1111-14-317 Ada Boralevi<sup>\*</sup>, a.boralevi<sup>®</sup>tue.nl. Orthogonal instantons and skew-Hamiltonian matrices. Let M(r,n) be the moduli space of stable vector bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^2$  of rank  $r \geq 2$  and Chern classes  $(c_1, c_2) = (0, n)$ . An element E of M(r, n) is called orthogonal (symplectic) if it is isomorphic to its dual via a symmetric (skew-symmetric) map. In 1980 Hulek proved that the space M(r, n) is smooth irreducible; using similar techniques, in 2007 Ottaviani showed that the same holds true for the moduli space of symplectic elements of M(r, n). In my talk I will explain an irreducibility result for orthogonal bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , obtained in joint work with R. Abuaf (Imperial College). Among the techniques that we used are some interesting properties of skew-Hamiltonian matrices and the study of special hyperplane sections of determinantal varieties. I will also illustrate possible generalizations of our work. (Received February 05, 2015)