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SCHUBERT VARIETIES, TORIC VARIETIES, 
AND LADDER DETERMINANTAL VARIETIES

by N. GONCIULEA and V. LAKshmibai (*)

Introduction.

Let \( k \) be the base field which we assume to be algebraically closed of arbitrary characteristic. Let \( \mathcal{L} \) be a finite distributive lattice, \( k[\mathcal{L}] = k[x_\tau \mid \tau \in \mathcal{L}], \ I(\mathcal{L}) \) the ideal generated by all binomials of the form \( x_\tau x_\phi - x_{\tau \lor \phi} x_{\tau \land \phi}, \ \tau, \phi \) being two noncomparable elements of \( \mathcal{L} \) (see Section 3 for notations), and \( R(\mathcal{L}) = k[\mathcal{L}]/I(\mathcal{L}). \) Let \( X(\mathcal{L}) = \text{Spec} R(\mathcal{L}). \) The main object of study in this paper is the variety \( X(\mathcal{L}) \) for the case \( \mathcal{L} = I_{d,n}, \) where \( I_{d,n} = \{i = (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \mid 1 \leq i_1 < \ldots < i_d \leq n\} \) (the partial order on \( I_{d,n} \) being the natural one, namely \( (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \geq (j_1, \ldots, j_d) \iff i_t \geq j_t \) for all \( 1 \leq t \leq d \). Denoting \( X(I_{d,n}) \) by just \( X_{d,n}, \) we prove (cf. Theorem 10.4)

**Theorem 1.** — \( X_{d,n} \) is a normal toric variety.

Let \( G_{d,n} \) be the Grassmann variety of \( d \)-planes in \( k^n. \) Using Theorem 1 and the results of [12], we prove (cf. Theorem 10.8).

**Theorem 2.** — The Grassmannian \( G_{d,n} \) degenerates to the normal toric variety \( X_{d,n}. \)

In the case \( d = 2, \) the toric variety \( X_{2,n} \) may also be identified with a certain ladder determinantal variety. To make it more precise, let \( L \) be a one-sided ladder with lower outside corner \( \alpha_0, \) and upper outside

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corners $\alpha_1 = (b_1, a_1), \alpha_2 = (b_2, a_2), \ldots, \alpha_l = (b_l, a_l)$. Let $X(\mathcal{L})$ be the ladder determinantal variety determined by the vanishing of all 2-minors in $\mathcal{L}$. (Note that $X_{2,n}$ is simply $X(\mathcal{L})$, where $\mathcal{L}$ is a ladder with $n - 3$ outside corners and $a_i = a_{i-1} + 1$, $b_j = b_{j-1} + 1$, $1 \leq i, j \leq n - 3$, $a_0 = 0 = b_0$). For $1 \leq i \leq l$, let $V_i$ be the subvariety of $X(\mathcal{L})$ defined by $x_\alpha = 0$ for $\alpha \in [\alpha_0 \wedge \alpha_i, \alpha_0 \vee \alpha_i]$ (see Section 2 for notations). We prove (cf. Theorem 12.3)

\textbf{Theorem 3.} — The irreducible components of $\text{Sing}X(\mathcal{L})$ are precisely $V_i$, $1 \leq i \leq l$, where $\text{Sing}X(\mathcal{L})$ is the singular locus of $X(\mathcal{L})$.

For arbitrary $d$, we prove some partial results, and state a conjecture\textsuperscript{(1)} on the irreducible components of the singular locus of the variety $X_{d,n}$.

Because of the relationship between certain toric varieties and ladder determinantal varieties as discussed above, we are naturally led to study ladder determinantal varieties (LDVs). LDVs were first considered by Abhyankar (cf. [1]) in his study of the singularities of Schubert varieties. Fixing an one-sided ladder $\mathcal{L}$ as above and a positive integer $t$, let $X_t(\mathcal{L})$ be the variety defined by the vanishing of all $t$-minors in $\mathcal{L}$. In [22], Mulay relates $X_t(\mathcal{L})$ to the “opposite cell” in a certain Schubert variety $X(w)$ in

\textsuperscript{(1)} This conjecture has now been proved in [3].
for a suitable $n$ and a suitable parabolic subgroup $Q$. Using this result and Theorem 3, we prove (cf. Theorem 15.15) a refined version of the conjecture of [20] on the components of the singular locus for the class of Schubert varieties arising from LDVs.

We now give a brief outline of the proof of our results. For proving Theorem 1, we first prove (cf. Section 3) that $I(C)$, $C$ being a finite distributive lattice, is a toric ideal (in the sense of [26]). We then prove (cf. Section 7) the Cohen-Macaulayness of $R(C)$. For the case $C = I_{d,n}$, we further prove (using the Jacobian criterion for smoothness) that the variety $X(C)$ is nonsingular in codimension 1.

Theorem 2 is proved using Theorem 1 and the result (cf. [12]) that there exists a flat family whose special fiber is $R(I_{d,n})$ and general fiber is $k[|G_{d,n}|]$, the homogeneous coordinate ring of $G_{d,n}$ for the Plücker embedding. Theorem 3 is again proved using the Jacobian criterion for smoothness.

The sections are organized as follows. In Sections 1 and 2, we recall some generalities on Gröbner bases and distributive lattices. In Section 3, we prove the primality of the ideal $I(C)$, $C$ being any finite distributive lattice (our proof is very short, and combinatorial in nature). In Section 4, we carry out a short geometric proof of the fact that a binomial prime ideal is toric (see [9] for an algebraic proof). In Section 5, we prove some general results on $X(C)$ (in particular, we compute the dimension of $X(C)$). In Section 6, we construct a “standard monomial basis” for $R(C)$. In Section 7, we prove the Cohen-Macaulayness of $R(C)$. In Section 8, we derive some properties of the distributive lattice $I_{d,n}$. In Section 9, we study the variety $X_{d,n}$, where $X_{d,n} = X(C)$, for $C = I_{d,n}$. In Section 10, we prove the normality of the variety $X_{d,n}$. In Section 11, we prove some partial results, and state a conjecture, on the irreducible components of $\text{Sing}X_{d,n}$. In Section 12, we verify the conjecture stated in Section 11 for $d = 2$, by determining the irreducible components of $\text{Sing}X(L)$, where $X(L)$ is the determinantal variety defined by the vanishing of all the 2 minors in a general one-sided ladder $L$. In Section 13, we recall some results on the flag variety $SL(n)/B$, and its Schubert varieties. In Section 14, we relate $X(L)$, as well as the irreducible components of $\text{Sing}X(L)$ to opposite cells in certain Schubert varieties in certain $SL(n)/Q$. In Section 15, we state a refined version of the conjecture in [20] and verify it to be true for the pull-backs in $G/B$ (under $G/B \to G/Q$) of the Schubert varieties obtained in Section 14.
It should be remarked that in [27] a purely combinatorial description of $\text{Sing} X(\mathcal{L})$ is obtained. In this paper we have taken a geometric approach to this problem, in the case when $\mathcal{L} = I_{d,n}$, or $\mathcal{L}$ is an one-sided ladder.

In this paper we have considered only those ladder determinantal varieties which are also toric varieties. In a subsequent paper [13], we study a larger class of ladder determinantal varieties (which are not necessarily toric varieties), and prove results similar to those of Sections 12, 14 and 15.

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1. Generalities on Gröbner bases.

Let $k$ be a field, and consider the ring $k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ of polynomials in $n$ variables $x_1, \ldots, x_n$. We recall below some generalities on Gröbner bases; for more details one may refer to [7], [8].

**Definition 1.1.** — A total order $\preceq$ on the set of monomials in $k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ is called a monomial order if for given monomials $m, m_1, m_2$, with $m \not= 1$, $m_1 \prec m_2$ implies $m_1 \prec m \prec m_2$.

For the rest of this section, a fixed monomial order $\preceq$ is considered.

If $f$ is a nonzero polynomial in $k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$, then the greatest monomial (with respect to $\preceq$) occurring in $f$ is called the initial monomial of $f$, and we denote it by $\text{in}(f)$; the coefficient of $\text{in}(f)$ is called the initial coefficient of $f$. For a family of polynomials $\mathcal{F} \subset k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$, the ideal generated by its elements will be denoted by $\langle \mathcal{F} \rangle$, and the set of the initial monomials of all polynomials in $\mathcal{F}$ will be denoted by $\text{in}(\mathcal{F})$.

**Definition 1.2.** — Let $I \subset k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ be an ideal. A finite set of polynomials $\mathcal{F} \subset I$ is called a Gröbner basis for $I$ with respect to $\preceq$ if $\langle \text{in}(\mathcal{F}) \rangle = \langle \text{in}(I) \rangle$.

**Definition 1.3.** — A reduced Gröbner basis for $I$ with respect to $\preceq$ is a Gröbner basis $\mathcal{F}$ for $I$ with respect to $\preceq$ such that the initial coefficients of the elements in $\mathcal{F}$ are all 1, and for all $f \in \mathcal{F}$, none of the monomials present in $f$ lies in $\langle \text{in}(\mathcal{F} \setminus \{f\}) \rangle$.

**Proposition 1.4.** — Any Gröbner basis for $I$ generates $I$ as an ideal.
In the case when $I$ is the defining ideal of an algebraic variety $X$, a Gröbner basis for $I$ will be also called a Gröbner basis for $X$.

**Proposition 1.5.** — A nonzero ideal $I \subset k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ has a unique reduced Gröbner basis (with respect to a given monomial order).

1.6. Reverse lexicographic order. Assume that the variables $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ are totally ordered as follows: $x_1 < \ldots < x_n$. A monomial $m$ of degree $r$ in the polynomial ring $k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ will be written in the form $m = x_{i_1} \ldots x_{i_r}$, with $1 \leq i_1 \leq \ldots \leq i_r \leq n$. The reverse lexicographic order on the set of monomials $m \in k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ is denoted by $\preceq_{\text{rlex}}$, and defined as follows: $x_{i_1} \ldots x_{i_r} \preceq_{\text{rlex}} x_{j_1} \ldots x_{j_s}$ if and only if either $r < s$, or $r = s$ and there exists an $l < r$ such that $i_1 = j_1, \ldots, i_l = j_l, i_{l+1} < j_{l+1}$. It is easy to check that $\preceq_{\text{rlex}}$ is a monomial order.

2. Generalities on distributive lattices.

2.1. We recall the following definitions on lattices. A lattice is a partially ordered set $(\mathcal{L}, \preceq)$ such that, for every pair of elements $x, y \in \mathcal{L}$, there exist elements $x \vee y$ and $x \wedge y$, called the join, respectively the meet of $x$ and $y$, defined by:

- $x \vee y \geq x, x \vee y \geq y$, and if $z \geq x$ and $z \geq y$, then $z \geq x \vee y$,
- $x \wedge y \leq x, x \wedge y \leq y$, and if $z \leq x$ and $z \leq y$, then $z \leq x \wedge y$.

It is easy to check that the operations $\vee$ and $\wedge$ are commutative and associative.

An element $z \in \mathcal{L}$ is called the zero of $\mathcal{L}$, denoted by $\hat{0}$, if $z \leq x$ for all $x$ in $\mathcal{L}$. An element $z \in \mathcal{L}$ is called the one of $\mathcal{L}$, denoted by $\hat{1}$, if $z \geq x$ for all $x$ in $\mathcal{L}$.

Given a lattice $\mathcal{L}$, a subset $\mathcal{L}' \subset \mathcal{L}$ is called a sublattice of $\mathcal{L}$ if $x, y \in \mathcal{L}'$ implies $x \wedge y \in \mathcal{L}'$, $x \vee y \in \mathcal{L}'$.

Two lattices $\mathcal{L}_1$ and $\mathcal{L}_2$ are isomorphic if there exists a bijection $\varphi : \mathcal{L}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_2$ such that, for all $x, y \in \mathcal{L}_1$,

$$\varphi(x \vee y) = \varphi(x) \vee \varphi(y)$$

$$\varphi(x \wedge y) = \varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y).$$

A lattice is called distributive if the following identities hold:

$$(1) \quad x \wedge (y \vee z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$$
\( x \lor (y \land z) = (x \lor y) \land (x \lor z) \).

2.2 An example. — Given an integer \( n \geq 1 \), \( C(n) \) will denote the chain \( \{1 < \ldots < n\} \), and for \( n_1, \ldots, n_d > 1 \), \( C(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \) will denote the chain product lattice \( C(n_1) \times \ldots \times C(n_d) \) consisting of all \( d \)-tuples \( (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \), with \( 1 \leq i_1 \leq n_1, \ldots, 1 \leq i_d \leq n_d \). For \( (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \), \( (j_1, \ldots, j_d) \) in \( C(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \), we define

\[
(i_1, \ldots, i_d) \leq (j_1, \ldots, j_d) \iff i_1 \leq j_1, \ldots, i_d \leq j_d.
\]

We have

\[
(i_1, \ldots, i_d) \lor (j_1, \ldots, j_d) = (\max\{i_1, j_1\}, \ldots, \max\{i_d, j_d\})
\]

\[
(i_1, \ldots, i_d) \land (j_1, \ldots, j_d) = (\min\{i_1, j_1\}, \ldots, \min\{i_d, j_d\}).
\]

\( C(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \) is a finite distributive lattice, and its zero and one are \((1, \ldots, 1)\), \((n_1, \ldots, n_d)\) respectively.

Note that there is a total order \( < \) on \( C(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \) extending \( < \), namely the lexicographic order, defined by \((i_1, \ldots, i_d) < (j_1, \ldots, j_d)\) if and only if there exists \( l < d \) such that \( i_1 = j_1, \ldots, i_l = j_l, i_{l+1} < j_{l+1} \). Also note that two elements \((i_1, \ldots, i_d) < (j_1, \ldots, j_d)\) are non-comparable with respect to \( \leq \) if and only if there exists \( 1 < h < d \) such that \( i_h > j_h \).

Sometimes we denote the elements of \( C(n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_d) \) by \( x_{i_1 \ldots i_d} \), with \( 1 \leq i_1 \leq n_1, \ldots, 1 \leq i_d \leq n_d \).

2.3. The lattice of all subsets of the set \( \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) is denoted by \( B(n) \), and called the Boolean algebra of rank \( n \). Note that \( B(n) \) is isomorphic to \( [\mathcal{C}(2)]^n \).

One has the following (see [2]):

**Theorem 2.4.** — Any finite distributive lattice is isomorphic to a sublattice of a Boolean algebra of finite rank, and hence, in particular, to a sublattice of a finite chain product.

3. The ideal associated to a distributive lattice.

3.1. Let \( \mathcal{A} = \{a_1, \ldots, a_n\} \) be a subset of \( \mathbb{Z}^m \). Consider the homomorphism

\[
\pi : \mathbb{Z}^n \to \mathbb{Z}^m, \quad u = (u_1, \ldots, u_n) \mapsto u_1a_1 + \ldots + u_na_n.
\]
Let \( x = (x_1, \ldots, x_n) \), \( t = (t_1, \ldots, t_m) \), and
\[
k[x] = k[x_1, \ldots, x_n], \quad k[t^\pm 1] = k[t_1, \ldots, t_m, t_1^{-1}, \ldots, t_m^{-1}].
\]
The map \( \pi \) induces a homomorphism of semigroup algebras
\[
\bar{\pi} : k[x] \to k[t^\pm 1], \quad x_i \mapsto t^{a_i}.
\]

**Definition 3.2.** — The kernel of \( \bar{\pi} \) is denoted by \( I_A \) and called the toric ideal associated to \( A \).

Note that a toric ideal is prime.

Recall the following (see [26]).

**Proposition 3.3.** — The toric ideal \( I_A \) is spanned as a \( k \)-vector space by the set of binomials
\[
\{x^u - x^v \mid u, v \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n \text{ with } \pi(u) = \pi(v)\}.
\]

3.4. **An important example** (cf. [26]). — Let us fix the integers \( n_1, \ldots, n_d > 1 \), and let \( n = \prod_{i=1}^d n_i, \quad m = \sum_{i=1}^d n_i \). Let \( e_1^l, \ldots, e_{n_i}^l \) be the unit vectors in \( \mathbb{Z}^{n_i} \) for \( 1 \leq l \leq d \). For \( 1 \leq \xi_1 \leq n_1, \ldots, 1 \leq \xi_d \leq n_d \), define
\[
a_{\xi_1 \ldots \xi_d} = e_{\xi_1}^1 \oplus \cdots \oplus e_{\xi_d}^d \in \mathbb{Z}^{n_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{Z}^{n_d}
\]
and
\[
A_{n_1, \ldots, n_d} = \{a_{\xi_1 \ldots \xi_d} \mid 1 \leq \xi_1 \leq n_1, \ldots, 1 \leq \xi_d \leq n_d\}.
\]
The corresponding map
\[
\pi : \mathbb{Z}^{n_1 \cdot \ldots \cdot n_d} \to \mathbb{Z}^{n_1 + \ldots + n_d}
\]
is defined as follows: for \( 1 \leq l \leq d \) and \( 1 \leq i_l \leq n_l \) fixed, the \((n_1 + \ldots + n_{l-1} + i_l)\)-th coordinate of \( \pi(u) \) is given by \( \sum u_{\xi_1 \ldots \xi_{l-1} \xi_l \xi_{l+1} \ldots \xi_d} \), the sum being taken over the elements \((\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_{l-1}, \xi_l, \xi_{l+1}, \ldots, \xi_d)\) of \( C(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \) with \( \xi_l = i_l \). We call this subset the \( l \)-th slice of \( C(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \) defined by \( i_l \), and denote it by \( \{\xi_l = i_l\} \). The components (or entries) of an element \( u \in \mathbb{Z}^{n_1 \cdot \ldots \cdot n_d} \) are indexed by the elements \((i_1, \ldots, i_d)\) of \( C(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \). If \((j_1, \ldots, j_d) \in \{\xi_l = i_l\} \), sometimes we also say that \( u_{j_1 \ldots j_d} \) itself belongs to the slice \( \{\xi_l = i_l\} \).

The map \( \pi \) induces the map
\[
\hat{\pi} : k[x_{11, \ldots, 1}, \ldots, x_{1 \xi_2 \ldots \xi_d}, \ldots, x_{n_1 n_2 \ldots n_d}] \to k[t_{11, \ldots, 1}, \ldots, t_{d1, \ldots, d}]}
\]
DEFINITION 3.5. — Given a finite lattice \( \mathcal{L} \), the ideal associated to \( \mathcal{L} \), denoted by \( I(\mathcal{L}) \), is the ideal of the polynomial ring \( k[\mathcal{L}] := k[x_\tau \mid \tau \in \mathcal{L}] \) generated by the set of binomials
\[
G_\mathcal{L} = \{ xy - (x \wedge y)(x \vee y) \mid x, y \in \mathcal{L} \text{ non-comparable} \}.
\]

By Theorem 2.4, a finite distributive lattice \( \mathcal{L} \) may be identified with a sublattice of a finite chain product lattice. Hence it inherits a total order extending the given partial order. In turn, this total order induces the reverse lexicographic order on the monomials in \( k[\mathcal{L}] \), as in 1.6.

The following theorem shows that the ideal associated to a chain product lattice is toric.

**Theorem 3.6.** — 1) We have \( I(C(n_1, \ldots, n_d)) = I_{\mathcal{A}_{n_1, \ldots, n_d}} \).
2) The set of binomials
\[
G = \{ xy - (x \wedge y)(x \vee y) \mid x, y \in C(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \text{ non-comparable} \}
\]
is a Gröbner basis for \( I(C(n_1, \ldots, n_d)) \) with respect to the reverse lexicographic order.

