

Stability of vector bundles on curves and degenerations

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Abstract. We introduce a weaker notion of (semi)stability for vector bundles on reducible curves which does not depend on a choice of polarization, and which suffices for many applications of degeneration techniques. We explore the basic properties of this alternate notion of (semi)stability. In a complementary direction, we record a proof of the existence of semistable extensions of vector bundles in suitable degenerations.