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**Katharine Walker\*** ([kaceyw@umich.edu](mailto:kaceyw@umich.edu)), 2074 East Hall, 530 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. *Connected components of strata of quadratic differentials over Teichmuller space.*

In this talk we consider the connected components of strata of the moduli space of quadratic differentials lying over Teichmuller space. We use certain general properties of sections of line bundles to put an upper bound on the number of connected components, and a generalized version of the Gauss map as an invariant to put a lower bound on the number of such components. For strata with sufficiently many zeros of the same order, we can state precisely the number of connected components. (Received September 16, 2008)