**Proof.** — Let \( \mathcal{C} = C(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \) and \( \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_{n_1, \ldots, n_d} \). Let \( f \in I_\mathcal{A} \); by Proposition 3.3, there exist \( u_i, v_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n \) with \( \pi(u_i) = \pi(v_i) \), and \( c_i \in k^* \), \( 1 \leq i \leq s \) such that
\[
f = \sum_{i=1}^s c_i(x^{u_i} - x^{v_i})
\]
for some \( s \geq 1 \), with the property that \( s \) is the smallest integer \( \geq 1 \) such that \( f \) can be expressed as a linear combination of \( s \) binomials in the set (3). Now we rewrite \( f \) as
\[
f = \sum_{i=1}^s a_i x^{u_i} + \sum_{i=1}^s b_i x^{v_i}, \quad a_i, b_i \in k.
\]
Then none of the coefficients \( a_1, \ldots, a_s, b_1, \ldots, b_s \) is zero. Indeed, suppose that \( a_i = 0 \) for some \( 1 \leq i \leq s \). This implies that there exists \( j \in \{1, \ldots, s\} \),
such that either \( c_j = c_i \) and \( v_j = u_i \), or \( c_j = -c_i \) and \( u_j = u_i \). In the first case we have

\[
(5) \quad c_i(x^{u_i} - x^{v_i}) + c_j(x^{u_j} - x^{v_j}) = c_i(x^{u_i} - x^{v_i}), \quad \pi(u_j) = \pi(v_i).
\]

In the second case we have

\[
(6) \quad c_i(x^{u_i} - x^{v_i}) + c_j(x^{u_j} - x^{v_j}) = c_i(x^{v_j} - x^{v_i}), \quad \pi(v_j) = \pi(v_i).
\]

But (4), (5) and (6) imply that \( f \) can be written as a linear combination of \( s - 1 \) binomials in the set (3), contradicting the choice of \( s \). Thus \( a_i \neq 0 \), \( 1 \leq i \leq s \), and similarly \( b_i \neq 0 \), \( 1 \leq i \leq s \). This shows that \( \text{in}(f) = \text{in}(x^{u_i} - x^{v_i}) \) for some \( 1 \leq i \leq s \).

Let us write

\[
x^{u_i} - x^{v_i} = x^w(x^{u} - x^{v}),
\]

where \( u, v, w \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n \), with \( \pi(u) = \pi(v) \) and \( \text{supp}(u) \cap \text{supp}(v) = \emptyset \). Let us suppose that \( x^u \succeq_{\text{rellex}} x^v \), i.e. \( \text{in}(x^u - x^v) = x^u \) and \( \text{in}(f) = \text{in}(x^{u_i} - x^{v_i}) = x^{u_i} \). Let \( x_{i_1...i_d} \) be the smallest variable appearing in \( x^u \), i.e. \( (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \) is the smallest element of \( \text{supp}(u) \) with respect to \( \triangleleft \).

Then \( x^v \) contains a variable \( x_{k_1...k_d} \), with \( (k_1, \ldots, k_d) \triangleleft (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \). Since \( \pi(u) = \pi(v) \), the sum of the entries in every slice is the same for both \( u \) and \( v \). In particular, since all the entries of \( u \) in the slices \( \{ \xi_1 = i \} \), with \( 1 \leq i < i_1 \), are 0 (by the choice of \( (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \)), all the entries of \( v \) in these slices must also be 0. This implies that \( (k_1, \ldots, k_d) \in \{ \xi_1 = i_1 \} \).

Let \( 1 \leq h \leq n_1 \) such that \( k_1 = i_1, \ldots, k_{h-1} = i_{h-1}, k_h < i_h \). Then the sum of the elements of \( v \) in the slice \( \{ \xi_h = k_h \} \) is nonzero, which implies that \( \{ \xi_h = k_h \} \cap \text{supp}(u) \neq \emptyset \). Let \( (j_1, \ldots, j_d) \) be an element in this intersection. We have \( (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \triangleleft (j_1, \ldots, j_d) \) (by the definition of \( (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \)), and since \( i_h > k_h = j_h \), we conclude that \( (i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_d) \) and \( (j_1, \ldots, j_d) \) are non-comparable. Thus we obtain that \( x^u \) is divisible by \( x_{i_1...i_d}x_{j_1...j_d} \). Hence \( x^{u_i} \) is also divisible by \( x_{i_1...i_d}x_{j_1...j_d} \). Therefore \( \text{in}(f) \) is divisible by the initial term of an element of the set

\[
\mathcal{G} = \{ xy - (x \land y)(x \lor y) \mid x, y \in \mathcal{C} \text{ non-comparable} \}
\]

of generators of the ideal \( I(\mathcal{C}) \). Since \( \mathcal{G} \subset I_\mathcal{A} \), it follows that \( \mathcal{G} \) is a Gröbner basis for \( I_\mathcal{A} \). In particular it is a set of generators for this ideal. Thus \( \mathcal{G} \) generates both \( I(\mathcal{C}) \) and \( I_\mathcal{A} \), which implies the equality of the two ideals.

\[\square\]
THEOREM 3.7. — Let \( \mathcal{L} \) be a finite distributive lattice. Then

1) The ideal \( I(\mathcal{L}) \) is toric (and hence prime).

2) The set of binomials

\[
\mathcal{G}_L = \{ xy - (x \land y)(x \lor y) \mid x, y \in \mathcal{L} \text{ non-comparable} \}
\]

is a Gröbner basis for \( I(\mathcal{L}) \) with respect to the reverse lexicographic order.

Proof. — By Theorem 2.4, we may assume that \( \mathcal{L} \) is a sublattice of \( \mathcal{C}(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \), for some \( n_1, \ldots, n_d \geq 1 \). Let us denote \( \mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}(n_1, \ldots, n_d) \), \( \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_{n_1, \ldots, n_d} \) and \( \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_L \). Note that \( \mathcal{G}_L \) is the subset of \( \mathcal{G} \) consisting of all binomials in \( \mathcal{G} \) involving only the variables from \( \mathcal{L} \). Let us denote

\[
\mathcal{G}_L = \{ f_1, \ldots, f_r \}, \quad \mathcal{G} \setminus \mathcal{G}_L = \{ g_1, \ldots, g_s \}.
\]

Let \( g_i = xy - (x \land y)(x \lor y) \), with \( x, y \in \mathcal{C} \) non-comparable, \( 1 \leq i \leq s \); then at least one of \( x \) and \( y \) does not belong to \( \mathcal{L} \) (\( \mathcal{L} \) being a sublattice of \( \mathcal{C} \), \( x, y \in \mathcal{L} \) would imply \( x \land y, x \lor y \in \mathcal{L} \), so \( g_i \) would involve only variables from \( \mathcal{L} \)).

Let \( \mathcal{A}_L \subset \mathcal{A} \) be given by the elements in \( \mathcal{A} \) indexed by the elements of \( \mathcal{L} \), and let \( f \) be an element of

\[
I_{\mathcal{A}_L} = \ker \left( \hat{\pi} \mid_{k[\mathcal{L}]} \right) = (\ker \hat{\pi}) \cap k[\mathcal{L}] = I_\mathcal{A} \cap k[\mathcal{L}].
\]

In the course of the proof of Theorem 3.6, we saw that \( \text{in}(f) \) is divisible by the initial term of a binomial in \( \mathcal{G} \), and since \( f \in k[\mathcal{L}] \), this binomial must be one of the \( f_i \)'s, i.e. an element of \( \mathcal{G}_L \). Since \( \mathcal{G}_L \subset I_{\mathcal{A}_L} \), it follows that \( \mathcal{G}_L \) is a Gröbner basis for \( I_{\mathcal{A}_L} \), hence \( \mathcal{G}_L \) generates \( I_{\mathcal{A}_L} \). Therefore \( I(\mathcal{L}) = I_{\mathcal{A}_L} \), and the stated assertions follow now. \( \square \)

4. Varieties defined by binomials.

Let \( k \) be an algebraically closed field of arbitrary characteristic. Consider an integer \( m \geq 1 \), and the \( m \)-dimensional torus \( T_m = (k^*)^m \).

DEFINITION 4.1 (cf. [17]). — An equivariant affine embedding of \( T_m \) is an affine variety \( X \) containing \( T_m \) as an open subset, equipped with an action of \( T_m \) on \( X \)

\[
T_m \times X \rightarrow X
\]
extending the action $T_m \times T_m \rightarrow T_m$ given by the translations in $T_m$.

**Definition 4.2** (cf. [10], [17]). — An equivariant affine embedding $X$ of a torus is called an affine toric variety if it is normal.

4.3. Let $N \geq 1$. For a multi-index $a = (a_1, \ldots, a_N)$, let $x^a = x_1^{a_1} \cdots x_N^{a_N}$. Let $X$ be an affine variety in $\mathbb{A}^N$, not contained in any of the coordinate hyperplanes $\{x_i = 0\}$. Further, let $X$ be irreducible, and let its defining prime ideal $I(X)$ be generated by $l$ binomials

\[ x_a^i = \lambda_i x_b^i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq l, \]

where $a_i = (a_{i1}, \ldots, a_{iN})$, $b_i = (b_{i1}, \ldots, b_{iN})$, and $\lambda_i \in k$. Consider the natural action of the torus $T_N = (k^*)^N$ on $\mathbb{A}^N$,

\[ (t_1, \ldots, t_N) \cdot (a_1, \ldots, a_N) = (t_1 a_1, \ldots, t_N a_N). \]

Let $T = \{ t = (t_1, \ldots, t_N) \in T_N \mid t^a_i = t^b_i, \ 1 \leq i \leq l \}$, and $X^o = \{ (x_1, \ldots, x_N) \in X \mid x_i \neq 0 \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq N \}$.

**Proposition 4.4.** — Let notations be as above.

1. There is a canonical action of $T$ on $X$.
2. $X^o$ is $T$-stable. Further, the action of $T$ on $X^o$ is simple and transitive.
3. $T$ is a subtorus of $T_N$, and $X$ is an equivariant affine embedding of $T$.

**Proof.** — (1) We consider the (obvious) action of $T$ on $\mathbb{A}^N$. Let $(x_1, \ldots, x_N) \in X$, $t = (t_1, \ldots, t_N) \in T$, and $(y_1, \ldots, y_N) = t \cdot (x_1, \ldots, x_N) = (t_1 x_1, \ldots, t_N x_N)$. Using the fact that $(x_1, \ldots, x_N)$ satisfies (1), we obtain

\[
y_1^{a_{1i}} \cdots y_N^{a_{Ni}} = t_1^{a_{1i}} \cdots t_N^{a_{Ni}} x_1^{a_{1i}} \cdots x_N^{a_{Ni}} = \lambda_i t_1^{b_{1i}} \cdots t_N^{b_{Ni}} x_1^{b_{1i}} \cdots x_N^{b_{Ni}} = \lambda_i y_1^{b_{1i}} \cdots y_N^{b_{Ni}},\]

for all $1 \leq i \leq l$, i.e. $(y_1, \ldots, y_N) \in X$. Hence $t \cdot (a_1, \ldots, a_N) \in X$ for all $t \in X$.

(2) Let $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_N) \in X^o$, and $t = (t_1, \ldots, t_N) \in T$. Then, clearly $t \cdot (x_1, \ldots, x_N) \in X^o$. Considering $x$ as a point in $\mathbb{A}^N$, the isotropy subgroup in $T_N$ at $x$ is $\{ \text{id} \}$. Hence the isotropy subgroup in $T$ at $x$ is also $\{ \text{id} \}$. Thus the action of $T$ on $X^o$ is simple.
Let \((x_1, \ldots, x_N), (x'_1, \ldots, x'_N) \in X^\circ\). Set \(t = (t_1, \ldots, t_N)\), where \(t_i = x_i/x'_i\). Then, clearly \(t \in T\). Thus \((x_1, \ldots, x_N) = t \cdot (x'_1, \ldots, x'_N)\). Hence the action of \(T\) on \(X^\circ\) is simple and transitive.

(3) Now, fixing a point \(x \in X^\circ\), we obtain from (2) that the orbit map \(t \mapsto t \cdot x\) is in fact an isomorphism of \(T\) onto \(X^\circ\). Also, since \(X\) is not contained in any of the coordinate hyperplanes, the open set \(X_i = \{(x_1, \ldots, x_N) \in X \mid x_i \neq 0\}\) is nonempty for all \(1 \leq i \leq N\). The irreducibility of \(X\) implies that the sets \(X_i, 1 \leq i \leq N\), are open dense in \(X\), and hence their intersection

\[
X^\circ = \bigcap_{i=1}^{N} X_i = \{(x_1, \ldots, x_N) \in X \mid x_i \neq 0 \text{ for any } i\}
\]

is an open dense set in \(X\), and thus \(X^\circ\) is irreducible. This implies that \(T\) is irreducible (and hence connected). Thus \(T\) is a subtorus of \(T_N\). The assertion that \(X\) is an equivariant affine embedding of \(T\) follows from (1) and (2). \(\square\)

Remark 4.5. — With notations as in Section 3, note that the variety \(V(I_A)\) is an equivariant affine embedding of \(T_m = (k^*)^m\).

5. Some general results on the variety associated to a finite distributive lattice.

We first recall some basic definitions on finite partially ordered sets. A partially ordered set is also called a poset.

A finite poset \(P\) is called bounded if it has a unique maximal, and a unique minimal element, denoted \(\hat{1}\) and \(\hat{0}\) respectively.

A totally ordered subset \(C\) of a finite poset \(P\) is called a chain, and the number \(\#C - 1\) is called the length of the chain.

A bounded poset \(P\) is said to be graded if all maximal chains have the same length (note that \(\hat{1}\) and \(\hat{0}\) belong to any maximal chain).

Let \(P\) be a graded poset. The length of a maximal chain in \(P\) is called the rank of \(P\).

Let \(P\) be a graded poset. For \(\lambda, \mu \in P\) with \(\lambda \geq \mu\), the graded poset \(\{\tau \in P \mid \mu \leq \tau \leq \lambda\}\) is called the interval from \(\mu\) to \(\lambda\), and denoted by
The rank of $[\mu, \lambda]$ is denoted by $l_\mu(\lambda)$; if $\mu = \emptyset$, then we denote $l_\mu(\lambda)$ by just $l(\lambda)$.

Let $P$ be a graded poset, and $\lambda, \mu \in P$, with $\lambda \geq \mu$. The ordered pair $(\lambda, \mu)$ is called a cover (and we also say that $\lambda$ covers $\mu$) if $l_\mu(\lambda) = 1$.

**Definition 5.1.** — An element $z$ of a lattice $\mathcal{L}$ is called join-irreducible (respectively meet-irreducible) if $z = x \lor y$ (respectively $z = x \land y$) implies $z = x$ or $z = y$. The set of join-irreducible (respectively meet-irreducible) elements of $\mathcal{L}$ is denoted by $J_\mathcal{L}$ (respectively $M_\mathcal{L}$), or just by $J$ (respectively $M$) if no confusion is possible.

**Definition 5.2.** — The set $J_\mathcal{L} \cap M_\mathcal{L}$ of join and meet-irreducible elements is denoted by $JM_\mathcal{L}$, or just $JM$ if no confusion is possible.

**Definition 5.3.** — A subset $I$ of a poset $P$ is called an ideal of $P$ if for all $x, y \in P$,

$x \in I$ and $y \leq x$ imply $y \in I$.

**Theorem 5.4** (Birkhoff). — Let $\mathcal{L}$ be a distributive lattice with 0, and $P$ the poset of its nonzero join-irreducible elements. Then $\mathcal{L}$ is isomorphic to the lattice of finite ideals of $P$, by means of the lattice isomorphism

$$\alpha \mapsto I_\alpha = \{ \tau \in P \mid \tau \leq \alpha \}, \quad \alpha \in \mathcal{L}.$$ 

**Definition 5.5.** — A quadruple of the form $(\tau, \phi, \tau \lor \phi, \tau \land \phi)$, with $\tau, \phi \in \mathcal{L}$ non-comparable is called a diamond, and is denoted by $D(\tau, \phi, \tau \lor \phi, \tau \land \phi)$.

**Lemma 5.6.** — With the notations as above, we have

(a) $J = \{ \tau \in \mathcal{L} \mid$ there exists at most one cover of the form $(\tau, \lambda) \}.$

(b) $M = \{ \tau \in \mathcal{L} \mid$ there exists at most one cover of the form $(\lambda, \tau) \}.$

**Proof.** — In order to prove part (a), let us denote

$$Z = \{ \lambda \in \mathcal{L} \mid$ there exists at most one cover of the form $(\lambda, \rho) \}.$$

Clearly, $J \subset Z$. Let $\lambda \in Z$, and assume $\lambda \notin J$. Assumption implies that there exists a diamond $D(\tau, \phi, \lambda, \mu)$. In particular, this implies $\tau \leq \lambda, \phi \leq \lambda$. Now $\mathcal{L}$ being graded, there exist $\alpha, \beta$ such that $\tau \leq \alpha, \phi \leq \beta$, and $(\lambda, \alpha)$, $(\lambda, \beta)$ are covers. Now, $\tau \leq \alpha, \phi \leq \beta$, and $\lambda = \alpha \lor \beta$ imply $\alpha \neq \beta$. But
this would imply that \( \lambda \) covers two distinct elements, contradicting the hypothesis that \( \lambda \in Z \). Hence the assumption that \( \lambda \not\in J \) is wrong, which shows (a).

The proof of (b) is similar. \( \square \)

5.7. Let \( X(\mathcal{L}) \) be the affine variety of the zeroes in \( k^N \) of \( I(\mathcal{L}) \) (note that \( X(\mathcal{L}) \) is irreducible, in view of Theorem 3.7). Then \( X(\mathcal{L}) \) is a variety defined by binomials, and we follow the notations in Section 4. We have \( N = \# \mathcal{L}, I(X(\mathcal{L})) = I(\mathcal{L}) \). Let \( \mathcal{I} = \{ (\tau, \phi, \tau \vee \phi, \tau \wedge \phi) \mid (\tau, \phi) \in Q \} \), where \( Q = \{ (\tau, \phi) \mid \tau, \phi \in \mathcal{L} \text{ non-comparable} \} \).

In view of Proposition 4.4, \( \dim X(\mathcal{L}) = \dim T \), and we now compute the dimension of \( T \).

Let \( \pi : X(T_N) \to X(T) \) be the canonical map, given by restriction, and for \( \chi \in X(T_N) \), denote \( \pi(\chi) \) by \( \overline{\chi} \). Let us fix a \( \mathbb{Z} \)-basis \( \{ \chi_\tau \mid \tau \in \mathcal{L} \} \) for \( X(T_N) \). For a diamond \( D = (\tau, \phi, \mu, \lambda) \in \mathcal{I} \), let \( \chi_D = \chi_\tau \vee \phi + \chi_\tau \wedge \phi - \chi_\tau - \chi_\phi \).

**Lemma 5.8.** We have

(1) \( X(T) \simeq X(T_N)/\ker \pi \).

(2) \( \ker \pi \) is generated by \( \{ \chi_D \mid D \in \mathcal{I} \} \).

**Proof.** The canonical map \( \pi \) is, in fact, surjective, since \( T \) is a subtorus of \( T_N \). Now (1) follows from this. The assertion (2) follows from the definition of \( T \). \( \square \)

5.9. For \( \alpha \in \mathcal{L} \), let \( I_\alpha \) be the ideal corresponding to \( \alpha \) under the isomorphism in Theorem 5.10. Let

\[ \psi_\alpha = \sum_{\theta \in I_\alpha} \chi_\theta. \]

**Lemma 5.10.** The set \( \{ \overline{\psi}_a \mid a \in \mathcal{L} \} \) generates \( X(T) \) as a \( \mathbb{Z} \)-module.

