

**THE REAL SPECTRUM COMPACTIFICATION
OF CHARACTER VARIETIES:
CHARACTERIZATIONS AND APPLICATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

We describe properties of a compactification of general character varieties with good topological properties and give various interpretations of its ideal points. We relate this to the Thurston-Parreau compactification and apply our results to the theory of maximal representations.

This is a joint work with Marc Burger, Anne Parreau and Maria Beatrice Pozzetti.

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