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Boundary Currents of Hitchin Components

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The space of Hitchin representations of the fundamental group of a closed surface into $\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ embeds naturally in the space of projective oriented geodesic currents. A classical result in Teichmüller theory is that for $n = 2$, currents in the boundary are measured laminations, which are naturally dual to \mathbb{R} -trees. In general, we show that currents in the boundary of Hitchin components have combinatorial restrictions on self-intersection which depend on n . We introduce a notion of dual space to an oriented geodesic current for which the dual space of a discrete boundary current of the $\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ Hitchin component is a polyhedral complex of dimension at most $n - 1$.

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