

# TORIC CO-HIGGS BUNDLES ON TORIC VARIETIES

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ABSTRACT. Starting from the data of a nonsingular complex projective toric variety, we define an associated notion of *toric co-Higgs bundle*. We provide a Lie-theoretic classification of these objects by studying the interaction between Klyachko’s fan filtration and the fiber of the co-Higgs bundle at a closed point in the open orbit of the torus action. This can be interpreted, under certain conditions, as the construction of a coarse moduli scheme of toric co-Higgs bundles of any rank and with any total equivariant Chern class.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

We begin with an algebraic or, equivalently, holomorphic vector bundle  $V$  over a nonsingular complex projective variety  $X$  with tangent bundle  $TX$ . Then, a *co-Higgs field* for  $V$  is a holomorphic section  $\phi$  of the twisted endomorphism bundle  $\text{End}(V) \otimes TX$ , subject to the integrability condition that the quadratic section  $\phi \otimes \phi$  is symmetric — that is, that the section  $\phi \wedge \phi$  of  $\text{End}(V) \otimes \Lambda^2 TX$  vanishes identically. A pair  $(V, \phi)$  satisfying the above conditions is referred to as a *co-Higgs bundle*. Co-Higgs bundles were introduced simultaneously by Hitchin [11] and the fourth-named author [15] in the context of generalized complex geometry. The name *co-Higgs* speaks to a duality with Higgs bundles in the sense of Hitchin [9, 10] and Simpson [18], where the Higgs fields are  $T^*X$ -valued.

Co-Higgs bundles have been classified and/or constructed on  $\mathbb{P}^1$  [16, 5],  $\mathbb{P}^2$  [17],  $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$  [20], and logarithmic curves [2], for example. Over singular varieties, they have been used to some effect towards establishing inequalities related to vector-valued modular forms [7]. At the same time, there are “no-go” theorems for the existence of nontrivial co-Higgs bundles in some instances, such as over the moduli space of stable bundles on a nonsingular complex curve of genus at least 2 [4]. Recently, the first-named and fourth-named authors classified homogeneous co-Higgs bundles on Hermitian symmetric spaces [6]. The goal of the present work is to extend this to toric varieties. Accordingly, we define below a natural notion of *toric co-Higgs bundle*.

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We classify toric co-Higgs structures for a fixed toric bundle  $V$  using Klyachko's seminal work on classification of toric vector bundles [12]. We recall from [12, Theorem 2.2.1] that the category of toric bundles on  $X$  with equivariant homomorphisms is equivalent to the category of compatible  $\Sigma$ -filtered vector spaces, where  $\Sigma$  is the fan of  $X$ . Our strategy for classifying toric co-Higgs bundles  $(V, \phi)$  is thus to reduce the data of  $(V, \phi)$  to that of a tuple of commuting  $\Sigma$ -filtered endomorphisms of the fiber  $V_{x_0}$ , where  $x_0$  is a closed point in the open orbit of  $T$  in  $X$ . This is the content of Theorem 3.2, which is the main theorem in this note.

Similar to the symmetric space case [4], the resulting classification is Lie-theoretic in nature and admits an interpretation as a moduli construction. Subject to certain conditions (namely, the freeness of a certain group action), we identify a scheme that parametrizes toric co-Higgs bundles of fixed rank and total equivariant Euler characteristic in the sense of [13]. This scheme fibers over an associated moduli scheme of toric bundles constructed in [14].

We also wish to point out similar work in [1], completed independently and at roughly the same time.

## 2. SET-UP AND EXAMPLES

**2.1. Basic notions.** Throughout,  $X$  is a nonsingular complex projective variety. Assume that  $X$  admits an algebraic (equivalently, holomorphic) action of a complex torus  $T \cong (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$  so that it is a *toric variety* in the sense of [8]. Furthermore, fix a holomorphic vector bundle  $V$  and suppose that it admits a lift of the action of  $T$  from  $X$  which is fiber-wise linear. In other words,  $V$  is equipped with the structure of a  $T$ -equivariant vector bundle. We will refer to  $V$  simply as a *toric bundle*.

