## The Determinantal Formula in Schubert calculus

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ABSTRACT. We present a proof of the determinantal formula in Schubert calculus for general schemes. The result may be viewed as an appendix to the article [LT2].

**6.0 Setup.** Work with the notation introduced in [LT2]. In particular,  $\mathcal{E}$  is a locally free module of rank  $n \ge 1$  over the base scheme *X*, and  $d \le n$  is a fixed positive integer.

Let

$$F := \operatorname{Flag}^d(\mathcal{E}) \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_F \colon F \to X$$

be the *d*'th *partial flag scheme* and its structure map, parametrizing flags of corank *d* in  $\mathcal{E}$ . On *F* there is a universal flag of quotients of  $\mathcal{E}_F$ ,

$$\mathcal{E}_F \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_d \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_{d-1} \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_1,$$
 (6.0.1)

with  $Q_i$  locally free of rank *i*. So, the successive kernels  $\mathcal{L}_i := \text{Ker}(Q_i \to Q_{i-1})$  for  $i = 1, \ldots, d$  (and  $Q_0 = 0$ ) are locally free of rank 1.

Let

$$G := \operatorname{Grass}^{d}(\mathcal{E}) \text{ and } \pi_{G} \colon G \to X$$

be the *d*'th Grassmannian and its structure map, parametrizing rank-*d* quotients of  $\mathcal{E}$ . On *G* there is a universal rank-*d* quotient  $\mathcal{Q}$  of  $\mathcal{E}_G$ . It defines a short exact sequence,

$$0 \to \mathcal{R} \to \mathcal{E}_G \to \mathcal{Q} \to 0 \tag{6.0.2}$$

with  $\mathcal{R}$  locally free of corank d. On the flag scheme F, the quotient  $\mathcal{E}_F \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_d$  defines an X-morphism  $g: F \to G$  under which the quotient  $\mathcal{Q}_d$  of  $\mathcal{E}_F$  is the pull-back of the quotient  $\mathcal{Q}$  of  $\mathcal{E}_G$ . In fact, it follows from the functorial properties of flags that the map  $g: F \to G$  identifies F and the complete flag scheme of  $\mathcal{Q}$  over G:

$$\operatorname{Flag}_X^d(\mathcal{E}) = \operatorname{Flag}_G^d(\mathcal{Q}). \tag{6.0.3}$$

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Under this identification we have the equality  $Q_F = Q_d$  and the universal (complete) flag of quotients of  $Q_F$  is tail of the flag (6.0.1).

In the case d = 1, the two schemes F and G reduce to projective space: Let

$$P := I\!P(\mathcal{E}) = \operatorname{Proj}(\operatorname{Sym} \mathcal{E}) \text{ and } \pi : P \to X$$

be the projective bundle and its structure map. On P there is an exact sequence

$$0 \to \mathcal{E}_1 \to \mathcal{E}_P \to \mathcal{O}_P(1) \to 0. \tag{6.0.4}$$

Clearly, the flag schemes may be defined inductively as a chain of schemes and maps,

$$F_d \to \cdots \to F_2 \to F_1 \to X,$$

with  $F_1 := I\!P(\mathcal{E})$ , and the following inductive description: Assume that  $F = \operatorname{Flag}^d(\mathcal{E})$  is given with the universal flag (6.0.1). Let  $\mathcal{R}_d \subseteq \mathcal{E}_F$  be the corank-*d* submodule corresponding to the quotient  $\mathcal{Q}_d$ . Set  $F' := I\!P(\mathcal{R}_d)$ , let  $\mathcal{L}' := \mathcal{O}_{F'}(1)$  be the universal rank-1 quotient of  $\mathcal{R}_{d,F'}$ , let  $\mathcal{R}_{d+1} \subseteq \mathcal{R}_{d,F'}$  be the kernel of the canonical epimorphism  $\mathcal{R}_{d,F'} \to \mathcal{L}'$ , and let  $\mathcal{Q}_{d+1} := \mathcal{E}_{F'}/\mathcal{R}_{d+1}$ . Then  $\mathcal{Q}_{d+1}$  is a rank-(*d* + 1) quotient of  $\mathcal{E}_{F'}$ , and there is a canonical quotientmorphism  $\mathcal{Q}_{d+1} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_{d,F'}$  with kernel  $\mathcal{L}'$ . Clearly,  $F' = \operatorname{Flag}^{d+1}(\mathcal{E})$ , with the corank-(*d* + 1) flag obtained from  $\mathcal{Q}_{d+1}$  and the pull back to F' of the flag (6.0.1) as the universal corank-(*d* + 1) flag.

