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Moduli spaces of representations

I'll discuss recent work regarding the homotopy groups of moduli spaces of representations. For fundamental groups of Riemann surfaces, this work leads to a computation of the fundamental group of the GL(n) moduli space, as well as a complete understanding of the homotopy type of the stable moduli space of SU(n) representations. Connections to Goldman's symplectic form and the associated Ramadas-Singer-Weitsman line bundle will also be discussed.