There is subsequently an induced action of  $T$  on the vector space of global holomorphic sections of  $V$ :

$$(t \cdot s)(x) = ts(t^{-1}x) \tag{2.1}$$

for all  $s \in H^0(X, V)$  and  $t \in T$ . A section  $s \in H^0(X, V)$  is said to be *semi-invariant* if there exists a character  $\chi$  of  $T$  such that

$$t \cdot s = \chi(t)s \tag{2.2}$$

for all  $t \in T$ . A semi-invariant section  $s$  is said to be *invariant* if the associated character  $\chi(t)$  is trivial, meaning

$$t \cdot s = s \tag{2.3}$$

for all  $t \in T$ . Combining (2.1) and (2.3), we conclude that

$$ts(t^{-1}x) = s(x) \tag{2.4}$$

for any invariant section  $s$ .

**2.2.  $T$ -equivariant structures and toric co-Higgs bundles.** Now, a  $T$ -equivariant structure on  $V$  induces a  $T$ -equivariant structure on  $\text{End}(V)$  in the following way. Given an element  $\psi$  in the fiber  $(\text{End}(V))_x = \text{End}(V_x)$  over  $x \in X$ , we define  $t\psi$  in  $\text{End}(V_{tx})$  by

$$(t\psi)(v) = t(\psi(t^{-1}v)) \quad (2.5)$$

for every  $v \in V_{tx}$  and  $t \in T$ . Then, by (2.4), a holomorphic section  $\phi$  of  $\text{End}(V)$  is invariant if and only if

$$t\phi(t^{-1}x) = \phi(x) \quad (2.6)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and  $t \in T$ . By (2.5), equation (2.6) is equivalent to

$$t \circ \phi(t^{-1}x) = \phi(x) \circ t$$

for all  $x \in X$  and  $t \in T$ . In other words,  $\phi$  is an invariant section of  $\text{End}(V)$  if and only if  $\phi$  is a  $T$ -equivariant endomorphism of  $V$ .

At the same time, the tangent bundle  $TX$  has a natural  $T$ -equivariant structure that is simply the linearization of the  $T$ -action on  $X$ . Together with the above  $T$ -action on  $\text{End}(V)$ , we have an induced  $T$ -equivariant structure on the twisted bundle  $\text{End}(V) \otimes TX$ . This allows us to formulate the following:

**Definition 2.1.** A *toric co-Higgs bundle* on a toric variety  $X$  is a pair  $(V, \phi)$ , where  $V \rightarrow X$  is a toric bundle and  $\phi \in H^0(X, \text{End}(V) \otimes TX)$  is an invariant co-Higgs field.

**2.3. Examples.** The tangent bundle  $TX$  of a nonsingular projective toric variety  $X$  always admits a nonzero invariant holomorphic section  $s$ . Let us take the tensor product of such a holomorphic vector field with the identity homomorphism 1 of *any* toric bundle  $V$ . Call this product  $\phi$ . It follows immediately that

$$\phi \wedge \phi = (s \otimes 1) \wedge (s \otimes 1) = [s, s] \otimes (1 \wedge 1) = 0.$$

In other words,  $\phi$  is a nontrivial invariant co-Higgs field on  $V$ , and hence every toric vector bundle on any toric variety is equipped with a family of invariant co-Higgs fields induced by the invariant holomorphic vector fields on  $X$ .

