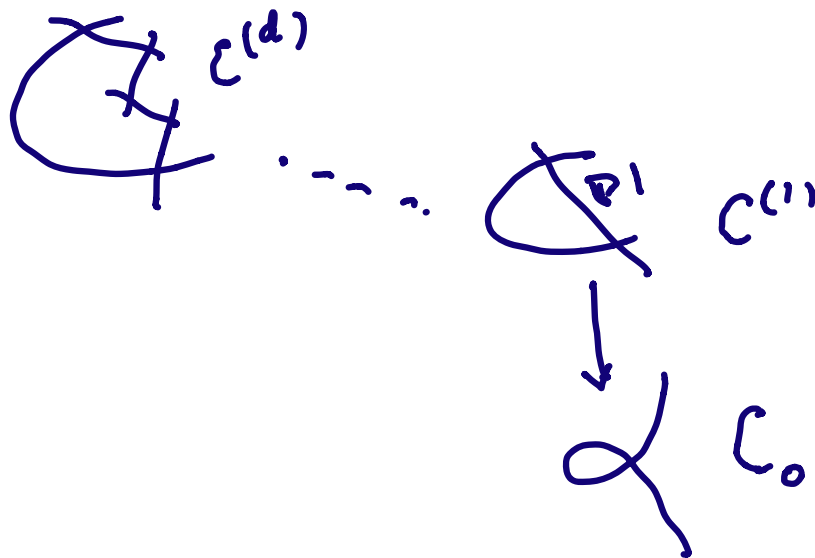
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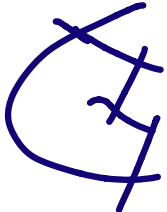
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- These questions are connected to singularities of "local models" for Shimura Varieties of the PEL type. See work of Pappas, Rapoport.
- For  $G = \mathrm{SL}(n)$ , Faltings' approach works only for  $\mathrm{SL}(2) = Sp_2$  and there has been no progress for general  $G$ .

# Gieseker's approach

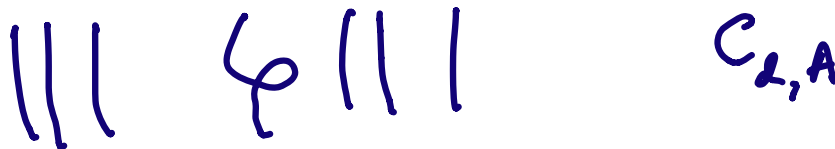
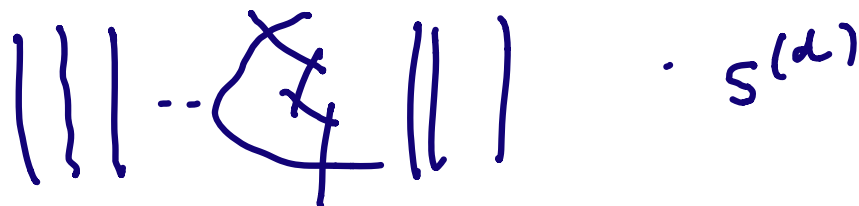
The basic idea is to get "limiting objects" i.e. compactify the moduli of vector bundles on the nodal curve by not adding torsion-free sheaves but by adding semistable curves  $C^{(d)}$  with fixed stable model  $= (C, c)$  and vector bundles on the curves  $C^{(d)}$  with restrictions (called "admissible bundles").



$C^{(d)} =$ 

 is a "semistable" curve  
 with fixed stable model  $C_0$ .

# Diagrams illustrating Gieseker's approach

Work with surfaces:




A



# Diagrams of Nagaraj-Seshadri

- Work with "admissible" bundles on  $C(d)$

-  $V$  s.t.  $V|_{\Delta}$  are  $\bigoplus \mathcal{O}^{a_i} \oplus \mathcal{O}(1)^{b_i}$



and s.t.  $p_*(V)$  is torsion-free on  $\mathcal{O}$

# Basic picture

Consider  $k[[t]] \rightarrow k[[t]]$  given by  $t \mapsto t^d$ . This induces a map  $A \rightarrow A$  and a diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_{d,A} & \longrightarrow & C_A \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ A & \longrightarrow & A \end{array} \quad (13)$$

where  $C_{d,A}$  in a neighbourhood of the node is

$$N_d := \operatorname{Spec} \frac{k[[x, y, t]]}{(xy - t^d)} \quad (14)$$

$N_d$  is an affine normal surface which has  $A_d$ -type of singularities.

# Local analysis



# Admissibility

- Let  $p_d : C^{(d)} \rightarrow C$ . A vector bundle  $V$  is admissible if the restriction to each rational curve in the preimage of  $c$ , i.e.  $V|_{\mathbb{P}^1}$  is such that

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- *I would like to view this differently, and this will be the starting point towards the general  $G$  case.*

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of singularities.

- In particular if  $F \in \mathcal{M}_o^{\text{tf}}$  is such that at  $c \in C$

$$F|_c \simeq \mathfrak{m}^n,$$

then the exceptional  $\eta^{-1}(F) \simeq \overline{PGL(n)}$  is isomorphic to the wonderful compactification by Nagaraj-Seshadri.