**Proof.** Consider the homomorphism

\[ \theta : X(T_N) \to X(T), \quad \chi_a \mapsto \overline{\psi}_a, \]

(note that \( \{ \chi_a \mid a \in \mathcal{L} \} \) is a \( \mathbb{Z} \)-basis for \( X(T_N) \)). For a diamond \( D = (\tau, \phi, \mu, \lambda) \in \mathcal{I} \), we have

\[ \overline{\psi}_\tau + \overline{\psi}_\phi = \overline{\psi}_\mu + \overline{\psi}_\lambda, \]

\( \ast \)
and hence $\chi_D \in \ker \theta$. Conversely, it is clear that any relation among $\overline{\psi}_a$'s is of the form $(\ast)$. Hence $\ker \theta = \ker \pi$, and $X(T) \simeq X(T_N)/\ker \theta$, (cf. Lemma 5.8). In particular, this implies that $\theta$ is onto, and the result follows, since $\{\chi_a \mid a \in \mathcal{L}\}$ generates $X(T_N)$ as a $\mathbb{Z}$-module.

**Proposition 5.11.** — The set $\{\overline{\chi}_\tau \mid \tau \in J\}$ is a $\mathbb{Z}$-basis for $X(T)$.

**Proof.** — By Lemma 5.10, $\{\overline{\psi}_a \mid a \in \mathcal{L}\}$ generates the $\mathbb{Z}$-module $X(T)$. Now

$$\overline{\psi}_a = \sum_{\theta \in I_a} \overline{\chi}_\theta = \sum_{\theta \in J, \theta \leq a} \overline{\chi}_\theta$$

(cf. 5.9). Hence $\{\overline{\chi}_\tau \mid \tau \in J\}$ generates the $\mathbb{Z}$-module $X(T)$. Also it is clear that no proper subset of $\{\overline{\chi}_\tau \mid \tau \in J\}$ generates $X(T)$. The result now follows.

Now, since $\dim X(\mathcal{L}) = \dim T$, we obtain

**Theorem 5.12.** — The dimension of $X(\mathcal{L})$ is equal to $\#J_\mathcal{L}$.

**Definition 5.13.** — Let $\mathcal{L}$ be a finite distributive lattice. We call the cardinality of $J_\mathcal{L}$ the dimension of $\mathcal{L}$, and we denote it by $\dim \mathcal{L}$. If $\mathcal{L}'$ is a sublattice of $\mathcal{L}$, then the codimension of $\mathcal{L}'$ in $\mathcal{L}$ is defined as $\dim \mathcal{L} - \dim \mathcal{L}'$.

**Lemma 5.14.** — Let $P = (P_\theta)_{\theta \in \mathcal{L}} \in X(\mathcal{L})$ be such that $P_\tau \neq 0$ for any $\tau \in J$. Then $P_\theta \neq 0$ for any $\theta \in \mathcal{L}$.

**Proof (by induction).** — Let $\theta \in \mathcal{L}$. If $\theta \in J_\mathcal{L}$, there is nothing to check. Let then $\theta \in \mathcal{L} \setminus J_\mathcal{L}$.

Let $\theta$ be a minimal element of $\mathcal{L} \setminus J_\mathcal{L}$. This implies that every $\tau \in \mathcal{L}$ such that $\tau < \theta$ belongs to $J_\mathcal{L}$. The fact that $\theta \in \mathcal{L} \setminus J_\mathcal{L}$ implies that there are at least two elements $\theta_1, \theta_2$ of $\mathcal{L}$ which are covered by $\theta$. Note that $\theta_1, \theta_2$ are not comparable. We have $\theta_1 \lor \theta_2 = \theta$. Let $\mu = \theta_1 \land \theta_2$. We have $P_\theta P_\mu = P_{\theta_1} P_{\theta_2}$. Now $P_{\theta_1} \neq 0$, $P_{\theta_2} \neq 0$, since $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in J_\mathcal{L}$. Hence we obtain that $P_\theta \neq 0$.

Let now $\phi$ be any element of $\mathcal{L} \setminus J_\mathcal{L}$. Assume, by induction, that $P_\tau \neq 0$ for any $\tau < \phi$. Since $\phi \notin J_\mathcal{L}$, there are at least two elements $\phi_1, \phi_2$ of $\mathcal{L}$ which are covered by $\phi$. We have $\phi_1 \lor \phi_2 = \phi$, $P_\phi P_\delta = P_{\phi_1} P_{\phi_2}$, where $\delta = \phi_1 \land \phi_2$. Also $P_{\phi_1} \neq 0$, $P_{\phi_2} \neq 0$ (since $\phi_1, \phi_2$ are both $\prec \phi$). Hence we obtain $P_\phi \neq 0$. 

\hspace{1cm}
DEFINITION 5.15 (cf. [27]). — A sublattice $\mathcal{L}'$ of $\mathcal{L}$ is called an embedded sublattice of $\mathcal{L}$ if

$$\tau, \phi \in \mathcal{L}, \quad \tau \lor \phi, \tau \land \phi \in \mathcal{L}' \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tau, \phi \in \mathcal{L}'. $$

Given a sublattice $\mathcal{L}'$ of $\mathcal{L}$, let us consider the variety $X(\mathcal{L}')$, and consider the canonical embedding $X(\mathcal{L}') \hookrightarrow A(\mathcal{L}') \hookrightarrow A(\mathcal{L})$ (here $A(\mathcal{L}') = A^{\# \mathcal{L}'}, A(\mathcal{L}) = A^{\# \mathcal{L}}$).

PROPOSITION 5.16. — $X(\mathcal{L}')$ is a subvariety of $X(\mathcal{L})$ if and only if $\mathcal{L}'$ is an embedded sublattice of $\mathcal{L}$.

Proof. — Under the embedding $X(\mathcal{L}') \hookrightarrow A(\mathcal{L})$, $X(\mathcal{L}')$ can be identified with

$$\{(x_{\tau})_{\tau \in \mathcal{L}} \in A(\mathcal{L}) \mid x_{\tau} = 0 \text{ if } \tau \not\in \mathcal{L}', \quad x_{\tau} x_{\phi} = x_{\tau \lor \phi} x_{\tau \land \phi} \text{ for } \tau, \phi \in \mathcal{L}' \text{ non-comparable}\}.$$ 

Let $\eta'$ be the generic point of $X(\mathcal{L}')$. We have $X(\mathcal{L}') \subset X(\mathcal{L})$ if and only if $\eta' \in X(\mathcal{L})$.

Assume that $\eta' \in X(\mathcal{L})$. Let $\tau, \phi$ be two noncomparable elements of $\mathcal{L}$ such that $\tau \lor \phi, \tau \land \phi$ are both in $\mathcal{L}'$. We have to show that $\tau, \phi \in \mathcal{L}'$. If possible, let $\tau \not\in \mathcal{L}'$. This implies $\eta'_\tau = 0$. Hence either $\eta'_{\tau \lor \phi} = 0$, or $\eta'_{\tau \land \phi} = 0$, since $\eta' \in X(\mathcal{L})$. But this is not possible (note that $\tau \lor \phi, \tau \land \phi$ are in $\mathcal{L}'$, and hence $\eta'_{\tau \lor \phi}$ and $\eta'_{\tau \land \phi}$ are both nonzero).

Assume now that $\mathcal{L}'$ is an embedded sublattice. We have to show that $\eta' \in X(\mathcal{L})$. Let $\tau, \phi$ be two noncomparable elements of $\mathcal{L}$. The fact that $\mathcal{L}'$ is a sublattice implies that if $\eta'_{\tau \lor \phi}$ or $\eta'_{\tau \land \phi}$ is zero, then either $\eta'_\tau$, or $\eta'_\phi$ is zero. Also, the fact that $\mathcal{L}'$ is an embedded sublattice implies that if $\eta'_\tau$ or $\eta'_\phi$ is zero, then either $\eta'_{\tau \lor \phi}$ or $\eta'_{\tau \land \phi}$ is zero. Further, when $\tau, \phi, \tau \lor \phi, \tau \land \phi \in \mathcal{L}'$,

$$\eta'_{\tau \lor \phi} \eta'_{\tau \land \phi}. $$

Thus $\eta'$ satisfies the defining equations of $X(\mathcal{L})$, and hence $\eta' \in X(\mathcal{L})$. \(\square\)
6. A standard monomial basis for \( R(\mathcal{L}) \).

6.1. Let \( R(\mathcal{L}) = k[\mathcal{L}]/I(\mathcal{L}) \), \( k[\mathcal{L}] \) being as in Section 3. Note that \( R(\mathcal{L}) \) is a domain (cf. Theorem 3.7). Let \( X(\mathcal{L}) = \text{Spec} R(\mathcal{L}) \). For \( \theta \in \mathcal{L} \), let us consider the sublattice \( \mathcal{L}_\theta = \{ \lambda \in \mathcal{L} \mid \lambda \leq \theta \} \) and the ring \( R_\theta = R_\mathcal{L}/\langle x_\lambda \mid \lambda \in \mathcal{L}, \lambda \neq \theta \rangle \cong R(\mathcal{L}_\theta) \) and denote \( \text{Spec} R_\theta \) by \( X(\mathcal{L}_\theta) \), or just \( X_\theta \). Note that \( \mathcal{L}_\theta \) is an embedded sublattice (cf. Definition 5.15).

In the sequel, for \( \tau \in \mathcal{L} \), we shall denote \( \tilde{x}_\tau \) (in \( R(\mathcal{L}) \)) by just \( x_\tau \); similarly, the restriction \( x_\tau \mid_{X_\theta} \) will be also denoted by just \( x_\tau \).

6.2. We take a total order \( \succ \) on \( \mathcal{L} \) extending the partial order \( \succ \), and a monomial of degree \( r \) in \( R(\mathcal{L}) \) will be written as \( x_{\tau_1} \ldots x_{\tau_r} \), with \( \tau_1 \geq \ldots \geq \tau_r \).

**Definition 6.3.** — A monomial \( x_{\tau_1} \ldots x_{\tau_r} \) of degree \( r \) is said to be standard on \( X(\mathcal{L}) \), if \( \tau_1 \geq \ldots \geq \tau_r \). Such a monomial is said to be standard on \( X_\theta \) if \( \theta \geq \tau_1 \geq \ldots \geq \tau_r \).

**Proposition 6.4.** — Standard monomials on \( X_\theta \) are linearly independent in \( R_\theta \).

**Proof.** — \( R_\theta \) being graded, it suffices to prove the linear independence of standard monomials of a given degree, say \( r \). We shall prove this by induction on \( l(\theta) \), and \( r \). If \( l(\theta) = 0 \), or \( r = 1 \), the result is clear. Let then \( l(\theta) \geq 1 \), \( r > 1 \), and let

\[
\sum_{i \in I} a_i F_i = 0, \quad a_i \in k^*
\]

be a linear relation, where \( F_i = x_{\tau_{i1}} \ldots x_{\tau_{ir}} \), \( \tau_{i1} \geq \ldots \geq \tau_{ir} \). If \( \tau_{i1} < \theta \) for some \( i \), then restricting (*) to \( X_{\tau_{i1}} \), we obtain (by induction hypothesis) that \( a_j = 0 \) for all \( j \) with \( \tau_{j1} \leq \tau_{i1} \) (note that \( F_j \mid_{X_{\tau_{i1}}} \) is either identically zero, or it remains standard on \( X_{\tau_{i1}} \)). Thus we may suppose that \( \tau_{i1} = \theta \) for all \( i \in I \). Now \( x_\theta \) can be cancelled out (since \( R_\theta \) is a domain), and the result follows by induction on \( r \). \( \square \)

**Proposition 6.5.** — Any monomial in \( R_\theta \) is standard.

**Proof.** — Let \( F = x_{\tau_1} \ldots x_{\tau_r} \). If there is an \( i \) such that \( \tau_i \not\geq \tau_{i+1} \), this implies \( \tau_i, \tau_{i+1} \) are non-comparable. Then, denoting \( \tau_i \lor \tau_{i+1}, \tau_i \land \tau_{i+1} \) by \( \lambda, \mu \) respectively, we have \( F = x_{\tau_1} \ldots x_{\lambda} x_{\mu} \ldots x_{\tau_r} \), and the new expression
Continuing this process, after a finite number of steps we arrive at a standard monomial expression of $F$ (since $\mathcal{L}$ is finite).

Combining Propositions 6.4 and 6.5, we obtain

**Theorem 6.6.** — Standard monomials on $X_\theta$ form a basis of $R_\theta$.

## 7. Cohen-Macaulayness of $R(\mathcal{L})$.

In this section we prove the Cohen-Macaulayness of $R(\mathcal{L})$ using deformation techniques. Let $S(\mathcal{L})$ denote the Stanley-Reisner algebra of $\mathcal{L}$, namely $k[\mathcal{L}]/\langle x_\alpha x_\beta \mid (\alpha, \beta) \in Q \rangle$ (recall that $Q = \{(\alpha, \beta) \mid \alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{L} \text{ noncomparable}\}$).

Recall the following (cf. [4]):

**Theorem 7.1.** — The ring $S(\mathcal{L})$ is Cohen-Macaulay.

We now construct a flat family over $k[t]$ whose general fiber is $R(\mathcal{L})$ and special fiber is $S(\mathcal{L})$. This construction is done in the same spirit as in [12].

### 7.2. We first assign positive integers $n_\tau, \tau \in \mathcal{L}$, in such a way that if $\tau > \tau'$, then $n_\tau > n_{\tau'}$ (for example we may take $n_\tau = l(\tau)$). We choose an integer $N$, and set $N_\tau = N^{l(\tau)}$. Then, since $\mathcal{L}$ is finite, we can choose $N$ sufficiently large so that for any diamond $D(\tau, \phi, \tau \lor \phi, \tau \land \phi)$,

$$N_{\tau \lor \phi} + N_{\tau \land \phi} > N_{\tau} + N_{\phi}.$$

**Theorem 7.3.** — There exists a flat family over $k[t]$ whose special fiber is $S(\mathcal{L})$ and general fiber is $R(\mathcal{L})$.

**Proof.** — For $\tau, \phi \in Q$, let $f_{\tau, \phi}$ be the element in $k[\mathcal{L}]$ given by

$$f_{\tau, \phi} = x_\tau x_\phi - x_{\tau \lor \phi} x_{\tau \land \phi}.$$  

Then $I(\mathcal{L}) = \langle f_{\tau, \phi} \mid (\tau, \phi) \in Q \rangle$. Let us denote $R(\mathcal{L}), S(\mathcal{L}), k[\mathcal{L}]$ by $R, S, P$ respectively. Let $A = k[t]$, and $P_A = A[x_\alpha, \alpha \in \mathcal{L}]$. For $(\tau, \phi) \in Q$, we define the element $f_{\tau, \phi, t}$ in $P_A$ as

$$f_{\tau, \phi, t} = x_\tau x_\phi - x_{\tau \lor \phi} x_{\tau \land \phi} t^{N_{\tau \lor \phi} + N_{\tau \land \phi} - N_{\tau} - N_{\phi}},$$

(note that $f_{\tau, \phi, t}$ is well defined, in view of the choice of $N_\alpha$'s).
Let \( \mathcal{I} \) be the ideal in \( P_A \) generated by \( \{ f_{\tau, \phi, t} \mid (\tau, \phi) \in Q \} \), and \( \mathcal{R} = P_A / \mathcal{I} \).

**Claim.** — (a) \( \mathcal{R} \) is \( k[t] \)-free.

(b) \( \mathcal{R} \otimes_{k[t]} k[t, t^{-1}] \cong R[t, t^{-1}] \).

(c) \( \mathcal{R} \otimes_{k[t]} k[t]/(t) \cong S \).

**Proof.** — We have

\[
\mathcal{R} \otimes_{k[t]} k[t]/(t) = P_A / (\mathcal{I} + (t)) = S.
\]

This proves (c). Let \( B = k[t, t^{-1}] \), and \( P_B = B[x_\alpha, \alpha \in \mathcal{L}] \). Let \( \tilde{\mathcal{I}} \) (resp. \( \tilde{\mathcal{I}} \)) be the ideal in \( P_B \) generated by \( \{ f_{\tau, \phi} \mid (\tau, \phi) \in Q \} \) (resp. \( \{ f_{\tau, \phi, t} \mid (\tau, \phi) \in Q \} \).

We have

(7) \( P_B / \tilde{\mathcal{I}} \cong R[t, t^{-1}] \)

(8) \( P_B / \tilde{\mathcal{I}} \cong \mathcal{R} \otimes_{k[t]} k[t, t^{-1}] \).

The automorphism

\[
P_B \cong P_B, \quad x_\alpha \mapsto t^{N_\alpha} x_\alpha
\]

induces an isomorphism

(9) \( P_B / \tilde{\mathcal{I}} \cong P_B / \tilde{\mathcal{I}} \).

From (7), (8), (9) we obtain (b). Finally, it remains to show (a). Let \( X_\alpha = \tilde{x}_\alpha \) (in \( \mathcal{R} = P_A / \mathcal{I} \)), \( f_\alpha = t^{N_\alpha} X_\alpha \) and

\[
\mathcal{M} = \{ f_{\alpha_1} \ldots f_{\alpha_r} \mid \alpha_1 \geq \ldots \geq \alpha_r, \ r \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \}.
\]

We shall now show that \( \mathcal{M} \) is a \( k[t] \)-basis for \( \mathcal{R} \). We first observe that \( \mathcal{M} \) is a \( k[t] \)-basis for \( \mathcal{R} \). We first observe that any monomial \( F = f_{\tau_1} \ldots f_{\tau_r} \) is in fact standard. In order to see this, let \( i \) be such that \( \tau_i \neq \tau_{i+1} \). Then using the relation

\[
X_{\tau_i} X_{\tau_{i+1}} = X_{\tau_i \vee \tau_{i+1}} X_{\tau_i \wedge \tau_{i+1}} t^{N_{\tau_i \vee \tau_{i+1}} + N_{\tau_i \wedge \tau_{i+1}} - N_{\tau_i} - N_{\tau_{i+1}}},
\]

we obtain \( F = f_{\tau_1} \ldots f_{\tau_{i-1}} f_{\tau_i \vee \tau_{i+1}} f_{\tau_i \wedge \tau_{i+1}} \ldots f_{\tau_r} \). Continuing thus, we find (as in the proof of Proposition 6.5) that at each step the expression for \( F \)
It remains to prove the linear independence of \( M \). Since standard monomials form a basis for \( R \) (cf. Theorem 6.6), we obtain (by base change), that \( M \) is a \( k[t, t^{-1}] \)-basis for \( R[t, t^{-1}] \). Denoting the isomorphism \( P_B/\mathcal{I} \cong R[t, t^{-1}] \) by \( \varphi \), we have \( \{ \varphi^{-1}(f_{\alpha_1} \cdots f_{\alpha_r}) \mid \alpha_1 \geq \ldots \geq \alpha_r, r \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \} \) is a \( k[t, t^{-1}] \)-basis for \( R[t^{-1}] \). For a monomial \( m = x_{\tau_1} \cdots x_{\tau_r} \) (in \( R[t, t^{-1}] \)), we have \( \varphi^{-1}(m) = t^{-N_m} X_{\tau_1} \cdots X_{\tau_r} \), where \( N_m = \sum_{i=1}^{r} N_{\tau_i} \). Hence we obtain \( \{ f_{\alpha_1} \cdots f_{\alpha_r} \mid \alpha_1 \geq \ldots \geq \alpha_r, r \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \} \) is a \( k[t, t^{-1}] \)-basis for \( R[t^{-1}] \) (since \( t^{-N_m} \) is a unit in \( k[t, t^{-1}] \)). In particular, we obtain that \( \{ f_{\alpha_1} \cdots f_{\alpha_r} \mid \alpha_1 \geq \ldots \geq \alpha_r, r \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \} \) is linearly independent over \( k[t, t^{-1}] \), and hence over \( k[t] \). \( \square \)

Combining Theorems 7.1 and 7.3, we obtain

**Theorem 7.4.** — The ring \( R(\mathcal{L}) \) is Cohen-Macaulay.

### 8. The distributive lattice \( I_{d,n} \) and the variety \( X_{d,n} \)

Let

\[
I_{d,n} = \{ \tau = (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \mid 1 \leq i_1 < \ldots < i_d \leq n \}.
\]

We consider the partial order \( \geq \) on \( I_{d,n} \) given by

\[
(i_1, \ldots, i_d) \geq (j_1, \ldots, j_d) \iff i_1 \geq j_1, \ldots, i_d \geq j_d.
\]

For \( \tau \in I_{d,n} \), we denote the \( j \)-th entry in \( \tau \) by \( \tau(j) \), \( 1 \leq j \leq d \).

