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Orthogonal bundles on curves and quiver representations

We prove that, given a smooth projective curve C , the forgetful morphism from the moduli space of orthogonal bundles to the moduli space of vector bundles on C is a closed embedding. Our proof relies on an explicit description of a set of generators for the polynomial invariants on the representation space of a quiver under the action of a product of classical groups, which generalizes a classical result of Le Bruyn and Procesi.