# Moduli problems for $G$ almost simple, simply-connected

- There is no good "intrinsic" analogue of  $M_A^{tf}(n)$  for a general  $G$ .
- When  $G$  is "classical" this was carried out by Faltings in 1994. This is a generalization of the torsion-free approach with limiting objects obtained by using "orthogonal" or "symplectic" torsion-free sheaves.

# Jump to $G$ case

The basic question: Given a  $G$ -torsor

$$\begin{array}{c} E_K \\ \downarrow G \\ C_K \end{array}$$

what would be a candidate to extend  $E_K$  to an object  $E_A$  over  $C_A$ ?

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- How does one recover the "Gieseker" list.

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# Basic idea

Let  $C_{d,A} \rightarrow C_A$  be the base change by  $k[[t]] \rightarrow k[[t]]$  given by  $t \mapsto t^d$ .  
Let

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{S}^{(d)} \\ \downarrow p_d \\ C_{d,A} \end{array} \quad (15)$$

be the minimal resolution of singularities. The pre-image of the curve  $C_o = (C, c)$  is  $C^{(d-1)}$ . Locally we have:

$$\begin{array}{c} N^{(d)} \\ \downarrow p_d \\ N_d \end{array} \quad (16)$$

Here  $N^{(d)}$  is the minimal resolution.

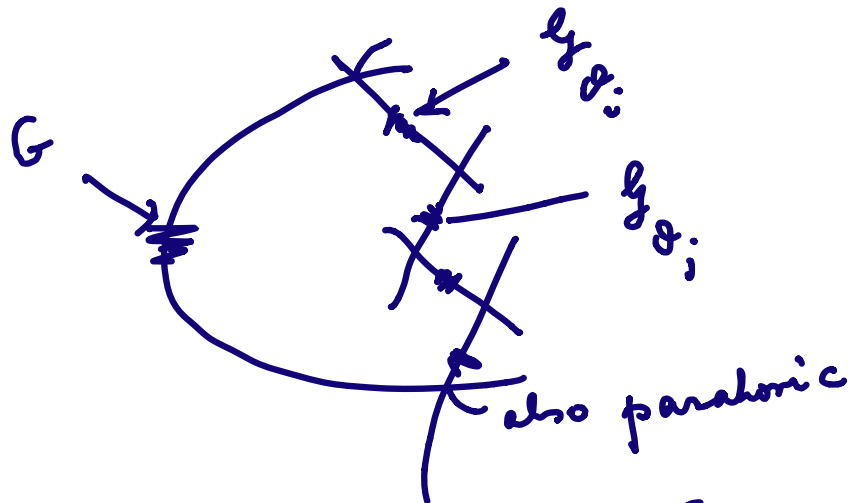


- On each semi-stable curve  $C^{(d)}$ ,  $0 \leq d \leq \ell$ , we define smooth affine group schemes  $\{\mathcal{H}_{\tau, C^{(d)}}^G\}_\tau$  indexed by “types” which gives the list of “admissible” group schemes.

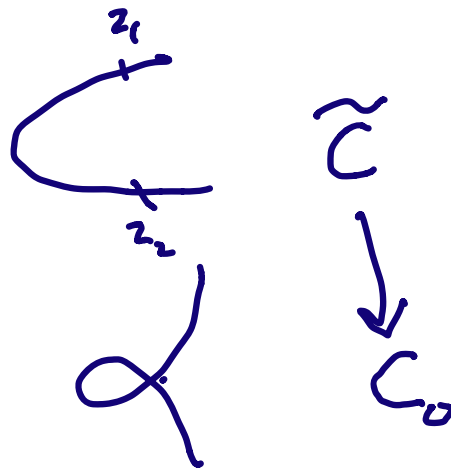
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- A Gieseker  $G$ -torsor is a triple  $(C^{(d)}, \mathcal{H}_{\tau, C^{(d)}}^G, E)$ .

# List of Gieseker Bundles



Normalizations .



# Main Theorem

- The stack  $\text{Gies}_G(C_A)$  of Gieseker torsors is an algebraic stack locally of finite type, which is regular and flat over  $A$ . Over  $K$  we have an identification  $\text{Gies}_G(C_K) = \text{Bun}_G(C_K)$  with the stack of  $G$ -torsors on the smooth projective curve  $C_K$ . Further the closed fibre  $\text{Gies}_G(C_o) \subset \text{Gies}_G(C_A)$  is a divisor with normal crossings with  $\ell + 1$  smooth components indexed by the extended Dynkin diagram.

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- The open substack  $\text{Gies}_G(C_A)^{\mathbb{L}-ss}$  of  $\mathbb{L}$ -(semi)stable Gieseker torsors has a coarse space which parametrizes  $S$ -equivalence classes of Gieseker torsors and which provides a *proper flat degeneration* of the moduli scheme of  $\mu$ -(semi)stable  $G$ -torsors on  $C_K$ .

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