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Brian Collier*, bcolle2@math.umd.edu. *Higher Teichmuller components for $SO(p,q)$.*

In this talk we will use Higgs bundles to describe new connected components of the $SO(p,q)$ character variety of a closed surface. Moreover we will explain how these components are deformation spaces of certain Fuchsian representations. (Received September 11, 2018)