**Proposition 8.1.** — \( (I_{d,n}, \geq) \) is a distributive lattice.

**Proof.** — Let \( \tau, \phi \in I_{d,n} \), say \( \tau = (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \), \( \phi = (j_1, \ldots, j_d) \). Let \( k_t = \max\{i_t, j_t\} \), \( l_t = \min\{i_t, j_t\} \), \( 1 \leq t \leq d \). Then it is easily checked that \( \tau \vee \phi = (k_1, \ldots, k_d) \), \( \tau \wedge \phi = (l_1, \ldots, l_d) \), and that \( (I_{d,n}, \geq) \) is a distributive lattice. \( \square \)

For the rest of this section, the lattice \( I_{d,n} \) will be denoted by simply \( \mathcal{L} \), and we use the notations introduced in Section 5.
In the discussion below, by a segment we shall mean a set consisting of consecutive integers.

**Lemma 8.2.** — We have

(a) The element \( \tau = (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \) is join-irreducible if and only if either \( \tau \) is a segment, or \( \tau \) consists of two disjoint segments \((\mu, \nu)\), with \( \mu \) starting with 1.

(b) The element \( \tau = (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \) is meet-irreducible if and only if either \( \tau \) is a segment, or \( \tau \) consists of two disjoint segments \((\mu, \nu)\), with \( \nu \) ending with \( n \).

(c) The element \( \tau = (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \) is join-irreducible and meet-irreducible if and only if either \( \tau \) is a segment, or \( \tau \) consists of two disjoint segments \((\mu, \nu)\), with \( \mu \) starting with 1 and \( \nu \) ending with \( n \).

**Proof.** — We first observe that \((i_1, \ldots, i_d)\) is join-irreducible if and only if \((n+1-i_d, \ldots, n+1-i_1)\) is meet-irreducible. Thus it suffice to prove part (a). It is easily seen that \( \tau = (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \) is a cover for \((j_1, \ldots, j_d) \in \mathcal{L} \) if and only if \( \{j_1, \ldots, j_d\} \) is obtained from \((i_1, \ldots, i_d)\) by replacing \( i_t \) by \( i_t - 1 \) for precisely one \( t \), and this proves (a). Part (c) follows from (a) and (b). \( \square \)

8.3. For a join-irreducible or meet-irreducible element \( \tau \in \mathcal{L} \) we say that \( \tau \) is of Type I (resp. Type II) if \( \tau \) consists of just one segment (resp. two disjoint segments), as in the description given by Lemma 8.2. We denote by \( J_{\mathcal{L}}^{(I)} \), \( J_{\mathcal{L}}^{(II)} \) (resp. \( J_{\mathcal{L}}^{(II)} \), \( J_{\mathcal{L}}^{(III)} \)) respectively the set of elements of \( J_{\mathcal{L}} \), \( J_{\mathcal{L}} \) of Type I (resp. Type II). Note that

\[
J_{\mathcal{L}}^{(I)} = \{(i+1, \ldots, i+d) \mid 0 \leq i \leq n-d\},
\]

and

\[
J_{\mathcal{L}}^{(II)} = \{(1, \ldots, j, n+j+1-d, \ldots, n) \mid 1 \leq j \leq d-1\}.
\]

For \( \tau_i = (i+1, \ldots, i+d) \in J_{\mathcal{L}}^{(I)} \) and \( \phi_j = (1, \ldots, j, n+j+1-d, \ldots, n) \in J_{\mathcal{L}}^{(II)} \), let \( \lambda_{ij} = \tau_i \lor \phi_j \), \( \mu_{ij} = \tau_i \land \phi_j \). Note that \( \tau_0 = \hat{0} \) and \( \tau_{n-d} = \hat{1} \). Clearly,

\[
\lambda_{ij} = (i+1, \ldots, i+j, n+1+j-d, \ldots, n), \quad \mu_{ij} = (1, \ldots, j, i+j+1, \ldots, i+d).
\]

In the sequel, \( X_{d,n} \) will denote the variety \( X(\mathcal{L}) \), for \( \mathcal{L} = I_{d,n} \).
9. The irreducible components of $X_{d,n} \setminus X_{d,n}^\circ$.

We preserve the notations of Section 8. As in Section 4, let $X_{d,n}^\circ = \{(x_1, \ldots, x_N) \in X_{d,n} \mid x_i \neq 0 \text{ for all } i\}$.

**Lemma 9.1.** — Let $\theta \in J_L \setminus JM_L$, say $\theta = (1, \ldots, j, t+1, \ldots, t+d-j)$, where $j < t < n + j - d$. Then $\theta = \mu_{ij}$, where $i = t - j$.

The result follows from the definition of $\mu_{ij}$ (note that $0 < i < n - d$).

9.2. Let

$$L_i^{(r)} = \{\tau \in L \mid \tau(r) \neq i + r\}$$

where $0 \leq i \leq n - d$, and $1 \leq r \leq d$.

**Proposition 9.3.** — With notations as above, $L_i^{(r)}$ is an embedded sublattice of $L$.

**Proof.** — Let $\gamma, \delta \in L_i^{(r)}$. Then clearly $\gamma \vee \delta, \gamma \wedge \delta \in L_i^{(r)}$. Similarly, if $\gamma, \delta \in L$ are such $\gamma \vee \delta, \gamma \wedge \delta \in L_i^{(r)}$, again it is clear that $\gamma, \delta \in L_i^{(r)}$. □

**Proposition 9.4.** — Let notations be as above. For $0 \leq i \leq n - d$, let

$$Y_i = X_{d,n} \cap \{x_{r_i} = 0\}.$$

Then

(1) $Y_0$ and $Y_{n-d}$ are irreducible,

(2) the irreducible components of $Y_i$, $1 \leq i \leq n - d - 1$, are precisely $X(L_i^{(r)})$, $1 \leq r \leq d$.

**Proof.** — In order to prove (1), it is enough to observe that $Y_0 = X(L \setminus \{\bar{0}\})$, $Y_{n-d} = X(L \setminus \{\bar{1}\})$. Now we prove (2). We have, in view of Propositions 5.16 and 9.3, that $X(L_i^{(r)})$, $1 \leq r \leq d$ is an irreducible subvariety of $X(L)$. Also $X(L_i^{(r)}) \subset Y_i$ (since $\tau_i \notin L_i^{(r)}$).

Let now $Z \subset Y_i$, $Z$ irreducible. Let $\eta$ be the generic point of $Z$. Let $\tau \in L$, $\tau \neq \tau_i$ such that $\eta_\tau = 0$ (note that, since $\eta_{r_i} = 0$, for at least one $\tau \in L$, $\tau \neq \tau_i$, $\eta_\tau = 0$).

**Claim.** — $\tau \in L_i^{(r)}$, for some $r$, $1 \leq r \leq d$. 

Proof. — Assume that $\tau \not\in L_i^{(r)}$, for all $1 \leq r \leq d$. This implies $\tau(r) = i + r$ for all $1 \leq r \leq d$. But this implies that $\tau = \tau_i$, contradicting the choice of $\tau$. Hence our assumption is wrong, and the claim follows.

Now the claim implies that $\eta \in X(L_i^{(r)})$, for some $r$, $1 \leq r \leq d$, and hence $Z \subset X(L_i^{(r)})$.

\[ \text{Corollary 9.5.} \quad \text{The subvariety } X(L_i^{(r)}), 1 \leq i \leq n - d - 1, 1 \leq r \leq d, \text{ of } X_{d,n}, \text{ has codimension 1.} \]

9.6. We next determine the irreducible components of $X_{d,n} \cap \{ x_\phi = 0 \}$, for $\phi \in JM_E$ of Type II. Let

$\phi = \phi_j = (1, \ldots, j, n + 1 + j - d, \ldots, n)$,

where $1 \leq j \leq d - 1$. Fix $r$, with $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$, and let

$L_{j,r} = \{ \tau \in L \mid \text{either } \tau(j + 1) \leq r \text{ or } \tau(j) \geq r \}$.

\[ \text{Proposition 9.7.} \quad \text{With notations as above, } L_{j,r} \text{ is an embedded sublattice of } L. \]

Proof. — Let $\gamma, \delta \in L_{j,r}$. Then either $\gamma(j) \geq r$, or $\gamma(j + 1) \leq r$, and $\delta(j) \geq r$, or $\delta(j + 1) \leq r$.

Claim. — $\gamma \lor \delta, \gamma \land \delta \in L_{j,r}$.

Proof. — We distinguish four cases.

Case 1: $\gamma(j) \geq r$, $\delta(j) \geq r$

This implies that $(\gamma \lor \delta)(j) \geq r$, $(\gamma \land \delta)(j) \geq r$, and hence $\gamma \lor \delta, \gamma \land \delta \in L_{j,r}$.

Case 2: $\gamma(j) \geq r$, $\delta(j + 1) \leq r$

This implies that $(\gamma \lor \delta)(j) \geq r$, $(\gamma \land \delta)(j + 1) \leq r$, and hence $\gamma \lor \delta, \gamma \land \delta \in L_{j,r}$.

Case 3: $\gamma(j + 1) \leq r$, $\delta(j) \geq r$

This is similar to the previous case.

Case 4: $\gamma(j + 1) \leq r$, $\delta(j + 1) \leq r$

In this case, $(\gamma \lor \delta)(j + 1) \leq r$, $(\gamma \land \delta)(j + 1) \leq r$, and hence $\gamma \lor \delta, \gamma \land \delta \in L_{j,r}$.
CLAIM. — Let $\gamma$, $\delta$ be two noncomparable elements of $\mathcal{L}$ such that $\gamma \lor \delta, \gamma \land \delta \in \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$. Then $\gamma, \delta \in \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$.

Proof. — Here, we distinguish three cases.

Case 1: $(\gamma \land \delta)(j) \geq r$
This implies $\gamma(j) \geq r$, $\delta(j) \geq r$. Hence $\gamma, \delta \in \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$.

Case 2: $(\gamma \lor \delta)(j + 1) \leq r$
This implies $\gamma(j + 1) \leq r$, $\delta(j + 1) \leq r$. Hence $\gamma, \delta \in \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$.

Case 3: $(\gamma \lor \delta)(j) \geq r$, $(\gamma \land \delta)(j + 1) \leq r$.

Now $(\gamma \lor \delta)(j) \geq r$ implies that at least one of $\{\gamma(j), \delta(j)\}$ is $\geq r$. Assume that $\gamma(j) \geq r$. This implies $\gamma(j + 1) \geq r + 1$, and hence $\delta(j + 1) \leq r$ (since $(\gamma \land \delta)(j + 1) \leq r$). Thus, $\gamma(j) \geq r$, and $\delta(j + 1) \leq r$. Hence $\gamma, \delta \in \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$.

The above two claims show that $\mathcal{L}_{j,r}$ is an embedded sublattice.

PROPOSITION 9.8. — Let notations be as above. For $1 \leq j \leq d - 1$, let
\[ Y_j = X_{d,n} \cap \{x_{\phi_j} = 0\}. \]
Then the irreducible components of $Y_j$ are precisely $X(\mathcal{L}_{j,r})$, $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$.

Proof. — We have, in view of Propositions 5.16 and 9.7, that $X(\mathcal{L}_{j,r})$ is an irreducible subvariety of $X(\mathcal{L})$. Also $X(\mathcal{L}_{j,r}) \subset Y_j$ (since $\phi_j \notin \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$).

Let now $Z \subset Y_j$, $Z$ irreducible. Let $\eta$ be the generic point of $Z$. Consider an element $\tau \in \mathcal{L}$, $\tau \neq \phi_j$ such that $\eta_\tau = 0$ (note that, since $\eta_{\phi_j} = 0$, for at least one $\tau \in \mathcal{L}$, $\tau \neq \phi_j$, $\eta_\tau = 0$).

CLAIM. — $\tau \in \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$, for some $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$.

Proof. — Assume that $\tau \notin \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$, for all $j + 1 \leq r \leq r + j - d$. Then for $r = j + 1$, we have $\tau(j) < j + 1$. Hence we obtain $\tau(j) = j$. Similarly, for $r = n + j - d$, we have $\tau(j + 1) > n + j - d$. Hence $\tau(j + 1) = n + 1 + j - d$ (note that $\tau(j + 1) \leq n + 1 + j - d$ for any $\tau \in \mathcal{L}$). Thus we obtain that $\tau = (1, \ldots, j, n + 1 + j - d, \ldots, n)$, i.e. $\tau = \phi_j$, which is not true, by our choice of $\tau$. Hence our assumption is wrong, and the claim follows.

Now, the claim implies that $\eta \in X(\mathcal{L}_{j,r})$, for some $r$, with $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$, and hence $Z \subset X(\mathcal{L}_{j,r})$, for some $r$, with $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$. 

\[ \square \]
Corollary 9.9. — The subvariety $X(\mathcal{L}_{r,j})$, $1 \leq j \leq d - 1$, $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$, of $X_{d,n}$, has codimension 1.

Proposition 9.10. — The irreducible components of $X_{d,n} \setminus X_{d,n}^\circ$ are precisely the subvarieties $X(\mathcal{L}^{(r)}_i)$, $1 \leq i \leq n - d - 1$, $1 \leq r \leq d$, $X(\mathcal{L}_{j,r})$, $1 \leq j \leq d - 1$, $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$, and $X(\mathcal{L} \setminus \{0\})$, $X(\mathcal{L} \setminus \{\hat{1}\})$.

Proof. — Let $Z \subset X_{d,n} \setminus X_{d,n}^\circ$, $Z$ irreducible, and let $\eta$ be the generic point of $Z$. In view of Propositions 9.4 and 9.8, it is enough to show that there exists a $\tau \in JM_{E}$ such that $\eta_r = 0$.

Assume that $\eta_r \neq 0$, for any $\tau \in JM_{E}$. Let $\theta \in J_{E} \setminus JM_{E}$. Then $\theta$ is a Type I join-irreducible element of $E$. Let

$$\theta = (1, \ldots, j, t + 1, \ldots, t + d - j).$$

We have $\theta = \mu_{ij}$, where $i = t - j$ (cf. Lemma 9.1). Thus $\theta = \tau_i \land \phi_j$, and hence our assumption implies that $\eta_\theta \neq 0$. This, together with our assumption, implies that $\eta_\delta \neq 0$, for any $\delta \in J_{E}$. This implies $\eta \in X_{d,n}^\circ$ (cf. Lemma 5.14), which is not true. Hence our assumption is wrong.

Lemma 9.11. — We have

(a) for $1 \leq i \leq n - d - 1$, $JM_{E} \setminus \{\tau_i\} \subset \mathcal{L}^{(r)}_i$ for all $r$, $1 \leq r \leq d$, where $\tau_i = (i + 1, \ldots, i + d),$

(b) for $1 \leq j \leq d - 1$, $JM_{E} \setminus \{\phi_j\} \subset \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$, for all $r$, $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$, where $\phi_j = (1, \ldots, j, n + j + 1 - d, \ldots, i + d)$.

Proof. — (a) Fix $r$, $1 \leq r \leq d$. Let $\theta \in JM_{E}$. First, let $\theta$ be of Type I, say $\theta = (j + 1, \ldots, j + d)$, where $j \neq i$. Then, clearly, $\theta \in \mathcal{L}^{(r)}_i$. Now let $\theta$ be of Type II, say $\theta = (1, \ldots, j, n + 1 + j - d, \ldots, n)$. Then $\theta(r) = r$ if $r \leq j$, and $\theta(r) = n - d + r$ if $r > j$. In either case, it is clear that $\theta \in \mathcal{L}^{(r)}_i$ for all $r$.

(b) Fix $r$, $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$. Let $\theta \in JM_{E}$. First, let $\theta$ be of Type I, say $\theta = (i + 1, i + 2, \ldots, i + d)$. We have $\theta(j) = i + j$, $\theta(j + 1) = i + j + 1$. Hence $\theta(j) \geq r$, if $i + j \geq r$, and $\theta(j + 1) \leq r$, if $i + j + 1 \leq r$. Thus $\theta \in \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$.

Now let $\theta$ be of Type II, say $\theta = (1, \ldots, s, n + 1 + s - d, \ldots, n)$. If $j < s$, then $\theta(j + 1) = j + 1 \leq r$, and hence $\theta \in \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$. If $j \geq s$, then $\theta(j) = n - d + j$, and $\theta(j + 1) = n - d + j + 1$. Hence either $n - d + j + 1 \leq r$, or $n - d + j \geq r$. Thus $\theta \in \mathcal{L}_{j,r}$. 

\[\Box\]
PROPOSITION 9.12. — Let $Y$ be an irreducible component of $X_{d,n} \setminus X_{d,n}^2$. Let $P$ be the generic point of $Y$. Then $P_r = 0$, for precisely one element $r \in JM_L$.

Proof. — If $Y$ is equal to $X(L \setminus \{0\})$ or $X(L \setminus \{1\})$ (cf. Proposition 9.10), the assertion is obvious. For the other components the result follows from Proposition 9.10, and Lemma 9.11. \hfill $\square$

10. Normality of $X_{d,n}$

In this section we prove that the variety $X_{d,n}$ is normal. We already know that $X_{d,n}$ is Cohen-Macaulay (cf. Section 7), and in view of Serre Criterion, it suffices to show that $X_{d,n}$ is nonsingular in codimension 1. In view of Proposition 9.10, it is enough to prove that generic points of $X(L \setminus \{0\})$, $X(L \setminus \{1\})$, $X(L_i^{(r)})$, $1 \leq i \leq n - d - 1$, $1 \leq r \leq d$, $X(L_{j,r})$, $1 \leq j \leq d - 1$, $j + 1 \leq r \leq n + j - d$ are smooth points. We prove this using the Jacobian Criterion.

Let $J$ be the Jacobian matrix of $X_{d,n}$, where the rows of $J$ are indexed by

$$\{ f_{\tau,\phi} = x_{\tau}x_{\phi} - x_{\tau \wedge \phi}x_{\tau \vee \phi} \mid \tau, \phi \in L \text{ noncomparable} \},$$

and the columns are indexed by $\{ x_{\theta} \mid \theta \in L \}$. For simplicity, sometimes we consider the rows being indexed by the diamonds in $L$, and the columns being indexed by just the elements of $L$.

Recall that for any $P \in X_{d,n}$, if $J_P$ is the Jacobian matrix evaluated at $P$, then $\text{rank } J_P \leq \text{codim } \mathbb{A}(L) X_{d,n}$, with equality if and only if $P$ is a smooth point.

PROPOSITION 10.1. — Let $P \in X_{d,n}$ be such that $P_r \neq 0$ for all $r \in JM_L^{(d)} \setminus \{\tau_0, \tau_{n-d}\}$. Then $P$ is a smooth point.

Proof. — Let $J_P$ be the Jacobian matrix evaluated at $P$. We shall now exhibit a submatrix of $J_P$ of maximal rank, equal to

$$\text{codim } \mathbb{A}(L) X_{d,n} = \binom{n}{d} - d(n - d) - 1.$$  

For each $i$, $2 \leq i \leq n - d$, let

$$Z_i = \{ \theta \in L \mid \theta(d) = i + d \} \setminus \{ \tau_{ij}, 0 \leq j \leq d - 1 \},$$
where for $0 \leq j \leq d - 1$,

$$\tau_{ij} = (i, i + 1, \ldots, i + j - 1, i + j + 1, i + j + 2, \ldots, i + d)$$

(note that $\tau_{i-1} < \tau_{id-1} < \ldots < \tau_{i0} = \tau_i$, where $\tau_{i-1} = (i, i + 1, \ldots, i + d - 1)$ and $\tau_i = (i + 1, i + 2, \ldots, i + d)$, as defined in Section 8).

