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Kenneth Baker and **Kathleen Petersen*** (petersen@math.fsu.edu). *Character Varieties of a Family of Once-Punctured Torus Bundles.*

The $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ character variety of a finite volume hyperbolic 3-manifold with one cusp is a complex algebraic set whose canonical component is a complex curve. By computing explicit equations for the $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ character varieties of a family of manifolds, we will compare geometric invariants of this curve with topological invariants of the manifold. (Received February 14, 2011)