Another example, similar in spirit but for a specific bundle, is given by choosing  $V = TX \oplus \mathcal{O}_X$  with its natural toric structure, where  $\mathcal{O}_X$  is the structure sheaf of  $X$ . We can equip this  $V$  with the co-Higgs field

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where 1 is interpreted as the identity morphism on  $TX$ , which serves as the part of the co-Higgs structure that acts as  $TX \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \otimes TX$ . Because  $\phi$  is built from just the identity map, the co-Higgs field automatically has the required invariance. It satisfies the vanishing condition  $\phi \wedge \phi = 0$  since, as a matrix,  $\phi$  is nilpotent. More generally, this example is present on any complex variety — it is the so-called

*canonical co-Higgs bundle* — and it is discussed in some detail from the point of view of slope stability and deformation theory in Chapter 6 of [15].

For contrast, we conclude with an example of a co-Higgs structure on a vector bundle that is not directly related to toric geometry. We briefly recall the definition of the jet bundle of a holomorphic vector bundle  $E$  on a projective variety  $Y$ . Let

$$p_j : Y \times Y \longrightarrow Y, \quad j = 1, 2$$

be the natural projection to the  $j$ -th factor. Let  $\Delta$  be the diagonal of  $Y \times Y$ . For any non-negative integer  $k$ , consider the  $k$ -th jet bundle of  $E$  defined as

$$J^k(E) = p_{1*}(p_2^*(E)/(p_2^*E \otimes \mathcal{O}_{Y \times Y}(-(k+1)\Delta)) \longrightarrow Y$$

One can check that the higher direct image of the above right hand side vanishes, which makes  $J^k(E)$  a vector bundle. We have the following exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow E \otimes \Omega_Y \xrightarrow{f} J^1(E) \xrightarrow{g} J^0(E) \longrightarrow 0$$

The composition homomorphism  $(g \otimes 1_{\Omega_Y}) \circ f$  defines a nonzero co-Higgs structure on  $J^1(E)$ . Even when  $Y$  itself is toric, this gives examples of non-toric co-Higgs bundles by taking  $E$  to be non-toric. For further examples of non-toric co-Higgs bundles on toric varieties, we refer the reader to [1].

In the next section, we classify toric co-Higgs structures on a fixed toric bundle.

### 3. TORIC CO-HIGGS BUNDLES AND THE KLYACHKO FAN FILTRATION

**3.1.  $\Sigma$ -filtrations.** Let  $X$  be a nonsingular complex projective toric variety equipped with an action of  $T$  (cf. [8]). Let  $\Sigma$  denote the fan of  $X$ , and let  $\Sigma(d)$  be the set of  $d$ -dimensional cones in  $\Sigma$ . For any toric bundle  $V$  on  $X$ , Klyachko [12] constructed a compatible family of full filtrations of decreasing subspaces of the fiber  $E = V_{x_0}$ , where  $x_0$  is a closed point in the open orbit of  $T$  in  $X$ . We will subsequently refer to  $x_0$  simply as a “closed point for  $T$ ”. The family is indexed by the  $T$ -invariant divisors or equivalently by  $|\Sigma(1)|$ , the set of integral generators of the one-dimensional cones of  $\Sigma$ . In other words, we have a family of filtrations

$$\{E^\rho(i) \mid \rho \in |\Sigma(1)|, i \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

Note that “decreasing” means

$$E^\rho(i+1) \subseteq E^\rho(i)$$

for all  $i$ . For brevity, such a family of filtrations will be called a  $\Sigma$ -filtration. The compatibility condition mentioned above refers to the existence of cone-wise  $T$ -module structures on  $E$  giving rise to the  $\Sigma$ -filtration. We give below a short review of the construction of the  $\Sigma$ -filtration in the case of a projective toric variety. In this case, the description is slightly simpler as it suffices to consider only the cones of

dimension  $n$  in the fan.