Now, $\tau_{ij}, 0 \leq j \leq d - 1$ are precisely the elements with the properties $\tau_{ij}(d) = i + d$, and $\tau_{ij} > \tau_{i-1}$. Hence $\tau_{i-1}$ is not comparable with any $\theta$ in $Z_i$. Now, for each $\theta \in Z_i$, we associate the row indexed by $f_{\tau_{i-1}, \theta}$. We consider the submatrix $J'$ of $J_{P'}$ with columns indexed by $\{\theta \in Z_i \mid 2 \leq i \leq n - d\}$, and rows indexed by $\{f_{\tau_{i-1}, \theta} \mid \theta \in Z_i, 2 \leq i \leq n - d\}$. Then $J'$ is a square matrix, of size equal to $\sum_{i=2}^{n-d} \#Z_i$ (note that the $Z_i$'s are disjoint). Now the set $\{\theta \in L \mid \theta(d) = i + d\}$ is in bijection with $I_{d-1, \{1, \ldots, i+d-1\}}$ (here, for $r < s$, $I_{r, \{n_1, \ldots, n_s\}}$ denotes the set of all $r$-tuples $\underline{i} = (i_1, \ldots, i_r)$, where $i_1 < \ldots < i_r$, and $\{i_1, \ldots, i_r\} \subset \{n_1, \ldots, n_s\}$). Hence

$$\#Z_i = \binom{n-d}{d-1} - d,$$

and

$$\# \bigcup_{i=2}^{n-d} Z_i = \sum_{i=2}^{n-d} \left[ \binom{n-d}{d-1} - d \right] = \binom{n}{d} - \binom{d}{d-1} - 1 - d(n - d - 1)$$

(note that $\sum_{j=1}^{m-r+1} \binom{m-j}{r-1} = \binom{m}{r}$).

Now, a typical row in $J'$ is indexed by

$$f_{\tau_{i-1}, \theta} = x_{\tau_{i-1}} x_\theta - x_{\tau_{i-1} \wedge \theta} x_{\tau_{i-1} \vee \theta},$$

where $\theta \in Z_i$. The only variable appearing in $f_{\tau_{i-1}, \theta}$, which is an index for a column of $J'$, is $x_\theta$. Further, the entry in $J'$ in the row indexed by $f_{\tau_{i-1}, \theta}$ and column indexed by $x_\theta$ is nonzero (by hypothesis). Thus, $J'$ is a diagonal matrix, with nonzero diagonal entries. Hence $J'$ has rank equal to its size, which is

$$\binom{n}{d} - d(n - d) - 1 = \text{codim}_{A(L)} X_{d,n}.$$

Thus we obtain that $P$ is a smooth point of $X_{d,n}$. \qed
**Proposition 10.2.** — Let $P \in X_{d,n}$ be such that $P_\tau \neq 0$, for all $\tau \in JM^{(1)}_\mathcal{L}$. Then $P$ is a smooth point of $X_{d,n}$.

**Proof.** — Let $J_P$ be the Jacobian matrix evaluated at $P$. We shall now exhibit a submatrix of $J_P$ of maximal rank. Fix $r$ and $i$, $1 \leq r \leq d-1$, $r+1 \leq i \leq n-d+r-1$. Set

$$Z_{r}^{(i)} = \{ \theta \in \mathcal{L} | \theta(r) = i, \text{ and } \theta(t) = t, \text{ for } t < r \} \setminus \{ \theta_i \},$$

where $\theta_i = (1, \ldots, r-1, i, n+r-d+1, \ldots, n)$. Let

$$Z_r = \bigcup_{i=r+1}^{n-d+r-1} Z_{r}^{(i)}.$$

Then

$$\bigcup_{s \leq r} Z_s = \{ \tau \in \mathcal{L} | \tau \text{ and } \phi_r \text{ are noncomparable} \},$$

where $\phi_r = (1, \ldots, r, n+r-d+1, \ldots, n)$, $1 \leq r \leq d-1$, as defined in Section 8. Let $J'$ be the submatrix of $J_P$ with columns indexed by $\{ \theta \in Z_r | 1 \leq r \leq d-1 \}$, and rows indexed by $\{ f_{\phi_r, \theta} | \theta \in Z_r, 1 \leq r \leq d-1 \}$. Then $J'$ is a square matrix of size equal to $\sum_{r=1}^{d-1} \#Z_r$ (note that the $Z_r$'s are disjoint). Now, $\{ \theta \in \mathcal{L} | \theta(r) = i, \text{ and } \theta(t) = t, \text{ for } t < r \}$ is in bijection with $I_{d-r, \{i+1, \ldots, n\}}$. Hence

$$\#Z_{r}^{(i)} = \binom{n-i}{d-r} - 1,$$

and

$$\#Z_r = \sum_{i=r+1}^{n-d+r-1} \left[ \binom{n-i}{d-r} - 1 \right] = \binom{n-r}{d-r+1} - 1 - (n-d-1)$$

$$= \binom{n-r}{d-r+1} - (n-d) = \binom{n-r}{n-d-1} - (n-d).$$
Hence the size of $J'$ is equal to
\[
\sum_{r=1}^{d-1} \left[ \binom{n-r}{n-d-1} - (n-d) \right] = \binom{n}{n-d} - \binom{n-d}{n-d-1} - 1 - (d-1)(n-d) = \binom{n}{d} - (d(n-d) - 1 - (d-1)(n-d) = \binom{n}{d} - d(n-d) - 1.
\]

As in the proof of Proposition 10.1, we find that $J'$ is a diagonal matrix, with nonzero diagonal entries. Hence the rank of $J'$ is equal to its size, which is
\[
\binom{n}{d} - d(n-d) - 1 = \text{codim}_{A(\mathcal{L})} X_{d,n}.
\]
Thus $P$ is a smooth point of $X_{d,n}$. \qed

**Proposition 10.3.** — The variety $X_{d,n}$ is nonsingular in codimension 1.

**Proof.** — Let $Y$ be an irreducible component of $X_{d,n} \setminus X_{d,n}^\circ$. Let $P$ be the generic point of $Y$. Then, by Proposition 9.10 and Lemma 9.11, $P_{\tau} = 0$ for precisely one element $\tau \in JM_{\mathcal{L}}$. Hence the result follows from Propositions 10.1 and 10.2. \qed

Proposition 10.3 and Theorem 7.4 yield the following

**Theorem 10.4.** — The variety $X_{d,n}$ is a normal toric variety.

10.5. Let $A_{d,n}$ denote the homogeneous coordinate ring of $G_{d,n}$ (the Grassmannian of $d$-planes in $k^n$) for the Plücker embedding. We recall (cf. [12]):

**Theorem 10.6.** — There exists a flat family whose general fiber is $A_{d,n}$, and whose special fiber is $R(I_{d,n})$.

**Remark 10.7.** — The above result is also proved in [26] using SAGBI (Subalgebra Analog to Groebner Bases for Ideals) theory.

Combining Theorems 10.4 and 10.6, we obtain
Theorem 10.8. — The Grassmannian $G_{d,n}$ degenerates to the normal toric variety $X_{d,n}$.

11. A conjecture on the singular locus of $X_{d,n}$.

In this section we prove a partial result towards the determination of the singular locus of $X_{d,n}$. We also state a conjecture on the singular locus of $X_{d,n}$.

We assume that $n \geq 4$ (note that for $n \leq 3$, $X_{d,n}$ is smooth). Let notations be as in Section 8. Let $L_{ij} = L \setminus \{\mu_{ij}, \lambda_{ij}\}$, $0 \leq i \leq n-d$, $1 \leq j \leq d-1$.

Lemma 11.1. — Let $i = 0$, and $1 \leq j \leq d-1$. Then $L_{0j}$ is an embedded sublattice. Further, $JM^{(l)} \setminus \{\tau_0\} \subset L_{0j}$.

Proof. — We have $\tau_0 = (1, \ldots, d)$, $\phi_j = (1, \ldots, j, n+1+j-d, \ldots, n)$, and hence $\mu_{0j} = \tau_0$, and $\lambda_{ij} = \phi_j$. Hence $\theta \in [\tau_0, \phi_j]$ if and only if $\theta(t) = t$, for $1 \leq t \leq j$. Therefore $\theta \in L_{0j}$ if and only if $\theta(t) \neq t$, for some $1 \leq t \leq j$. Let $\gamma, \delta$ be two noncomparable elements in $L_{0j}$. Let $t_1, t_2 \leq j$ be such that $\gamma(t_1) \neq t_1$, $\delta(t_2) \neq t_2$. Then, letting $t = \max(t_1, t_2)$, we have $\gamma \lor \delta(t) \neq t$, $\gamma \land \delta(t) \neq t$. Thus $\gamma \lor \delta, \gamma \land \delta \in L_{0j}$.

Let now $\gamma, \delta$ be two noncomparable elements of $L$ such that $\gamma \lor \delta, \gamma \land \delta \in L_{0j}$. Let $t \leq j$ be such that $\gamma \land \delta(t) \neq t$. This implies $\gamma \lor \delta(t) \neq t$. Then, clearly $\gamma(t) \neq t$, $\delta(t) \neq t$. Thus $\gamma, \delta \in L_{0j}$. Thus we obtain that $L_{0j}$ is an embedded sublattice. Let $\tau \in JM^{(l)} \setminus \{\tau_0\}$, say $\tau = (i+1, \ldots, i+d)$, where $i \geq 1$. Then clearly $\tau \in L_{0j}$ (note for example that $\tau(1) \neq 1$). □

Corollary 11.2. — Let $P$ be the generic point of $X(L_{0j})$. Then $P$ is a smooth point of $L$.

Proof. — We have $P_{\tau} \neq 0$, for $\tau \in JM^{(l)} \setminus \{\tau_0\}$. Hence the result follows from Proposition 10.1. □

Lemma 11.3. — Let $i = n-d$, and $1 \leq j \leq d-1$. Then $L_{n-dj}$ is an embedded sublattice. Further, $JM^{(l)} \setminus \{\tau_{n-d}\} \subset L_{n-dj}$.

Corollary 11.4. — Let $P$ be the generic point of $X(L_{n-dj})$. Then $P$ is a smooth point of $L$. 
The proofs of Lemma 11.3, and Corollary 11.4 are similar to those of Lemma 11.1, and Corollary 11.2 respectively.

**Lemma 11.5.** - Let $1 \leq i \leq n - d - 1$, $1 \leq j \leq d - 1$. Then $\mathcal{L}_{ij}$ is an embedded sublattice, and

$$\text{codim}_{A(\mathcal{L}_{ij})} X(\mathcal{L}_{ij}) < \text{codim}_{A(\mathcal{L})} X(\mathcal{L}).$$

**Proof.** — For $\theta \in \mathcal{L}$ we have

$$\theta \in [\mu_{ij}, \lambda_{ij}] \iff \theta(j) \leq i + j, \text{ and } \theta(j + 1) \geq i + j + 1$$

(here, by $\theta(j)$, we mean the $j$-th entry in the $d$-tuple $\theta$). Let $\gamma, \delta$ two noncomparable elements in $\mathcal{L}_{ij}$. We have either $\gamma(j) \geq i + j + 1$, or $\gamma(j + 1) \leq i + j$. Similarly, we have either $\delta(j) \geq i + j + 1$, or $\delta(j + 1) \leq i + j$.

**Claim.** — $\gamma \vee \delta, \gamma \wedge \delta \in \mathcal{L}_{ij}$.

The proof is the same as in the proof of the first claim in Proposition 9.7.

**Claim.** — Let $\gamma, \delta$ be two noncomparable elements of $\mathcal{L}$ such that $\gamma \vee \delta, \gamma \wedge \delta \in \mathcal{L}_{ij}$. Then $\gamma, \delta \in \mathcal{L}_{ij}$.

The proof is the same as in the proof of the second claim in Proposition 9.7.

The above two claims show that $\mathcal{L}_{ij}$ is an embedded sublattice. It remains to prove the inequality

$$\text{codim}_{A(\mathcal{L}_{ij})} X(\mathcal{L}_{ij}) < \text{codim}_{A(\mathcal{L})} X(\mathcal{L}).$$

If $\theta = (k + 1, \ldots, k + d) \in J^{(l)}_\mathcal{L}$, $k \neq i$, is a join-irreducible element of Type I distinct from $\tau_i$, then $\theta(j) = k + j \geq i + j + 1$, if $k \geq i + 1$, and $\theta(j + 1) = k + j + 1 \leq i + j$, if $k \leq i - 1$. Further, the unique element $\theta'$ of $\mathcal{L}$ such that $(\theta, \theta')$ is a cover in $\mathcal{L}$ is given by $\theta' = (k, k + 2, \ldots, k + d)$. It is easily seen that if either $k \neq i + 1$, or $j \neq 1$ then $\theta' \in \mathcal{L}_{ij}$, and is the unique element of $\mathcal{L}_{ij}$ such that $(\theta, \theta')$ is a cover in $\mathcal{L}_{ij}$. Let then $k = i + 1$, and $j = 1$. In this case, we observe that if $\delta = (i, i + 1, i + 4, \ldots, i + d + 1)$, then $\delta \in \mathcal{L}_{ij}$, and $\delta$ is the unique element of $\mathcal{L}_{ij}$ such that $(\theta, \delta)$ is a cover in $\mathcal{L}_{ij}$ (note that $[\delta, \theta] \cap \mathcal{L}_{ij} = \{\delta, \theta\}$). Thus $\theta \in J^{(l)}_{\mathcal{L}_{ij}}$. 

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Let now \( \theta = (1, \ldots, s, t+1, \ldots, t+d-s) \in J_{\ell}^{(II)} \), where \( t \neq n+j-d \), if \( s = j \), be a join-irreducible element of Type II distinct from \( \phi_j \). We distinguish three cases.

**Case 1: \( s < j \)**

We have \( \theta(j) = t+j-s, \theta(j+1) = t+j+1-s \). Hence, if \( t-s \geq i+1 \), then \( \theta(j) \geq i+j+1 \), and \( \theta \in L_{ij} \). If \( t-s \leq i-1 \), then \( \theta(j+1) \leq i+j \), and \( \theta \in L_{ij} \). Further, the unique element \( \theta' \) of \( \mathcal{L} \) such that \( (\theta, \theta') \) is a cover in \( \mathcal{L} \) is given by \( \theta' = (1, \ldots, s, t, t+2, \ldots, t+d) \). It is easily seen that \( \theta' \in L_{ij} \), and is the unique element of \( L_{ij} \) such that \( (\theta, \theta') \) is a cover, except when \( s+1 = j \), and \( t-s = i+1 \). Thus \( \theta \in J_{L_{ij}} \), except when \( s+1 = j \), and \( t-s = i+1 \). In this case, we observe that if \( \delta = (1, \ldots, s, t+s, t+s+1, \ldots, t+d-j) \), then \( \delta \in L_{ij} \), and is the unique element of \( L_{ij} \) such that \( (\theta, \delta) \) is a cover in \( L_{ij} \). Thus \( \theta \in J_{L_{ij}} \).

**Case 2: \( s = j \)**

We have \( \theta(j) = j, \theta(j+1) = t+1 \). Hence, if \( \theta(j+1) \leq i+j \), i.e. \( t \leq i+j-1 \), then \( \theta \in L_{ij} \). Further, the unique element \( \theta' \) of \( \mathcal{L} \) such that \( (\theta, \theta') \) is a cover in \( \mathcal{L} \) (namely \( \theta' = (1, \ldots, j, t, t+2, \ldots, t+d-j) \)) also belongs to \( L_{ij} \), and is the unique element of \( L_{ij} \) such that \( (\theta, \theta') \) is a cover in \( L_{ij} \). Hence \( \theta \in J_{L_{ij}} \).

**Case 3: \( s > j \)**

We have \( s \geq j+1 \), and hence \( \theta(j+1) = j+1 \leq i+j \). Hence \( \theta \in L_{ij} \). As in Case 2, if \( \theta' \) is the unique element of \( \mathcal{L} \) such that \( (\theta, \theta') \) is a cover in \( \mathcal{L} \), then \( \theta' \in L_{ij} \), and is the unique element of \( L_{ij} \) such that \( (\theta, \theta') \) is a cover in \( L_{ij} \). Hence \( \theta \in J_{L_{ij}} \).

From above, we have

\[ \#J_{L_{ij}} \geq \#J_{\ell} - (n-d-i+j+1). \]

On the other hand, we have

\[ \#\mathcal{L} - \#L_{ij} = \#[\mu_{ij}, \lambda_{ij}] = \binom{i+j}{j} \binom{n-i-j}{d-j}. \]

It can be seen easily (by assuming \( d \leq [n/2] \), since \( I_{d,n} \) is isomorphic to \( I_{n-d,n} \)) that

\[ \binom{i+j}{j} \binom{n-i-j}{d-j} > n-d-i+j+1, \]

i.e.

\[ \#\mathcal{L} - \#J_{\ell} > \#L_{ij} - \#J_{L_{ij}}. \]
The result now follows from this.

**Proposition 11.6.** — For $1 \leq i \leq n - d - 1$, $1 \leq j \leq d - 1$, we have

$$X(L_{ij}) \subset \text{Sing}(X_{d,n}).$$

**Proof.** — Let $P$ be the generic point of $L_{ij}$. We have $P_{\tau} = 0$ for all $\tau \in [\mu_{ij}, \lambda_{ij}]$. Let $J_P$ be the Jacobian matrix evaluated at $P$. Then the submatrix of $J_P$ with rows given by $\{ f_{\tau,\phi} \mid \tau, \phi \in [\mu_{ij}, \lambda_{ij}], \tau, \phi \text{ noncomparable} \}$, and columns given by $\{ x_{\tau} \mid \tau \in [\mu_{ij}, \lambda_{ij}] \}$ is the zero matrix. Let $J'$ be the matrix obtained from $J_P$ by deleting these rows and columns. Then we have

$$\text{rank } J' = \text{rank } J_P.$$ 

Further, $J'$ is precisely the Jacobian matrix of the variety $X(L_{ij}) \subset A_{L_{ij}}$, evaluated at $P' = (P_{\tau})_{\tau \in L_{ij}}$. Hence

$$\text{rank } J' \leq \text{codim}_{A(L_{ij})} X(L_{ij}) < \text{codim}_{A(L)} X_{d,n}$$

(cf. Lemma 11.5). The result now follows from (1) and (2).

We have the following conjecture\(^{(1)}\) on the singular locus of $X_{d,n}$.

**Conjecture.** — The irreducible components of $\text{Sing} X_{d,n}$ are precisely $X(L_{ij}), 1 \leq i \leq n - d - 1, 1 \leq j \leq d - 1$.

12. Singular loci of certain ladder determinantal varieties.

In this section we determine the singular loci of certain ladder determinantal varieties. Viewing $X_{2,n}$ as a ladder determinantal variety, we prove the conjecture of Section 11, for the case $d = 2$.

We assume $d = 2$, and view $L = L_{2,n} = \{(i,j) \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$ as being contained in $Y = \{(i,j) \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$. The equations defining the variety $X(L)$ are precisely the 2 minors of $Y$ which are contained in $L$. Now we look at a more general type of varieties.

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\(^{(1)}\) This conjecture has now been proved in [3].
12.1. Let $Y = \{(b, a) \mid 1 \leq b \leq n, 1 \leq a \leq n\}$. Given $1 \leq b_1 < \ldots < b_l < n$, $1 < a_1 < \ldots < a_l \leq n$, we consider the subset $L$ of $Y$, defined by

$$L = \{(b, a) \mid \text{there exists } 1 \leq i \leq l \text{ such that } b_i \leq b \leq n, 1 \leq a \leq a_i\}.$$ 

We call $L$ an **one-sided ladder** in $Y$, defined by the outer corners $\alpha_i = (b_i, a_i), 1 \leq i \leq l$ (see Figure 1). For $1 \leq i \leq l$, let $L_i$ be the subset of $Y$ defined by

$$L_i = \{(b, a) \mid b_i \leq b \leq n, 1 \leq a \leq a_i\}.$$ 

Clearly, $L = \bigcup_{i=1}^{l} L_i$.