**6.1 Setup continued.** Consider an increasing sequence of *d* linear subschemes of  $I\!P(\mathcal{E})$ :

$$A_1 \subseteq A_2 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq A_d \subseteq I\!\!P(\mathcal{E}),$$

say  $A_i = I\!\!P(A_i)$  given by a decreasing sequence of d locally free quotients of  $\mathcal{E}$ :

$$\mathcal{E} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A}_d \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A}_2 \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A}_1,$$
 (6.1.1)

say  $A_i := I\!P(\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{V}_i)$  with a decreasing sequence  $\mathcal{E} \supseteq \mathcal{V}_1 \supseteq \cdots \supseteq \mathcal{V}_d$  of *d* locally split submodules of  $\mathcal{E}$ . The associated *Schubert subscheme* is the closed subscheme of the Grassmannian,

$$\Omega(A_1,\ldots,A_d) = \Omega(\mathcal{A}_1,\ldots,\mathcal{A}_d) \subseteq \operatorname{Grass}^d_X(\mathcal{E}),$$

defined informally, see [LT2], by the following conditions on a (d-1)-plane Q in  $I\!P(\mathcal{E})$ :

$$\dim Q \cap A_i \ge i - 1 \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, d.$$

Over the flag scheme  $F = \operatorname{Flag}^{d}(\mathcal{E})$  we have two decreasing sequences of quotients of  $\mathcal{E}_{F}$ :

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{E}_F \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}_{d,F} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}_{d-1,F} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}_{1,F} \\ \| \\ \mathcal{E}_F \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_d \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_{d-1} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_1. \end{array}$$

Denote by  $Z = \operatorname{Flag}(\mathcal{A}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{A}_d) = \operatorname{Flag}(\mathcal{A}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{A}_d)$  the closed subscheme  $Z \subseteq F$  where the top sequence dominates the bottom sequence, that is, the quotient  $\mathcal{E}_F \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A}_{i,F}$  dominates the quotient  $\mathcal{E}_F \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_i$  for  $i = 1, \ldots, d$ :

So, if  $\mathcal{A}_i = \mathcal{E}/\mathcal{V}_i$ , then Z is the intersection of the zero schemes of the d compositions  $\mathcal{V}_{i,F} \to \mathcal{E}_F \to \mathcal{Q}_i$ .

In precise geometric terms, the flag scheme F represents the functor whose value at an X-scheme T is the set of all flags,

$$Q_1 \subset Q_2 \subset \cdots \subset Q_d \subseteq I\!\!P(\mathcal{E}_T), \tag{6.1.2}$$

where  $Q_i$  is a linear subspace of relative dimension i - 1 in  $I\!P(\mathcal{E}_T) = I\!P(\mathcal{E}) \times_X T$ , and Z respresents the subfunctor whose value is the subset of flags (6.1.2) where

$$Q_i \subseteq A_i \times_X T$$
 for  $i = 1, \ldots, d$ .

Clearly, the canonical morphism  $g: \operatorname{Flag}^{d}(\mathcal{E}) \to \operatorname{Grass}^{d}(\mathcal{E})$  induces a morphism of closed subschemes,

$$f: \operatorname{Flag}(A_1, \dots, A_d) \to \Omega(A_1, \dots, A_d) \tag{6.1.3}$$

**6.2 Lemma.** The morphism (6.1.3) induces an isomorphism between the open dense subset of  $\operatorname{Flag}(A_1, \ldots, A_d)$  where  $A_i \cap Q_d = Q_i$  for  $i = 1, \ldots, d$ , and the open dense subset of  $\Omega(A_1, \ldots, A_d)$  where  $A_i \cap Q$  is a linear subscheme of dimension i - 1 for  $i = 1, \ldots, d$ .

Proof. The assertion is obvious.