Let  $M$  and  $N$  denote the dual lattices of characters and co-characters of  $T$ , respectively. Let  $\sigma$  be a maximal cone of  $\Sigma$  and  $X_\sigma$  the corresponding affine toric variety. Denote by  $V_\sigma$  the restriction of  $V$  to  $X_\sigma$ . It was shown by Klyachko [12, Proposition 2.1.1] that there exists a framing (which is not unique) of  $V_\sigma$  by semi-invariant sections. Fix such a framing  $(s_1, \dots, s_r)$ . Let  $S_\sigma$  be the  $T$ -submodule of  $H^0(X_\sigma, V_\sigma)$  generated by the semi-invariant sections  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ . Evaluation at  $x_0$  gives an isomorphism of vector spaces  $ev_{x_0} : S_\sigma \rightarrow E$ . This isomorphism induces a  $T$ -module structure on  $E$ , or equivalently, a decomposition

$$E = \bigoplus_{u \in M} E_u^\sigma. \quad (3.1)$$

The decompositions (3.1) may depend on the choice of the semi-invariant framing of  $V_\sigma$ . However, Klyachko showed that for each  $\rho \in |\Sigma(1)|$ , the subspaces

$$E^\rho(i) := \bigoplus_{u \in M, u(\rho) \geq i} E_u^\sigma, \quad \text{where } \sigma \in \Sigma(n) \text{ is such that } \rho \in |\Sigma(1)| \cap \sigma, \quad (3.2)$$

are independent of the choice of  $\sigma$  containing  $\rho$  and the choice of the framing.

A morphism of compatible  $\Sigma$ -filtered vector spaces  $\{E^\rho(i)\}$  and  $\{F^\rho(i)\}$  is a vector space map  $\phi : E \rightarrow F$  such that  $\phi(E^\rho(i)) \subseteq F^\rho(i)$  for all  $\rho$  and  $i$ . We call such a morphism a *filtered linear map* of  $\Sigma$ -filtered vector spaces. Proposition 2.1.1(iii) of [12] proves that equivariant morphisms between two toric vector bundles over  $X$  correspond to filtered linear maps between their  $\Sigma$ -filtrations. Note that any linear map between the fibers at  $x_0$  extend uniquely to a  $T$ -equivariant morphism of vector bundles over the open  $T$ -orbit. The regularity of such an extension over the boundary of the open orbit is naturally and intimately related to the weights of the  $T$ -action and the defining inequalities of the  $\Sigma$ -filtrations.

The discussion above can be summarized as following celebrated theorem of Klyachko.

**Theorem 3.1** ([12, Theorem 2.2.1]). *The category of toric vector bundle over a toric variety  $X$  with fan  $\Sigma$  is equivalent to the category of complex vector spaces  $E$  with a family of decreasing filtrations*

$$\{E^\rho(i) \mid \rho \in |\Sigma(1)|, i \in \mathbb{Z}\},$$

which satisfy following compatibility condition :

For each  $\sigma \in \Sigma(n)$ , there exists a  $M$ -grading  $E = \bigoplus_{u \in M} E_u^\sigma$  for which

$$E^\rho(i) := \bigoplus_{u \in M, u(\rho) \geq i} E_u^\sigma, \quad \text{where } \sigma \text{ is such that } \rho \in |\Sigma(1)| \cap \sigma.$$

**3.2. The main theorem.** Having built up necessary language around  $\Sigma$ -filtrations, we now pose the main theorem of this article.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $X$  be a nonsingular complex projective toric variety equipped with an action of  $T \cong (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ , let  $V$  be any toric bundle on  $X$ , and let  $x_0 \in X$  be a closed point for  $T$ . Then, there is a 1 : 1 correspondence between invariant co-Higgs fields  $\phi$  and  $n$ -tuples of pairwise-commuting filtered linear maps of  $E = V_{x_0}$  that respect the Klyachko  $\Sigma$ -filtration.*

Before proving Theorem 3.2, we need to understand the integrability condition  $\phi \wedge \phi = 0$  locally. In [15, 11, 17], a local criterion for the vanishing of  $\phi \wedge \phi$  is identified. Suppose that  $\{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$  is a holomorphic coordinate system on an affine chart  $U$  in a nonsingular variety  $X$ . We can write

$$\phi|_U = \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i \frac{\partial}{\partial z_i},$$

where each  $\phi_i \in H^0(U, \text{End}(V))$ . Then

$$\phi \wedge \phi = 0 \text{ on } U \iff [\phi_i, \phi_j] = 0 \text{ on } U \forall 1 \leq i, j \leq n. \quad (3.3)$$

With this observation in hand, we can proceed with the proof of the main theorem.

