

Interest in strata of quadratic differentials stems from the dynamics of billiard tables, and on the other hand from the Bridgeland-Smith correspondence to spaces of stability conditions. We present a compactification of those strata with properties as nice as the Deligne-Mumford compactification of the moduli space of curves. Applications are given towards the geometry of strata, such as determining their Kodaira dimension, but also towards compactifying spaces of stability conditions.