We also view $Y$ as the generic $n \times n$ matrix $(x_{ba})_{1 \leq b, a \leq n}$, and we say that $x_{ba} \in L$ if $(b, a) \in L$. Let $k[L]$ denote the polynomial ring $k[x_{ba} \mid x_{ba} \in L]$, and let $A(L) = \mathbb{A}^L$ be the associated affine space. Let $I(L)$ be the ideal in $k[L]$ generated by the 2 minors of $Y$ which are contained in $L$, and $X(L) \subset A(L)$ the variety defined by the ideal $I(L)$. A 2 minor in $Y$ formed with two consecutive rows and two consecutive columns will be called a **solid minor**. We have (cf. [11]):

**Lemma 12.2.** — The codimension of $X(L)$ in $A(L)$ is equal to the number of solid 2 minors in $L$.

**Theorem 12.3.** — Let $L$ be an one-sided ladder in $Y$ defined by the outer corners $\alpha_i = (b_i, a_i)$, with $a_i \geq 2$ and $b_i \leq n - 1, 1 \leq i \leq l$. For each $1 \leq i \leq l$, let $V_i = \{P = (P_\alpha)_{\alpha \in L} \in X(L) \mid P_\alpha = 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in L_i\}$. Then the irreducible components of $\text{Sing} X(L)$ are precisely $V_i, 1 \leq i \leq l$.

**Proof.** — First, we prove that $V_i \subset \text{Sing} X(L)$, for all $1 \leq i \leq l$. Fix $1 \leq i \leq l$, and let $P = (P_\alpha)_{\alpha \in L} \in V_i$. Let $J$ be the Jacobian matrix of $X(L)$. Then the rows of $J$ are indexed by $\{M \mid M$ is a 2 minor of $Y$ contained in $L \}$, and the columns are indexed by $\{x_\alpha \mid \alpha \in L\}$. Let $J_P$ be the Jacobian matrix evaluated at $P$. Then the $(M, x_\alpha)$-th entry in $J_P$ is equal to $\pm P_\alpha'$, where $\alpha'$ is the element in $M$ which is neither in the row, nor in the column containing $\alpha$, if $x_\alpha$ appears in $M$, and 0 otherwise. Since $P \in V_i$, the row indexed by a minor involving $x_{\alpha_i} = x_{(b_i, a_i)}$ is 0. Also, the column indexed by $x_{\alpha_i}$ is 0.

Let $J'$ be the matrix obtained from $J_P$ by deleting the column indexed by $x_{\alpha_i}$, and the rows indexed by minors involving $x_{\alpha_i}$. Then

$$\text{rank } J_P = \text{rank } J',$$

$$(1)$$
since \( J' \) is obtained from \( J_P \) by deleting zero rows and columns.

Now consider the one-sided ladder \( L' \) obtained from \( L \) by deleting the element \( \alpha_i \). Let \( P' = (P_\alpha)_{\alpha \in L'} \). Then \( P' \in X(L') \), and \( J' \) is the Jacobian matrix of \( X(L') \) evaluated at \( P' \). Thus

\[
(2) \quad \text{rank } J' \leq \text{codim}_{\mathbb{A}(L')} X(L').
\]

By hypothesis, \( a_i \geq 2 \) and \( b_i \leq n - 1 \), and hence there exist at least one solid minor in \( L \) not contained in \( L' \), while every solid minor in \( L' \) is also contained in \( L \). Thus, using Lemma 12.2, we deduce that

\[
(3) \quad \text{codim}_{\mathbb{A}(L')} X(L') < \text{codim}_{\mathbb{A}(L)} X(L).
\]

Using (1), (2) and (3), we deduce that

\[
\text{rank } J_P < \text{codim}_{\mathbb{A}(L)} X(L),
\]

i.e. \( P \in \text{Sing} X(L) \).

Next we prove that \( \text{Sing} X(L) \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{l} V_i \). Let \( P \in X(L) \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{l} V_i \). For each \( 1 \leq i \leq l \), we fix an element \( \beta_i \in L_i \) such that \( P_{\beta_i} \neq 0 \). Let \( C \) be the set obtained from \( L \) by deleting the elements appearing either in the first column, or in the last row of \( L \). Then \( \#C \) is equal to the number of solid 2 minors in \( L \), and by Lemma 12.2, we have

\[
\#C = \text{codim}_{\mathbb{A}(L)} X(L).
\]

We have \( C = \bigcup_{i=1}^{l} C_i \), where \( C_i = C \cap (L_i \setminus L_{i+1}) \), for \( 1 \leq i \leq l \), \( L_{l+1} = \emptyset \). Let \( T_i \) be the set of elements in \( L_i \) not in the row or the column of \( \beta_i \). Clearly, \( \#T_i = \#C_i \). By (decreasing) induction on \( i \), suppose that, for some \( i, 1 < i \leq l \), the sets \( T_i, \ldots, T_l \) have been constructed, such that

\[
(1) \quad T_j \subset L_j, \ i \leq j \leq l,
\]

\[
(2) \quad \text{the sets } T_i, \ldots, T_l \text{ are pairwise disjoint},
\]

\[
(3) \quad \#T_j = \#C_j, \ i \leq j \leq l,
\]

\[
(4) \quad T_j \text{ contains no elements appearing in the column or in the row of } \beta_j, \ i \leq j \leq l,
\]

\[
(5) \quad \text{there exists a row in } L_i \text{ not containing any element from } T_i \cup \ldots \cup T_l.
\]
We define the set $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}$ as follows. If $\beta_{i-1} \not\in L_{i-1} \setminus L_i$, then $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}$ is obtained from $L_{i-1} \setminus L_i$ by deleting the elements in the column of $\beta_{i-1}$. If $\beta_{i-1} \in L_{i-1} \setminus L_i$, then $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}$ is obtained as follows. Choose a row $R_i$ in $L_i$, as given by $(5)_i$. We set $\mathcal{T}_{i-1} = (L_{i-1} \setminus L_i) \cup R_i \setminus A_{\beta_{i-1}}$, where $A_{\beta_{i-1}}$ is the set of elements of $L$ in the row and column of $\beta_{i-1}$. Clearly, $\mathcal{T}_{i-1} \subseteq L_{i-1}$, the sets $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}, \mathcal{T}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{T}_l$ are pairwise disjoint, $\#\mathcal{T}_{i-1} = \#\mathcal{C}_{i-1}$, and $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}$ does not contain any element in the row or the column of $\beta_{i-1}$. Also, there exists a row in $L_{i-1}$ which does not contain any element from $\mathcal{T}_{i-1} \cup \mathcal{T}_i \cup \ldots \cup \mathcal{T}_l$. Hence the sets $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}, \mathcal{T}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{T}_l$ satisfy $(1)_i - (5)_i$. Thus we obtain pairwise disjoint sets $\mathcal{T}_j \subseteq L_j$, $1 \leq j \leq l$, such that $\#\mathcal{T}_j = \#\mathcal{C}_j$, and $\mathcal{T}_j$ does not contain any element in the row or column of $\beta_j$. Let $\mathcal{T} = \bigcup_{i=1}^l \mathcal{T}_i$. Then $\#\mathcal{T} = \#\mathcal{C}$.

For $\tau \in \mathcal{T}_i$, $1 \leq i \leq l$, let $M^\tau$ be the 2 minor determined by $\tau$ and $\beta_i$. Clearly, $M^\tau \neq M^{\tau'}$ for $\tau, \tau' \in \mathcal{T}$, $\tau \neq \tau'$. Let $J'$ be the submatrix of $J_P$ given by rows indexed by $M^\tau$’s and the columns indexed by $x_\tau$’s, with $\tau \in \mathcal{T}$. We index the rows and columns of $J'$ by the elements in $\mathcal{T}$, and we arrange them increasingly, with respect to the lexicographic order in $Y$ (namely, $(b, a) > (b', a')$ if $b > b'$, or $b = b'$, $a > a'$).

Let us fix $\tau \in \mathcal{T}$, say $\tau \in \mathcal{T}_i$, $1 \leq i \leq l$. Since $\tau$ is the only entry in $M^\tau$ which belongs to $\mathcal{T}$, we deduce that in the $\tau$-th row of $J'$ all the entries are zero, except the one in the $\tau$-th column, which is equal to $\pm P_{\beta_i}$, and hence it is nonzero. Thus the matrix $J'$ is diagonal, with nonzero diagonal entries. Therefore its rank is equal to its size, which is $\#\mathcal{T}$. Since $\#\mathcal{T}$ is equal to $\#\mathcal{C}$, and hence equal to the codimension of $X(L)$, we deduce that

$$\text{(4)} \quad \text{rank } J' = \text{codim}_{A(L)} X(L).$$

Since $\text{rank } J' \leq \text{rank } J_P \leq \text{codim}_{A(L)} X(L)$, (4) implies that

$$\text{rank } J_P = \text{codim}_{A(L)} X(L),$$

i.e. $P \not\in \text{Sing } X(L)$. Therefore we conclude that

$$\text{Sing } X(L) = \bigcup_{i=1}^l V_i.$$

Let $\mathcal{L}_i = L \setminus L_i$, $1 \leq i \leq l$. Then $\mathcal{L}_i$ is a distributive lattice, and $V_i$ is identified with $X(\mathcal{L}_i)$. Using §5.7, we deduce that $V_i$ is irreducible, $1 \leq i \leq l$. The fact that $V_i \not\subset V_j$ for $i \neq j$ is obvious. This completes the proof of the theorem. \qed
The following theorem shows the validity of the Conjecture stated in Section 11, for the case \( d = 2 \).

**Theorem 12.4.** — Let \( \mathcal{L}_{i_1} \subset I_{2,n}, 1 \leq i \leq n - 3 \), be as in Section 11. Then the irreducible components of \( \text{Sing} \ X_{2,n} \) are precisely \( X(\mathcal{L}_{i_1}), 1 \leq i \leq n - 3 \).

**Proof.** — First observe that \( \phi_1 = (1,n) \) is the only join and meet-irreducible element of Type II in \( I_{2,n} \), and the join and meet-irreducible elements of Type I are \( \tau_i = (i+1, i+2), 0 \leq i \leq n - 2 \) (note that \( \tau_0 = \hat{0}, \tau_{n-2} = \hat{1} \)). We have \( X_{2,n} = X(L) \times \mathbb{A}^2 \), where \( L = I_{2,n} \setminus \{0,\hat{1}\} \). Using Theorem 12.3 for the ladder \( L \), we obtain that the irreducible components of \( \text{Sing} \ X(L) \) are \( V_i, 1 \leq i \leq n - 3 \) (\( V_i \) being as defined in the statement of the Theorem). Thus the irreducible components of \( X_{2,n} \) are precisely \( V_i \times \mathbb{A}^2, 1 \leq i \leq n - 3 \). It is easily seen that \( X(\mathcal{L}_{i_1}) = V_i \times \mathbb{A}^2, 1 \leq i \leq n - 3 \), and the result follows from this. \( \square \)

**Remark.** — We have
\[
\text{codim}_{X(L)} V_i = b_{i+1} - b_i + a_i - a_{i-1} + 1, \quad 1 \leq i \leq l
\]
(here, \( a_0 = 0, b_{l+1} = n \)). In particular, taking \( L = I_{2,n} \setminus \{0,\hat{1}\} \), we deduce that \( \text{Sing} \ X_{2,n} \) is of pure codimension three in \( X_{d,n} \).

13. Generalities on \( SL(n)/B \).

Let \( G = SL(n) \), the special linear group of rank \( n - 1 \). Let \( T \) be the maximal torus consisting of all the diagonal matrices in \( G \), and \( B \) the Borel subgroup consisting of all the upper triangular matrices in \( G \). It is well-known that \( W \) can be identified with \( \mathfrak{S}_n \), the symmetric group on \( n \) letters. For \( w \in W \) and \( Q \) a parabolic subgroup, let \( X_Q(w) (= BwQ \ (\text{mod} \ Q)) \) be the Schubert variety in \( G/Q \) associated to \( w \). When \( Q = B \), we shall denote \( X_Q(w) \) by just \( X(w) \).

Following [6], we denote the set \( S \) of simple roots by \( \{\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}, 1 \leq i \leq n-1\} \) (note that \( \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1} \) is the character sending \( \text{diag}(t_1, \ldots, t_n) \) to \( t_i t_{i+1}^{-1} \)). The reflection \( s_{\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}} \) may be identified with the transposition \( (i, j) \) in \( \mathfrak{S}_n \). For \( w = (a_1 \ldots a_n) \in \mathfrak{S}_n \), it is easily seen that \( w(\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j) = \varepsilon_{a_i} - \varepsilon_{a_j} \).

13.1. The Chevalley-Bruhat order on \( S_n \). For \( w_1, w_2 \in W \), we have
\[
X(w_1) \subset X(w_2) \iff \pi_d(X(w_1)) \subset \pi_d(X(w_2)) \quad \text{for all} \ 1 \leq d \leq n - 1,
\]
where $\pi_d$ is the canonical projection $G/B \to G/P_{\alpha_d}$ (here, for a simple root $\alpha$, $P_{\alpha}$ is the maximal parabolic subgroup $P$ with $S_P = S \setminus \{\alpha\}$). Hence we obtain that for $(a_1 \ldots a_n), (b_1 \ldots b_n) \in S_n$,

$$(a_1 \ldots a_n) \preceq (b_1 \ldots b_n) \iff (a_1 \ldots a_d) \succeq (b_1 \ldots b_d) \uparrow \text{ for all } 1 \leq d \leq n-1$$

(here, for an ordered $d$-tuple $(t_1 \ldots t_d)$ of distinct integers, $(t_1 \ldots t_d) \uparrow$ denotes the ordered $d$-tuple obtained from $(t_1, \ldots, t_d)$ by arranging its elements in ascending order).

13.2. The partially ordered set $I_{a_1, \ldots, a_k}$. Let $Q$ be a parabolic subgroup in $SL(n)$, with $S_Q$ as the associated set of simple roots. Let $1 \leq a_1 < \ldots < a_k \leq n$, such that $S_Q = S \setminus \{\alpha_{a_1}, \ldots, \alpha_{a_k}\}$. Then $Q = P_{\alpha_{a_1}} \cap \ldots \cap P_{\alpha_{a_k}}$, and $W_Q = S_{a_1} \times S_{a_2-a_1} \times \ldots \times S_{n-a_k}$. Let

$I_{a_1, \ldots, a_k} = \{(i_1, \ldots, i_k) \in I_{a_1, n} \times \ldots \times I_{a_k, n} | i_t < i_{t+1} \text{ for all } 1 \leq t \leq k-1\}$. Then it is easily seen that $W_Q^{\text{min}}(=\{w \in W | w(\alpha) > 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in S_Q\})$ may be identified with $I_{a_1, \ldots, a_k}$.

The partial order on the set of Schubert varieties in $G/Q$ (given by inclusion) induces a partial order $\geq$ on $I_{a_1, \ldots, a_k}$, namely, for $i = (i_1, \ldots, i_k)$, $j = (j_1, \ldots, j_k) \in I_{a_1, \ldots, a_k}$, $i \geq j \iff i_t \geq j_t$ for all $1 \leq t \leq k$.

13.3. The minimal (maximal) representatives. Let $w \in W$, and let $i = (i_1, \ldots, i_k)$ be the element in $I_{a_1, \ldots, a_k}$ which corresponds to $w^{\text{min}}$. Let $w_Q^{\text{min}}$ (resp. $w_Q^{\text{max}}$) be the minimal (resp. maximal) representative of $wW_Q$ in $W$. Let $w$ correspond to $i = (i_1, \ldots, i_k)$ under the identification in §p13.2. Then, as a permutation, the element $w_Q^{\text{min}}$ is given by $i_1$, followed by $i_2 \setminus i_1$ arranged in ascending order, and so on, ending with $\{1, \ldots, n\} \setminus i_k$ arranged in ascending order. Similarly, as a permutation, the element $w_Q^{\text{max}}$ is given by $i_1$ arranged in descending order, followed by $i_2 \setminus i_1$ arranged in descending order, etc..

13.4. The opposite big cell in $G/Q$. Let $Q = \bigcap_{t=1}^{k} P_{\alpha_{a_t}}$. Let $a = n - a_k$, and $Q$ be the parabolic subgroup consisting of all the elements of $G$ of the form

$$
\begin{pmatrix}
A_1 & * & * & \cdots & * & * \\
0 & A_2 & * & \cdots & * & * \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & A_k & * \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & A
\end{pmatrix},
$$
where \( A_t \) is a matrix of size \( c_t \times c_t \), \( c_t = a_t - a_{t-1} \), \( a_0 = 0 \), \( 1 \leq t \leq k \), and \( A \) is a matrix of size \( a \times a \), and \( x_{ml} = 0 \), \( m > a_t \), \( l \leq a_t \), \( 1 \leq t \leq k \). Denote by \( O^- \) the subgroup of \( G \) generated by \( \{ U_\alpha \mid \alpha \in R^- \setminus R_Q^- \} \) (here \( R^- \) is the set of negative roots and \( R_Q^- = \{ \alpha \in R^- \mid \alpha = \sum_{\beta \in S_Q} \alpha_\beta \} \)). Then \( O^- \) consists of the elements of \( G \) of the form

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
I_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\
* & I_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\
& * & * & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
& & & * & * & \cdots & I_k \\
& & & & * & * & \cdots & * & I_a
\end{pmatrix},
\]

where \( I_t \) (resp. \( I_a \)) is the \( c_t \times c_t \) (resp. \( a \times a \)) identity matrix, and if \( x_{ml} \neq 0 \), with \( m \neq l \), then \( m > a_t \), \( l \leq a_t \) for some \( t \), \( 1 \leq t \leq k \). Further, the restriction of the canonical morphism \( f : G \to G/Q \) to \( O^- \) is an open immersion, and \( f(O^-) \simeq B^- e_{1d,Q}^- \). One refers to \( B^- e_{1d,Q}^- \) as the opposite big cell in \( G/Q \). Thus we obtain an identification of \( O^- \) with the opposite big cell in \( G/Q \).

13.5. Plücker coordinates on the Grassmannian. Let \( G_{d,n} \) be the Grassmannian variety, consisting of \( d \)-dimensional subspaces of an \( n \)-dimensional vector space \( V \). Let us identify \( V \) with \( \mathbb{k}^n \), and denote the standard basis of \( \mathbb{k}^n \) by \( \{ e_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n \} \). Consider the Plücker embedding \( f_d : G_{d,n} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}(\Lambda^d V) \), where \( \Lambda^d V \) is the \( d \)-th exterior power of \( V \). For \( \mathbf{i} = (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \in I_{d,n} \), let \( e_{\mathbf{i}} = e_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{i_d} \). Then the set \( \{ e_{\mathbf{i}} \mid \mathbf{i} \in I_{d,n} \} \) is a basis for \( \Lambda^d V \). Let us denote the basis of \( (\Lambda^d V)^* \) (the linear dual of \( \Lambda^d V \)) dual to \( \{ e_{\mathbf{i}} \mid \mathbf{i} \in I_{d,n} \} \) by \( \{ p_{\mathbf{j}} \mid \mathbf{j} \in I_{d,n} \} \). Then \( \{ p_{\mathbf{j}} \mid \mathbf{j} \in I_{d,n} \} \) gives a system of coordinates for \( \mathbb{P}(\Lambda^d V) \). These are the so-called Plücker coordinates.