*Proof of Theorem 3.2.* Let  $(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  be coordinates on  $T$  corresponding to an integral basis of  $\text{Lie}(T)$ . We identify these with coordinates on the open dense  $T$ -orbit in  $X$ ; this should not cause any confusion. To conform to (2.1), we consider the action of  $T$  on  $\mathcal{O}_T$  (and  $\mathcal{O}_X$ ) given by

$$(t \cdot f)(x) := f(t^{-1}x). \quad (3.4)$$

Observe that the character  $t_i$ , and the derivation  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t_i}$ , have weights  $t_i^{-1}$  and  $t_i$  respectively under this action. The corresponding invariant vector fields  $t_i \frac{\partial}{\partial t_i}$  are naturally  $T$ -invariant on the open orbit in  $X$ . By [3, Theorem 3.1], these vector fields admit  $T$ -invariant holomorphic extensions to the whole of  $X$ . In fact, by Lie theory, any  $T$ -invariant vector field on  $X$  is a complex linear combination of these fields.

Now, let  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  be pairwise-commuting linear endomorphisms of  $V_{x_0}$  that respect the  $\Sigma$ -filtration. Then by Klyachko's theorems [12, Proposition 2.1.1, Theorem 2.2.1], these define  $T$ -equivariant endomorphisms  $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n$  of  $V$  such that  $\phi_j(x_0) = A_j$ . Therefore, each  $\phi_j$  is an invariant section of  $\text{End}(V)$ . Applying equation (2.4) to  $\phi_j$  we see that

$$\{t\phi_j(t^{-1}x_0) = \phi_j(x_0)\} \implies \{\phi_j(t^{-1}x_0) = t^{-1}\phi_j(x_0)\}$$

for all  $t \in T$ . It then follows from (2.5) that the  $\phi_j(t^{-1}x_0)$ 's commute with each other for every  $t \in T$ . In other words, they commute mutually on the open dense

$T$ -orbit in  $X$ . Therefore, by continuity, the  $\phi_j$ 's commute on entire  $X$ .

Next, we define  $\phi \in H^0(X, \text{End}(V) \otimes TX)$  by

$$\phi = \sum_j \phi_j t_j \frac{\partial}{\partial t_j}. \quad (3.5)$$

Consider any affine toric chart on  $X$  with coordinates  $(z_1, \dots, z_n)$ . By [3, Lemma 3.1] we have

$$t_j \frac{\partial}{\partial t_j} = \sum_k c_{jk}(z_1, \dots, z_n) \frac{\partial}{\partial z_k}, \quad (3.6)$$

where the  $c_{jk}$ 's are holomorphic functions. Substituting (3.6) in (3.5), we have the following representation of  $\phi$  in the  $(z_1, \dots, z_n)$  coordinates:

$$\phi = \sum_k \psi_k \frac{\partial}{\partial z_k},$$

where  $\psi_k = \sum_j c_{jk}(z_1, \dots, z_n) \phi_j$ . Since the  $\phi_j$ 's commute and the  $c_{jk}$ 's are scalars, the  $\psi_k$ 's also mutually commute. Thus by (3.3),  $\phi$  defines a co-Higgs structure on  $V$ . Hence, given a tuple  $(A_1, \dots, A_n)$  of commuting filtered endomorphisms of  $V$ , we obtain an equivariant co-Higgs structure on  $V$ .

