

# Non-abelian theta functions and the theta map

Arnaud Beauville

Université de Nice

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line bundles trivial on  $\mathbb{C}^g \Rightarrow$  theta functions lift to functions on  $\mathbb{C}^g$ , quasi-periodic w.r.t.  $\Gamma$ .

# Algebro-geometric properties

Notation: for  $L$  line bundle on a variety  $X$ ,

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Gives explicit description of  $J$  as submanifold of  $\mathbb{P}^N$ ; much is known about its equations, geometry etc.

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 $G$ -theta functions of level  $k :=$  elements of  $H^0(\mathcal{M}_G, \mathcal{L}^k)$

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- ① : when  $C$  varies, the  $H^0(\mathcal{M}_G, \mathcal{L}^k)$  form a **projectively flat** vector bundle on the moduli space  $\mathcal{M}_g$  (Hitchin connection).

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In other words,  $H^0(\mathcal{M}_G, \mathcal{L}^k)$  carries a (projective) representation of the **modular group**  $\Gamma_g = \pi_1(\mathcal{M}_g)$ .



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**Aim of the talk** : understand  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $H^0(\mathcal{M}_G, \mathcal{L})$ , in particular, the **theta map**  $\varphi_{\mathcal{L}} : \mathcal{M}_G \dashrightarrow |\mathcal{L}|^*$ .

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Thus get map  $\theta : \mathcal{M}_{SL(r)} \dashrightarrow |r\Theta|$  ,  $\theta(E) = \Theta_E$ .

## Theorem (Narasimhan, Ramanan, AB)

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$\mathcal{Q}$  is the **Coble quartic**.

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NOTE :  $\theta$  is **not** a morphism for  $r \geq 4$ ; some fibres have dimension  $\geq \lfloor \frac{r}{2} \rfloor - 1$ .

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$$G = SL(r), g(C) = 2$$

In genus 2,  $\dim \mathcal{M}_{SL(r)} = \dim |r\Theta| = r^2 - 1$ .

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$\mathcal{S}^* \subset |3\Theta|^*$  is the **Coble cubic**, the unique cubic hypersurface in  $|3\Theta|^*$  singular along the image of  $J$ .

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Thus  $\Theta_E \in |r\Theta|^+$  or  $|r\Theta|^-$ , the eigenspaces of  $i^*$  in  $|r\Theta|$ .

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}_{SO(r)}^\pm & \xrightarrow{\theta^\pm} & |r\Theta|^\pm \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{M}_{SL(r)} & \xrightarrow{\theta} & |r\Theta| \end{array}$$

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(Essential ingredient: Verlinde formula for  $SO(r)$ .)

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$\mathcal{S} \cap |3\Theta^+| = Q + 2H, \quad Q = \text{Igusa quartic}, \quad H = \Theta + |2\Theta| \subset |3\Theta^+|.$

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(That is,  $(H^0(J, \mathcal{O}_J(2r\Theta)))^+ \longrightarrow H^0(\mathcal{M}_{Sp(2r)}, \mathcal{L})$  **not** bijective)

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(Proof relies on the **rank-level duality**  $SL(2) - GL(r)$  proved by Marian-Oprea and Belkale.)

