SCOTT CARNAHAN, IPMU, University of Tokyo
Conformal blocks on nodal curves

Frenkel and Ben-Zvi gave a method for attaching a space of conformal blocks to the data of a smooth complex algebraic curve, a quasi-conformal vertex algebra, and modules placed at points. Furthermore, when the vertex algebra has conformal structure, one obtains sheaves of conformal blocks with projectively flat connection on moduli spaces of smooth curves with marked points. I'll describe how logarithmic geometry can be employed to canonically extend these sheaves to the semistable locus, where the connection acquires at most logarithmic singularities. When one has a finite group G acting by automorphisms of the conformal vertex algebra, one may construct G-equivariant intertwining operators by varying ramified G-covers of the projective line.