In the other direction, given any equivariant co-Higgs structure  $\phi$  on  $V$ , we may write  $\phi$ , on the open orbit, as in (3.5). We use the fact any torus-equivariant vector bundle is trivial over the open orbit. As the vector fields  $t_j \frac{\partial}{\partial t_j}$  are  $T$ -invariant, the  $\phi_j$ 's are also  $T$ -invariant. Moreover, as the open orbit is an affine toric chart, and  $\phi$  is a co-Higgs field, the  $\phi_j$ 's commute mutually by (3.3). Then we define  $A_j = \phi_j(x_0)$ . As  $\phi_j$  is a  $T$ -equivariant endomorphism of  $V$ , the endomorphisms  $A_j$  respect the Klyachko  $\Sigma$ -filtration.

It is now straightforward to check that the above association is a bijection.  $\square$

**3.3. Examples for the theorem.** As an example, we take  $V$  to be the tangent bundle  $TX$ . We will describe the toric co-Higgs fields on  $V$  for certain toric varieties  $X$ , and also some co-Higgs fields that are not invariant but only semi-invariant. Let  $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_m$  denote the elements of  $|\Sigma(1)|$ . We may assume without loss of generality that  $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_n$  form an integral basis of the co-character lattice of  $T$ . We choose the closed point  $x_0$  in the open orbit to correspond to the identity element of  $T$ . Then the underlying vector space  $E = V_{x_0}$  of the Klyachko  $\Sigma$ -filtration may be identified with

$$\mathbb{C} \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial t_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial t_n} \right\rangle \cong \mathbb{C} \langle \rho_1, \dots, \rho_n \rangle.$$

Recall that under the action (3.4) the derivation  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t_j}$  has weight  $t_j$ . It then follows from (3.2) that the Klyachko filtration on  $T\mathbb{P}^n$  (cf. [12, p. 350]) is given by

$$E^{\rho_j}(i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i > 1 \\ \mathbb{C}\langle \rho_j \rangle & \text{if } i = 1 \\ E & \text{if } i \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Now, let  $X = \mathbb{P}^n$ . Then, we have  $m = n + 1$  and  $\rho_{n+1} = -\sum_{j=1}^n \rho_j$ . In this case, the only filtered endomorphisms of  $E$  are constant multiples of the identity map. Thus, any toric co-Higgs field on  $T\mathbb{P}^n$  is of the form  $s \otimes 1$  where  $s = \sum a_j t_j \frac{\partial}{\partial t_j}$  for some  $a_j \in \mathbb{C}$ . However,  $T\mathbb{P}^n$  admits others co-Higgs fields. For instance, each  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t_j}$  is a global semi-invariant section of  $T\mathbb{P}^n$  with weight  $t_j$ . Thus,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t_j} \otimes 1$  is a semi-invariant co-Higgs field on the bundle  $T\mathbb{P}^n$ , which is not toric according to our definition. Moreover,  $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t_1} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t_2}\right) \otimes 1$  is a co-Higgs field on  $T\mathbb{P}^n$ , for  $n \geq 2$ , which is not even semi-invariant.

More generally, we obtain a larger class of filtered endomorphisms of  $E$  when  $X$  is the product of projective spaces. For instance, let  $X = \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ . In this case,  $|\Sigma(1)| = \{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_4\}$  where  $\rho_1 = (1, 0) = -\rho_3$  and  $\rho_2 = (0, 1) = -\rho_4$ . Thus,  $E \cong \mathbb{C}\langle \rho_1 \rangle \oplus \mathbb{C}\langle \rho_2 \rangle$  and filtered endomorphisms of  $E$  are given by diagonal matrices with respect to this decomposition. Since any two diagonal matrices commute, a toric co-Higgs field on  $TX$  is of the form  $\phi_1 t_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial t_1} + \phi_2 t_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial t_2}$  where  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are arbitrary filtered endomorphisms of  $E$ .