13.6. Schubert varieties in the Grassmannian. Let \( Q = P_{\alpha_d} \). For simplicity of notation, let us denote \( P_{\alpha_d} \) by just \( P_d \). We have

\[
G_{d,n} \simeq G/P_d.
\]

Let \( \mathbf{i} = (i_1, \ldots, i_d) \in I_{d,n} \). Then the \( T \)-fixed point \( e_{\mathbf{i},P_d} \) is simply the \( d \)-dimensional span of \( \{ e_{i_1}, \ldots, e_{i_d} \} \). Thus \( X_{P_d}(\mathbf{i}) \) is simply the Zariski closure of \( B \cdot [e_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{i_d}] \) in \( \mathbb{P}(\Lambda^d V) \).

In view of the decomposition \( X_{P_d}(\mathbf{i}) = \bigcup_{\mathbf{j} \leq \mathbf{i}} X_{P_d}(\mathbf{j}) \), we have

\[
p_{\mathbf{j}}|_{X_{P_d}(\mathbf{i})} \neq 0 \iff \mathbf{i} \geq \mathbf{j}.
\]
Remark 13.7. — Given $\tau \in I_{d,n}$, $\tau = (i_1, \ldots, i_d)$, let $\Lambda_{\tau}$ denote the Young diagram $(i_d - d, \ldots, i_1 - 1)$. Then, using Lemma 8.2, we see that the element $\tau \in I_{d,n}$ is join-irreducible if and only if the associated Young diagram $\Lambda_{\tau}$ is a rectangle, i.e., all rows have the same number of boxes. We also observe that $\tau$ is join-irreducible if and only if $X(\tau)$ is nonsingular (this is a consequence of the fact that $X(\tau)$ is nonsingular if and only if $\Lambda_{\tau}$ is a rectangle, cf. [21]).

13.8. Evaluation of Plücker coordinates on the opposite big cell in $G/P_d$. Consider the morphism $\phi_d : G \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\wedge^d V)$, where $\phi_d = f_d \circ \theta_d$, $\theta_d$ being the natural projection $G \rightarrow G/P_d$. Then $p_\Lambda(\phi_d(g))$ is simply the minor of $g$ consisting of the first $d$ columns and the rows with indices $j_1, \ldots, j_d$. Now, denote by $Z_d$ the unipotent subgroup of $G$ generated by $\{U_\alpha | \alpha \in R^- \setminus R^-_{P_d}\}$. We have, as in §13.4

$$Z_d = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} I_{d \times d} & 0_{d \times (n-d)} \\ A_{(n-d) \times d} & I_{(n-d) \times (n-d)} \end{pmatrix} \in G \right\}.$$ 

As in §13.4, we identify $Z_d$ with the opposite big cell in $G/P_d$. Then, given $z \in Z_d$, the Plücker coordinate $p_\Lambda$ evaluated at $z$ is simply a certain minor of $A$, which may be explicitly described as follows. Let $j = (j_1, \ldots, j_d)$, and let $j_r$ be the largest entry $< d$. Let $\{k_1, \ldots, k_{d-r}\}$ be the complement of $\{j_1, \ldots, j_r\}$ in $\{1, \ldots, d\}$. Then this minor of $A$ is given by column indices $k_1, \ldots, k_{d-r}$, and row indices $j_{r+1}, \ldots, j_d$ (here the rows of $A$ are indexed as $d+1, \ldots, n$). Conversely, given a minor of $A$, say, with column indices $b_1, \ldots, b_s$, and row indices $i_{d-s+1}, \ldots, i_d$, it is the evaluation of the Plücker coordinate $p_\Lambda$ at $z$, where $i = (i_1, \ldots, i_d)$ may be described as follows: $\{i_1, \ldots, i_{d-s}\}$ is the complement of $\{b_1, \ldots, b_s\}$ in $\{1, \ldots, d\}$, and $i_{d-s+1}, \ldots, i_d$ are simply the row indices (again, the rows of $A$ are indexed as $d+1, \ldots, n$).

13.9. Evaluation of the Plücker coordinates on the opposite big cell in $G/Q$. Consider

$$f : G \rightarrow G/Q \hookrightarrow G/P_{a_1} \times \ldots \times G/P_{a_k} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}_1 \times \ldots \times \mathbb{P}_k,$$

where $\mathbb{P}_t = \mathbb{P}(\wedge^{a_t} V)$. Denoting the restriction of $f$ to $O^-$ ($O^-$ being as in §13.4) also by just $f$, we obtain an embedding $f : O^- \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}_1 \times \ldots \times \mathbb{P}_k$, $O^-$ having been identified with the opposite big cell in $G/Q$. For $z \in O^-$, the multi-Plücker coordinates of $f(z)$ are simply all the $a_t \times a_t$ minors of $z$ with column indices $\{1, \ldots, a_t\}$, $1 \leq t \leq k$. 


13.10. Equations defining multicones over Schubert varieties in $G/Q$.
Let $X_Q(w) \subset G/Q$. Let
\[
R = \bigoplus_{\alpha} H^0\left(G/Q, \bigotimes_i L_i^{a_i}\right)
\]
\[
R_w = \bigoplus_{\alpha} H^0\left(X_Q(w), \bigotimes_i L_i^{a_i}\right),
\]
where $\alpha = (a_1, \ldots, a_k) \in \mathbb{Z}_+^k$. The kernel of the restriction map $R \to R_w$ is generated by the kernel of $R \to (R(w))_1$ (cf. [18]); but now, in view of 13.6, this kernel is the span of
\[
\{ p_i \mid i \in I_{d,n}, \; d = a_1, \ldots, a_k, \; w^{(d)} \neq i \},
\]
where $w^{(d)}$ is the $d$-tuple corresponding to the Schubert variety which is the image of $X_Q(w)$ under the projection $G/Q \to G/P_{a_t}$, $1 \leq t \leq k$.

13.11. Ideal of the opposite cell in $X(w)$. Let us denote $B^{-e_{id,Q}} \cap X_Q(w)$ by just $A_w$. Then as in §13.4, we identify $B^{-e_{id,Q}}$ with the unipotent subgroup $O^-$ generated by $\{ U_\alpha \mid \alpha \in R^- \setminus R_Q^- \}$, and consider $A_w$ as a closed subvariety of $O^-$ (one refers to $A_w$ as the opposite cell in $X(w)$). In view of §13.10, we obtain

**Proposition 13.12.** — The ideal defining $A_w$ in $O^-$ is generated by
\[
\{ p_i \mid i \in I_{d,n}, \; d = a_1, \ldots, a_k, \; w^{(d)} \neq i \}
\]
(here, for $z \in O^-$, $p_i(z)$ is as in §13.9).

14. Relationship between ladder determinantal varieties and Schubert varieties.

In this section, we relate $X(L)$ as well as the irreducible components of $\text{Sing} X(L)$ to certain Schubert varieties in a certain $SL(n)/Q$. Eventhough the relationship between $X(L)$'s and Schubert varieties is proved in [22], we give an independent proof to suit to our purpose.

Let $Y = (x_{ba})$, $1 \leq b,a \leq n$ be a matrix of variables, and $L \subset Y$ an one-sided ladder defined by the outer corners $(b_1, a_1), \ldots, (b_l, a_l)$, with $1 \leq b_1 < \ldots < b_l < n$, $1 < a_1 < \ldots < a_l \leq n$. We also assume that $L$ lies
below the main diagonal of $Y$, i.e. $b_i > a_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq l$ (this can be achieved by adding extra rows and columns to $Y$, if necessary).

Let $G = SL(n)$, and consider the parabolic subgroup $Q = P_{a_1} \cap \ldots \cap P_{a_l}$ in $G$. Let $O^-$ be the opposite big cell in $G/Q$. Let $X(L) \subset A(L)$ be the variety defined by the vanishing of the 2 minors in $L$, as in Section 12. Let $H$ be the one-sided ladder defined by the outer corners $(a_i + 1, a_i)$, $1 \leq i \leq l$, and let $Z$ be the variety in $A(H) \cong O^-$ defined by the vanishing of the 2 minors in $L$. Note that $Z \simeq X(L) \times A(H \setminus L)$.

Let $Y^- = (y_{ba})$, $1 \leq b, a \leq n$, where

$$y_{ba} = \begin{cases} x_{ba}, & \text{if } (b, a) \in H \\ 1, & \text{if } b = a \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Note that, given $\tau \in W^{a_i}$, $1 \leq i \leq l$, the function $p_\tau \mid_{O^-}$ represents the determinant of the submatrix $T$ of $Y^-$ whose row indices are $\{\tau(1), \ldots, \tau(a_i)\}$, and column indices are $\{1, \ldots, a_i\}$.

We shall now define an element $w_L \in W^Q$ such that $Z$ gets identified with the opposite cell in $X(w_L)$ (see also [22]). We define $w_L \in W^Q$ by specifying $w^{(a_i)}_L \in W^{a_i}$, where $\pi_i(X(w_L)) = X(w^{(a_i)}_L)$ under the projection $\pi_i : G/Q \to G/P_{a_i}$, $1 \leq i \leq l$.

Define $w^{(a_i)}_L$, $1 \leq i \leq l$, inductively, as the maximal element $W^{a_i}$ with the following properties:

1. $w^{(a_i)}_L(a_i - 1) = b_i - 1$,
2. if $i > 1$, then $w^{(a_i-1)}_L \subset w^{(a_i)}_L$

(here, for a d-tuple $\theta = (\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_d)$, by $\theta(t)$ we mean the $t$-th entry, $1 \leq t \leq d$).

Remark. — Note that $w_L$ is well defined as an element of $W^Q$, and it is the unique maximal element $\tau$ of $W^Q$ with the property

$$\tau^{(a_i)}(a_i - 1) < b_i,$$

for all $1 \leq i \leq l$.

In the sequel, we shall denote $w_L$ by just $w$.

Theorem 14.2. — The variety $Z$ identifies with the opposite cell in $X(w)$, i.e. $Z = X(w) \cap O^-$ (scheme theoretically).
Proof. — Let $f$ be a generator of $I(Z)$, i.e. $f = \det M$, for some $2 \times 2$ matrix $M$ contained in $L$. Let $r_1 < r_2$ (resp. $c_1 < c_2$) be the row (resp. column) indices of $M$. Let $i$ be the smallest integer such that $M$ is contained in $L_i$. Thus $r_1, r_2 \geq b_i > a_i, c_2 > a_{i-1}$ (here $a_{i-1} = 0$ if $i = 1$). Let $\tau = \{1, \ldots, a_i\} \setminus \{c_1, c_2\} \cup \{r_1, r_2\}$. Then $\tau \in W^{a_i}$, and $p_{\tau}|_{O^-} = \det T$, where $T$ is the $a_i \times a_i$ submatrix of $Y^-$ whose row indices are $\{\tau(1), \ldots, \tau(a_i)\}$, and column indices are $\{1, \ldots, a_i\}$. Using Laplace expansion with respect to the last two rows of $T$, we obtain

\[
\det T = \sum \pm \det N_{c', c''} \det M_{c', c''},
\]

the sum being taken over all subsets $\{c', c''\} \subset \{1, \ldots, a_i\}$, $c' \neq c''$, where $N_{c', c''}$ is the $(a_i - 2) \times (a_i - 2)$ submatrix of $Y^-$ whose row indices are $\{1, \ldots, a_i\} \setminus \{c_1, c_2\}$ and column indices are $\{1, \ldots, a_i\} \setminus \{c', c''\}$, and $M_{c', c''}$ is the $2 \times 2$ submatrix of $Y^-$ whose row indices are $\{r_1, r_2\}$ and column indices are $\{c', c''\}$. Note that $M_{c_1, c_2} = M$, and $N_{c_1, c_2}$ is a lower triangular matrix, with all diagonal entries equal to 1, and hence $\det M$ appears in $(*)$, and its coefficient is $\pm 1$. Also note that $N_{c', c''}$ is obtained from $N_{c_1, c_2}$ by replacing the columns with indices $c', c''$ by the columns with indices $c_1, c_2$.

By decreasing induction on the index $c_1$ of the first column of $M$, we prove that $f (= \det M)$ can be written in the form $f = \sum g_{\phi}p_{\phi}|_{O^-}$, with $\phi \in W^{a_i}$, $\{a_i + 1, \ldots, n\} \cap \{\phi(1), \ldots, \phi(a_i)\} = \{r_1, r_2\}$, and $g_{\phi} \in k[H]$.

If $c_1 > a_{i-1}$, then for $\{c', c''\} \neq \{c_1, c_2\}$ we have $\det N_{c', c''} = 0$, since at least one of $c_1, c_2$ is an index for a column in $N_{c', c''}$, and all entries of this column are 0. Thus, in this case $(*)$ reduces to $\det T = \pm \det M$, i.e. $\det M = \pm p_{\tau}|_{O^-}$, with $\tau \in W^{a_i}$ such that $\{a_i + 1, \ldots, n\} \cap \{\tau(1), \ldots, \tau(a_i)\} = \{r_1, r_2\}$.

Let $c_1 \leq a_{i-1}$ be such that the above statement is true for $c_1 + 1$. First we observe that if $c_2 \notin \{c', c''\}$, then $\det N_{c', c''} = 0$, since in this case $c_2$ is an index for a column in $N_{c', c''}$, and all entries of this column are 0. Let then $c_2 \in \{c', c''\}$, and let $\{c', c''\} = \{c, c_2\}$. Then $N_{c, c_2}$ is obtained from $N_{c_1, c_2}$ by replacing the column with index $c$ by the column with index $c_1$. If $c < c_1$, then $N_{c, c_2}$ is still lower triangular, but the diagonal entry in the column with index $c_1$ is 0, and hence $\det N_{c, c_2} = 0$. Therefore we obtain

\[
\det T = \pm \det M + \sum_{c \in \{a_i + 1, \ldots, a_i\} \setminus \{c_2\}} \pm \det N_{c, c_2} \det M_{c, c_2},
\]
and hence
\[ f = \det M = \pm p_\tau|_{O^-} + \sum_{c \in \{\{c_1 + 1, \ldots, a_i\} \setminus \{c_2\}} \pm \det N_{c,c_2} \det M_{c,c_2}. \]

Using induction hypothesis for $M_{c,c_2}$, we obtain $f = \sum g_{\phi} p_{\phi}|_{O^-}$, with $\phi \in W^{a_i}$ such that $\{a_i + 1, \ldots, n\} \cap \{\phi(1), \ldots, \phi(a_i)\} = \{r_1, r_2\}$, and $g_{\phi} \in k[H]$. In particular, we obtain $\phi(a_i - 1) = r_1$. Since $r_1 > b_i$, we deduce that $\phi(a_i - 1) > b_i$. We have $w^{(a_i)}(a_i - 1) = b_i - 1$, and hence $\phi(a_i - 1) > w^{(a_i)}(a_i - 1)$. This shows that $\phi \not\in w^{(a_i)}$, and hence $p_{\phi}|_{O^-} \in I(X(w) \cap O^-)$. Therefore $f \in I(X(w) \cap O^-)$.

Let now $g$ be a generator of the ideal $I(X(w) \cap O^-)$, i.e. $g = p_\tau|_{O^-}$, with $\tau \in W^{a_i}$ for some $1 \leqslant i \leqslant l$, such that $\tau \not\in w^{a_i}$ (cf. §13.6). Since $w^{(a_i)}$ consists of several blocks of consecutive integers ending with $b_t - 1$ at the $(a_t - 1)$-th place, for some $t$'s in $\{1, \ldots, i\}$, and a last block ending with $n$ at the $a_t$-th place, it follows that there exists a $t \in \{1, \ldots, i\}$ such that $\tau(a_t - 1) \geqslant b_t$. As above, the function $p_\tau|_{O^-}$ represents the determinant of the submatrix $T$ of $Y^-$ whose row indices are $\{\tau(1), \ldots, \tau(a_i)\}$, and column indices are $\{1, \ldots, a_i\}$. Using Laplace expansion with respect to the first $a_t$ columns, we have $\det T = \sum_{p} \det A_p \det B_p$, where $A_p$ (resp. $B_p$) is an $a_t \times a_t$ (resp. $(a_t - a_t) \times (a_t - a_t)$) matrix. Clearly, all the column indices of $A_p$ are $\leqslant a_t$, and since $\tau(a_t - 1) \geqslant b_t$, at least 2 row indices of $A_p$ are $\geqslant b_t$. Using Laplace expansion for $A_p$ with respect to 2 rows whose indices are $\geqslant b_t$, we obtain $\det A_p = \sum_{q} \det C_q \det D_q$, where $C_q$ (resp. $D_q$) is a 2 (resp. $a_t - 2$) minor, with $C_q$ contained in $L_t \subset L$. This shows that $p_\tau|_{O^-} \in I(Z)$. This completes the proof.

\[ \square \]

**Corollary. 14.3.** — The variety $X(L)$ is normal, Cohen-Macaulay, and has rational singularities.

This follows from Theorem 14.2, and the fact that Schubert varieties are normal, Cohen-Macaulay, and have rational singularities (cf. [23], [24], and [18]).

14.4. Let us fix $j \in \{1, \ldots, l\}$. We shall now define $\theta_j \in W^Q$ such that $Z_j = V_j \times A(H \setminus L)$ gets identified with the opposite cell in $X(\theta_j)$.

For $i < j$, let $\theta_j^{(a_i)} = w^{(a_i)} \setminus \{n\} \cup \{b_j - 1\}$.

For $i = j$, let $\theta_j^{(a_j)} = w^{(a_j)} \setminus \{n\} \cup \{x_j\}$, where $x_j$ is the maximal element in $\{1, \ldots, b_j - 1\} \setminus w^{(a_j)}$. 

For $i > j$, let
\[
\theta_j^{(a_i)} = \begin{cases} 
 w^{(a_i)}, & \text{if } x_j \in w^{(a_i)} \\
 w^{(a_i)} \setminus \{y_i\} \cup \{x_j\}, & \text{if } x_j \not\in w^{(a_i)}, 
\end{cases}
\]
where $y_i$ is the minimal element in $w^{(a_i)} \setminus \theta_j^{(a_i-1)}$.

**Lemma 14.5.** — With notations as above, we have $\theta_j \leq w$. Further, $\theta_j^{\text{max}}$ is the (unique) maximal element $\tau \in W$, $\tau \leq w^{\text{max}}$, such that $\tau^{(a_j)}(a_j) < b_j$.

The assertion is clear from the definition of $\theta_j$.

**Theorem 14.6.** — The subvariety $Z_j \subset Z$ gets identified with the opposite cell in $X(\theta_j)$, i.e. $Z_j = X(\theta_j) \cap O^-$ (scheme theoretically).

**Proof.** — Let $f$ be a generator of $I(Z_j)$. If $f \in I(Z)$, then in view of Theorem 14.2 we have $f \in I(X(w) \cap O^-) \subset I(X(\theta_j) \cap O^-)$ (since $w \geq \theta_j$), and there is nothing to prove. Assume that $f \notin I(Z)$; then $f = x_\alpha$, for some $\alpha = (b, a) \in L_j$. Then $f$ can be written as $p_\phi|_{O^-}$, with $\phi \in W^{a_j}$, such that $\{b\} = \{a_j + 1, \ldots, n\} \cap \{\phi(1), \ldots, \phi(a_j)\}$, and $\{a\} = \{1, \ldots, a_j\} \setminus \{\phi(1), \ldots, \phi(a_i)\}$. Thus $\phi(a_j) = b$, and since $\alpha \in L_j$, we have $b \geq b_j$. Therefore $\phi(a_j) \geq b_j$. But $\theta_j^{(a_j)}(a_j) = b_j - 1$, and hence $\phi(a_j) > \theta_j^{(a_j)}(a_j)$. This shows that $\phi \not\in \theta_j^{(a_j)}$, and therefore $f \in I(X(\theta_j) \cap O^-)$.

Let now $g$ be a generator of the ideal $I(X(\theta_j) \cap O^-)$, i.e. $g = p_\tau|_{O^-}$, with $\tau \in W^{(a_i)}$, for some $1 \leq i \leq l$, such that $\tau \not\in \theta_j^{(a_i)}$.