#### 4. EXISTENCE OF A MODULI SCHEME

We fix a toric bundle  $V$  on a non-singular toric variety  $X$  of dimension  $n$  with fan  $\Sigma$ . Let  $x_0$  be a closed point of  $T$  and put  $E = V_{x_0}$  as in the preceding section. We use  $H^\rho$  to refer to the parabolic subgroup of  $\mathrm{GL}(E)$  that preserves the filtration  $E^\rho$  on  $E$ . Then, the group of endomorphisms of the  $\Sigma$ -filtration  $\{E^\rho(i)\}$  coincides with the group  $H_V := \bigcap_\rho H^\rho$ . Notice that the group  $H_V$  contains the center of  $\mathrm{GL}(E)$ . Denote by  $H_V[n]$  the set of  $n$ -tuples of pairwise-commuting elements of the group  $H_V$ . Now, Theorem 3.2 can be recast as:

**Corollary 4.1.** *If  $X$  is a nonsingular complex projective toric variety and  $V$  is any toric bundle on  $X$ , then invariant co-Higgs fields  $\phi$  for  $V$  are in 1 : 1 correspondence with elements of  $H_V[n]$ .*

Now, we wish to consider all isomorphism classes  $[V]$  of toric bundles on  $X$  having fixed rank  $r$  and fixed  $T$ -equivariant Chern classes. These classes can be defined explicitly within the equivariant Chow cohomology ring of  $X$  in terms of Klyachko's filtration as per [13]. As per [14], let  $\mathcal{V}_X^{fr}(r, \psi)$  be the fine moduli space of rank- $r$  toric vector bundles framed at  $x_0$  and with total equivariant Chern class  $\psi$ . It is



then a result of Payne [14, Corollary 3.11] that if  $\mathrm{PGL}(r)$  acts freely on  $\mathcal{V}_X^{fr}(r, \psi)$ , then there exists an associated coarse moduli scheme  $\mathcal{V}_X(r, \psi)$  of toric bundles on  $X$  with that total equivariant Chern class. In light of this, our result gives rise to:

**Corollary 4.2.** *When the group  $\mathrm{PGL}(r)$  acts freely on  $\mathcal{V}_X^{fr}(r, \psi)$ , there exists a scheme*

$$\mathcal{C}_X(r, \psi) \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathcal{V}_X(r, \psi),$$

*with fibers  $\pi^{-1}([V]) \cong H_V[n]$ , that can be identified with a quasiprojective coarse moduli scheme of toric co-Higgs bundles on  $X$  of fixed rank  $r$  and total equivariant Chern class  $\psi$ .*

We take the opportunity now to mention a few natural questions for further study. First, assuming the fibration  $\pi$  exists, when is it flat? Recall that flat morphisms, in reasonable circumstances, have strong topological properties. For instance, the fibers of a surjective, faithfully flat morphism of irreducible varieties will have the expected dimension, which is the difference in the dimensions of the ambient schemes.

Second, does  $\mathcal{C}_X(r, \psi)$  inherit arbitrarily bad singularities from  $\mathcal{V}_X(r, \psi)$ , as per the ‘‘Murphy’s Law’’ for toric bundles in [14, Section 4], and under which condition(s) does it become smooth? It is known that in the rank-2 case that the framed moduli  $\mathcal{V}_X^{fr}(2, \psi)$  is smooth. It is natural to ask whether this holds for co-Higgs case.

Moreover, it would be desirable to understand the relationship of this construction to either Mumford-Takemoto or Gieseker stability for co-Higgs bundles in general. In particular, Simpson’s moduli space of  $\Lambda$ -modules [19], where  $\Lambda$  is a coherent sheaf of  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -modules, produces a moduli space of Gieseker-stable coherent co-Higgs sheaves on  $X$  when  $\Lambda = \mathrm{Sym}^\bullet(T^*X)$  (cf. [17, Section 2] for further details on this correspondence in the co-Higgs setting). Interpreting the variation of toric structures on  $V$  with regards to the moduli problem for  $\Lambda$ -modules is an interesting direction for further exploration. Finally, classifying toric co-Higgs bundles over singular toric varieties is a natural problem to explore.

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