First assume that $i \leq j$. Then $\theta_j^{(a_i)}$ consists of several blocks of consecutive integers ending with $b_i - 1$ at the $(a_i - 1)$-th place, for some $t$’s in $\{1, \ldots, i - 1\}$, and a last block ending with $b_j - 1$ at the $a_i$-th place. The condition $\tau \not\in \theta_j^{(a_i)}$ implies that either there exists $t \in \{1, \ldots, i - 1\}$ such that $\tau(a_t - 1) \geq b_t$, or $\tau(a_i) \geq b_j$. In the first case we have $\tau \not\in w^{(a_i)}$, and hence $p_\tau|_{O^-} \in I(X(w) \cap O^-) = I(Z) \subset I(Z_j)$. Suppose now that $\tau(a_i) \geq b_j$. The function $p_\tau|_{O^-}$ represents the determinant of the submatrix $T$ of $Y^-$ whose row indices are $\{\tau(1), \ldots, \tau(a_i)\}$, and column indices are $\{1, \ldots, a_i\}$. Obviously, all column indices are $\leq a_j$. On the other hand, since $\tau(a_i) \geq b_j$, the last row of $T$ is contained in $L_j$, and expanding $T$ along this row, we deduce $p_\tau|_{O^-} \in I(Z_j)$.

Assume now that $i > j$. If $\theta_j^{(a_i)} = w^{(a_i)}$, then $\tau \not\in w^{(a_i)}$, and hence $p_\tau|_{O^-} \in I(X(w) \cap O^-) = I(Z) \subset I(Z_j)$, and there is nothing to
prove. Suppose that $\theta_j^{(a_i)} \neq w^{(a_i)}$. Then $\theta_j^{(a_i)}$ consists of several blocks of consecutive integers ending with $b_t-1$ at the $(a_t-1)$-th place, for some $t$'s in \{1, \ldots, i\}\{j\}$, a block ending with $b_j-1$ at the $a_j$-th place, and a last block ending with $n$ at the $a_t$-th place. The condition $\tau \not\in \theta_j^{(a_i)}$ implies that either there exists $t \in \{1, \ldots, i\}\{j\}$ such that $\tau(a_t-1) \geq b_t$, or $\tau(a_j) \geq b_j$. In the first case we have $\tau \not\in w^{(a_i)}$, and hence $p_{\tau}|_{O^{-}} \in I(X(w) \cap O^{-}) = I(Z) \subset I(Z_j)$. In the second case, the function $p_{\tau}|_{O^{-}}$ represents the determinant of the submatrix $T$ of $Y^-$ whose row indices are $\{\tau(1), \ldots, \tau(a_i)\}$, and column indices are $\{1, \ldots, a_i\}$. Using Laplace expansion with respect to the first $a_j$ columns, we have $\det T = \sum_{P} \det A_{P} \det B_{P}$, where $A_{P}$ (resp. $B_{P}$) is an $a_j \times a_j$ (resp. $(a_i - a_j) \times (a_i - a_j)$) matrix. Clearly, all the column indices of $A_{P}$ are $\leq a_j$, and since $\tau(a_j) \geq b_j$, at least one row index of $A_{P}$ is $\geq b_j$. Using Laplace expansion for $A_{P}$ with respect to a row with index $\geq b_j$, we obtain $\det A_{P} = \sum_{q} C_{q} \det D_{q}$, where $C_{q}$'s are entries of a row of $A_{P}$, contained in $L_j \subset L$. This shows that $p_{\tau}|_{O^{-}} \in I(Z_j)$. \qed

15. A conjecture on the irreducible components of a Schubert variety in $SL(n)/B$.

Let $G = SL(n)$. In this section we state a conjecture which is a refinement of the conjecture in [20] on the irreducible components of the singular locus of a Schubert variety, and prove the conjecture for a certain class of Schubert varieties, namely the pull-backs $\pi^{-1}(X_Q(w))$ under $\pi : G/B \rightarrow G/Q$, where $w$ and $Q$ are as in Section 14.

For $\tau \in W$, let $P_{\tau}$ (resp. $Q_{\tau}$) be the maximal element of the set of parabolic subgroups which leave $B\tau B$ (in $G$) stable under multiplication on the left (resp. right).

We recall the following two well-known results (for a proof, see [19] for example).

**Lemma 15.1.** — Let $\alpha$ be a simple root, and let $P_\alpha$ be the rank 1 parabolic subgroup with $S_{P_\alpha} = \\{\alpha\}$. Let $\tau \in W$. Then $B\tau B$ is stable under multiplication on the right (resp. left) by $P_\alpha$ if and only if $\tau(\alpha) \in R^-$ (resp. $\tau^{-1}(\alpha) \in R^-$).
Corollary. — Let $\tau \in W$. With notations as in Section 13, we have
\[ S_{P,\tau} = \{ \alpha \in S \mid \tau^{-1}(\alpha) \in R^- \}, \]
\[ S_{Q,\tau} = \{ \alpha \in S \mid \tau(\alpha) \in R^- \}. \]

Definition 15.3. — Given parabolic subgroups $P$, $Q$, we say that $B\tau B$ is $P$-$Q$ stable if $P \subset P_\tau$ and $Q \subset Q_\tau$.

Lemma 15.4. — Let $G = SL(n)$. Let $\tau \in S_n$, say $\tau = (a_1, \ldots, a_n)$. Let $\alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$. Then
\begin{enumerate}
  \item $\tau(\alpha) \in R^-$ if and only if $a_i > a_{i+1}$.
  \item $\tau^{-1}(\alpha) \in R^-$ if and only if $i + 1$ occurs before $i$ in $\tau$.
\end{enumerate}

Proof. — We have $\tau(\alpha) = \varepsilon a_i - \varepsilon a_{i+1}$ and $\tau^{-1}(\alpha) = \varepsilon_j - \varepsilon_k$, where $a_j = i$ and $a_k = i + 1$. The results follow from this.

Let $\eta \in W$. We shall denote $X_B(\eta)$ by just $X(\eta)$. We first recall the criterion given in [20] for $X(\eta)$ to be singular.

Theorem 15.5. — Let $\eta = (a_1 \ldots a_n) \in S_n$. Then $X(\eta)$ is singular if and only if there exist $i, j, k, m, 1 \leq i < j < k < m \leq n$ such that
\begin{enumerate}
  \item either $a_k < a_m < a_i < a_j$ or $a_m < a_j < a_k < a_i$.
\end{enumerate}

15.6. The set $F_\eta$. Let $\eta = (a_1 \ldots a_n) \in S_n$. Let $E_\eta$ be the set of all $\tau' \leq \eta$ such that either 1) or 2) below holds.

1) There exist $i, j, k, m, 1 \leq i < j < k < m \leq n$, such that
\begin{enumerate}
  \item $(a) \ a_k < a_m < a_i < a_j,$
  \item $(b)$ if $\tau' = (b_1 \ldots b_n)$, then there exist $i', j', k', m', 1 \leq i' < j' < k' < m' \leq n$ such that $b_{i'} = a_k, b_{j'} = a_i, b_{k'} = a_m, b_{m'} = a_j$,
  \item $(c)$ if $\tau$ (resp. $\eta$) is the element obtained from $\eta$ (resp. $\tau'$) by replacing $a_i, a_j, a_k, a_m$ respectively by $a_k, a_i, a_m, a_j$ (resp. $b_{i'}, b_{j'}, b_{k'}, b_{m'}$ respectively by $b_{j'}, b_{m'}, b_{i'}, b_{k'}$), then $\tau' \geq \tau$ and $\eta' \leq \eta$.
\end{enumerate}

2) There exist $i, j, k, m, 1 \leq i < j < k < m \leq n$, such that
\begin{enumerate}
  \item $(a) \ a_m < a_j < a_k < a_i,$
  \item $(b)$ if $\tau' = (b_1 \ldots b_n)$, then there exist $i', j', k', m', 1 \leq i' < j' < k' < m' \leq n$ such that $b_{i'} = a_j, b_{j'} = a_m, b_{k'} = a_i, b_{m'} = a_k$,
(c) if \( \tau \) (resp. \( \eta' \)) is the element obtained from \( \eta \) (resp. \( \tau' \)) by replacing \( a_i, a_j, a_k, a_m \) respectively by \( a_j, a_i, a_k, a_m \) (resp. \( b'_j, b'_i, b'_k, b'_m \) respectively by \( b_k, b'_i, b'_m, b'_j \)), then \( \tau' \geq \tau \) and \( \eta' \leq \eta \).

Let \( F_\eta = \{ \tau \in E_\eta \mid \overline{B\tau B} \text{ is } P_\eta \text{-}Q_\eta \text{ stable} \} \).

**Conjecture.** — The singular locus of \( X(\eta) \) is equal to \( \cup_\lambda X(\lambda) \), where \( \lambda \) runs over the maximal (under the Bruhat order) elements of \( F_\eta \).

15.7. Let \( \eta = (a_1 \ldots a_n) \in S_n \). Let \( \text{Sing} \; X(\eta) \neq \emptyset \). Let \( (a, b, c, d) \) be four distinct entries in \( \{1, \ldots, n\} \) such that \( a < b < c < d \). An occurrence in \( \eta \) of the form \( (d, b, c, a) \), where \( d = a_i, b = a_j, c = a_k, a = a_m, i < j < k < m \), will be referred to as a Type I bad occurrence in \( \eta \). An occurrence in \( \eta \) of the form \( (c, d, a, b) \), where \( c = a_i, d = a_j, a = a_k, b = a_m, i < j < k < m \), will be referred to as a Type II bad occurrence in \( \eta \). Let \( (d, b, c, a) \) (resp. \( (c', d', a', b') \)) be a bad occurrence of Type I (resp. Type II), where \( a < b < c < d \) (resp. \( a' < b' < c' < d' \)). Let \( \theta, \theta' \) be both \( \leq w \). Further, let \( b, a, d, c \) (resp. \( a', c', b', d' \)) appear in that order in \( \theta \) (resp. \( \theta' \)). By abuse of language, we shall refer to \( (b, a, d, c) \) (resp. \( (a', c', b', d') \)) as a bad occurrence in \( \theta \) (resp. \( \theta' \)) corresponding to the bad occurrence \( (d, b, c, a) \) (resp. \( (c', d', a', b') \)) in \( \eta \).

Let \( Q \) be as in Section 15, and let \( \pi : G/B \to G/Q \) be the canonical projection. Let \( \tau \in W_{Q_{\min}} \). We have \( \pi^{-1}(X_Q(\tau)) = X_B(\tau_{\max}) \), where \( \tau_{\max} \), as a permutation, is given by \( \tau_{(a_1)} \) arranged in descending order, followed by \( \tau_{(a_2)} \backslash \tau_{(a_1)} \) arranged in descending order, etc.. We shall refer to the set \( \tau_{(a_1)} \backslash \tau_{(a_{i+1})}, 1 \leq i \leq l+1 \), arranged in descending order, as the \( i \)-th block in \( \tau_{\max} \) (here, \( \tau_{(a_0)} = \emptyset \), and \( \tau_{(a_{l+1})} \) is the set \( \{1, \ldots, n\} \backslash \tau_{(a_{l})} \) arranged in descending order).

For the rest of this section, \( w \) and \( Q \) will be as in Section 14.

**Remark 15.8.** — All of the entries in the \( i \)-th block in \( w_{\max} \) are \( \leq b_i - 1 \), \( 2 \leq i \leq l \).

**Lemma 15.9.** — We have

1. \( Q_{w_{\max}} = Q \).

2. Let \( I_{w_{\max}} = \{ \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1} \mid i = b_j - 1, 1 \leq j \leq l \} \). Then \( S_{P_{w_{\max}}} = S \backslash I_{w_{\max}} \).

The assertions are clear from the description of \( w_{\max} \) (in view of Lemma 15.4).
Lemma 15.10. — Let $P = P_{w_{\text{max}}}$, $Q = Q_{w_{\text{max}}}$. Then $B\theta_j^{\text{max}}$ is $P$-$Q$ stable.

Proof. — The $Q$-stability of $B\theta_j^{\text{max}}$ on the right is obvious. Regarding the $P$-stability of $B\theta_j^{\text{max}}$ on the left, first let $x$ be an entry $x \neq y_i$, for any $i > j$ such that $x_j \not\in w^{(a_i)}$ (notations being as in §14.4). It is clear that if $x - 1$ occurs after $x$ in $w_{\text{max}}$, then it does so in $\theta_j^{\text{max}}$ also. Let now $x = y_i$ for some $i > j$ such that $x_j \not\in w^{(a_i)}$. Further, let $\varepsilon_{x-1} - \varepsilon_x \in S_P$. This implies that $x \neq b_k$ for any $k$, $1 \leq k \leq l$ (cf. Lemma 15.9, (2)), and that $x - 1$ occurs after $x$ in $w_{\text{max}}$. In particular we have $x \neq b_j$, and hence $x > b_j$. From this it is clear that $x - 1$ occurs after $x$ in $\theta_j^{\text{max}}$ also. The result now follows from this.

Lemma 15.11. — Any bad occurrence in $w_{\text{max}}$ is of Type I.

Proof. — Let $w_{\text{max}} = (a_1 \ldots a_n)$. Assume that $(c, d, a, b)$ is a bad occurrence of Type II in $w_{\text{max}}$, where $a < b < c < d$. Clearly, $c$ and $d$ (resp. $a$ and $b$) cannot both appear in the same block, in view of the description of $w_{\text{max}}$. Let then $c, d, a, b$ appear in the $h$-th, $i$-th, $j$-th, $k$-th blocks respectively, where $h < i < j < k$. This implies that $a < b < c < d \leq b_i - 1$ (cf. Remark 15.8). But now, $a$ and $b$ are both $< b_i - 1$, and they both appear after $b_i - 1$; further, $a$ appears before $b$ in $w_{\text{max}}$, which is not possible by the construction of $w_{\text{max}}$ (note that $a < b$). The required result follows from this.

Remark 15.12. — Of course, there are several bad occurrences in $w_{\text{max}}$ of Type I. For example, fix some $j$, $1 \leq j \leq l$. Take $d = n$, $b = b_j - 1$, $c = b_j$, $a = x_j$, notations being as in §14.4. Then $d, b, c, a$ occur in the 1-st, $j$-th, $k$-th, $m$-th blocks respectively, where $j < k \leq m$. This provides an example of a Type I bad occurrence in $w_{\text{max}}$.

Lemma 15.13. — Let $d, b, c, a$ be a bad occurrence in $w_{\text{max}}$, where $a < b < c < d$. Assume that $b$ belongs to the $i$-th block, for some $i$ (note that $i \leq l$, since $b < c$). Then

(1) $b \leq b_i - 1$,

(2) $d = n$.

Proof. — Let $d, b, c, a$ occur in the $h$-th, $i$-th, $j$-th, $m$-th blocks respectively in $w_{\text{max}}$, where $h \leq i < j \leq m$. First observe that $b < n$,
since $b < c < d \leq n$. Hence, if $i = 1$, then $b \leq b_1 - 1$. If $i \geq 2$, again $b \leq b_i - 1$ (cf. Remark 15.8). Assertion (1) follows from this.

CLAIM. — $d > b_i - 1$.

Proof. — Assume that $d \leq b_i - 1$. Then assumption implies $c < b_i - 1$ (since $c < d$). Now both $c$ and $b$ are $< b_i - 1$, and $b$ belongs to the $i$-th block in $w_{\text{max}}$. This implies that $c$ should occur before $b$, which is not possible. Hence our assumption is wrong, and the claim follows.

Note that the claim in fact implies that $d = n$ (and $h = 1$).

PROPOSITION 15.14. — The maximal elements in $F_{w_{\text{max}}}$ are precisely $\theta^\max_j$, $1 \leq i \leq h$ (here $F_{w_{\text{max}}}$ is as in §15.6).

Proof. — We first observe that $\theta^\max_j \in F_{w_{\text{max}}}$; for, corresponding to the bad occurrence $d = n$, $b = b_j - 1$, $c = c_j$, $a = x_j$ (cf. Remark 15.12), we have the bad occurrence $(b, a, d, c)$ (note that $b, a, d, c$ occur in that order in $\theta^\max_j$). Let us denote $\theta^\max_j$ by $\tau'$. Let $w'$ (resp. $\tau$) be the element of $\mathcal{S}_n$ obtained from $\tau'$ (resp. $w$) by replacing $b, a, d, c$ (resp. $d, b, c, a$) respectively by $d, c, b, a$ (resp. $b, a, d, c$). We have $\tau \leq w$ (clearly), and $\tau^{(a_j)}(a_j) \leq b_j - 1$. From this we conclude $\tau \leq \tau'$ (cf. Lemma 14.5). Also, we have

\begin{equation}
\text{(1)} \quad \text{for} \ i \leq j, \ \omega^{(a_j)}(a_i - 1) = \omega(a_i)(a_i - 1) < b_i
\end{equation}

(note that, in fact, for $i \leq j$, $\omega^{(a_i)} = \omega(a_i))$, and for $i \geq j + 1$,

$$
w^{(a_i)} = \begin{cases} 
\theta^{(a_j)}_j, & \text{if } b_j \in \theta^{(a_i)}_j \\
\theta^{(a_i)}_j \setminus \{x_j\} \cup \{b_j\}, & \text{if } b_j \notin \theta^{(a_i)}_j.
\end{cases}
$$

From this it follows that

\begin{equation}
\text{(2)} \quad \text{for} \ i \geq j + 1, \ \omega^{(a_j)}(a_i - 1) = \theta^{(a_j)}_j(a_i - 1) \leq \omega(a_i)(a_i - 1) = b_i - 1 < b_i
\end{equation}

From (1) and (2) we conclude $\omega \leq \omega^\max$ (cf Remark 14.1).

Thus we obtain $\theta^\max_j \in F_{w_{\text{max}}}$.

Let now $\tau' \in F_{w_{\text{max}}}$. In particular, we have $\tau' \in W^\max_Q$.

We have a bad occurrence in $\tau'$ which has to be of the form $(b, a, d, c)$, $a < b < c < d$, corresponding to the occurrence $(d, b, c, a)$ in $w^\max$ (cf. Lemma 15.11). Let $b, a, d, c$ occur in the $p$-th, $q$-th, $r$-th, $s$-th blocks respectively in $\tau'$, where $p \leq q < r \leq s$ (note that $\tau' \in W^\max_Q$). Let $w'$
be obtained from \( \tau' \) by replacing \( b, a, d, c \) by \( d, b, c, a \) respectively. We have 
\[ w' \leq w^{\text{max}} \] (cf. §15.6). Hence 
\[ w'(a_q - 1) \leq w(a_q)(a_q - 1) = b_q - 1. \]
Further, \( \tau'(a_q) \) is obtained from \( w'(a_q) \) by replacing \( d \) by \( a \) (note that \( d = n \), cf. Lemma 15.13). Hence we obtain 
\[ \tau'(a_q) = w'(a_q)(a_q - 1) \leq b_q - 1. \]
This, together with the fact that \( \tau' \leq w^{\text{max}} \), implies \( \tau' \leq \theta_q^{\text{max}} \) (cf. Lemma 14.5) \( \Box \)

**Theorem 15.15.** — The conjecture 15.6 holds for \( X(w^{\text{max}}) \).

**Proof.** — In view of Theorems 12.3, 14.2 and 14.6, \( X(\theta_j^{\text{max}}), 1 \leq j \leq l \) are precisely the irreducible components of \( \text{Sing} X(w^{\text{max}}) \). On the other hand, we have (cf. Proposition 15.14) that the maximal elements in \( F_{w^{\text{max}}} \) are precisely \( \theta_j^{\text{max}}, 1 \leq j \leq l \). Hence the irreducible components of \( \text{Sing} X(w^{\text{max}}) \) are precisely \( \{X(\theta) \mid \theta \text{ a maximal element of } F_{w^{\text{max}}}\} \). Thus the conjecture holds for \( X(w^{\text{max}}) \) \( \Box \)

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