**6.3 Iterative construction.** Generalizing the inductive definition of the flag scheme, the subscheme  $Z = \text{Flag}(A_1, \ldots, A_d)$  of the *d*'th flag scheme  $F = \text{Flag}^d(\mathcal{E})$  may be constructed inductively as follows:

First, if d = 0, then Z = F = X. To describe the inductive step, passing from d to d + 1, assume that Z and F are constructed for d linear subspaces  $A_1, \ldots, A_d$  of  $I\!P(\mathcal{E})$ , and consider an additional linear subspace  $A_d \subseteq A_{d+1} \subseteq I\!P(\mathcal{E})$ , say  $A_{d+1} = I\!P(\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{V}_{d+1})$  with  $\mathcal{V}_{d+1} \subseteq \mathcal{V}_d$ . Consider the universal flag on F:

$$\mathcal{E}_F \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_d \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_1,$$
 (6.3.1)

where  $Q_i$  is locally free of rank *i*. Assume that the quotient  $Q_d$  corresponds to the submodule  $\mathcal{R}_d$ , say  $Q_d = \mathcal{E}_F / \mathcal{R}_d$ . Consider the projective scheme  $h: F' := IP(\mathcal{R}_d) \to F$ , and on F' the tautological exact sequence,

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{R}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{R}_{d,F'} \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{F'}(1) \longrightarrow 0.$$
(6.3.2)

Then the quotient  $Q' := \mathcal{E}_{F'}/\mathcal{R}'$  dominates the quotient  $\mathcal{Q}_{d,F'} = \mathcal{E}_{F'}/\mathcal{R}_{d,F'}$ , and  $\mathcal{L}' := \mathcal{O}_{F'}(1)$  is the kernel of the surjection  $Q' \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_{d,F'}$ . Clearly,  $F' = \operatorname{Flag}^{d+1}(\mathcal{E})$  with

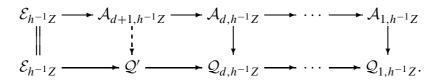
$$\mathcal{E}_{F'} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}' \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_{d,F'} \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_{1,F'}$$

as the universal flag.

Over F' we have two (d + 1)-flags of quotients,

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{E}_{F'} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}_{d+1,F'} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}_{d,F'} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}_{1,F'} \\ \| \\ \mathcal{E}_{F'} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_{d,F'} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_{1,F'} \\ 3 \end{array}$$

Over Z, and hence over the preimage  $h^{-1}Z$ , we have that  $\mathcal{E} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A}_i$  dominates  $\mathcal{E} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_i$  for i = 1, ..., d:



Moreover, for any scheme T over  $h^{-1}Z$  we have that  $\mathcal{A}_{d+1,T}$  dominates  $\mathcal{Q}'_T$  if and only if the composition  $\mathcal{V}_{d+1,T} \to \mathcal{E}_T \to \mathcal{Q}'_T$  vanishes. Since  $\mathcal{V}_{d+1,T} \subseteq \mathcal{V}_{d,T}$ , the composition maps into the kernel  $\mathcal{L}'_T$  of  $\mathcal{Q}'_T \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}_{d,T}$ . So the composition defines over the preimage  $h^{-1}Z$  of Z in F a natural morphism,

$$\mathcal{V}_{d+1,h^{-1}Z} \to \mathcal{L}'_{h^{-1}Z}$$

or a section,

$$\mathcal{O}_{h^{-1}Z} \to \mathcal{V}_{d+1,h^{-1}Z}^* \otimes L_{d+1,h^{-1}};$$
 (6.3.3)

clearly,  $Z' = Flag(A_1, \ldots, A_{d+1})$  is the scheme of zeros of the latter section.

The section (6.3.3) is regular, since the structure map  $h^{-1}Z \to Z$  identifies  $h^{-1}Z$  with  $I\!P(\mathcal{R}_{d,Z})$  and  $\mathcal{R}_{d,h^{-1}Z} \to \mathcal{L}'_{h^{-1}Z}$  with the universal rank-1 quotient(?). As a consequence, the class of Z' in  $A(h^{-1}Z)$  is obtained by applying the top Chern class  $c_{top}(\mathcal{V}^*_{d+1} \otimes \mathcal{L}')$  to  $[h^{-1}Z]$ . The top Chern class is, as a consequence of the Splitting Principle, equal to the value of the Chern polynomial  $C_{\mathcal{V}_{d+1}}$  at the first Chern class  $x = c_1 \mathcal{L}_{d+1}$ . Hence, under the inclusion  $j: Z' \to h^{-1}Z$ ,

$$j_*[Z'] = C_{\mathcal{V}_{d+1}}(x)[h^{-1}Z].$$
(6.3.4)

**6.4 Proposition.** Consider the d'th flag scheme  $F = \operatorname{Flag}^{d}(\mathcal{E})$  with its universal flag (6.0.1), let  $\mathcal{L}_{i} := \operatorname{Ker}(\mathcal{Q}_{i} \to \mathcal{Q}_{i-1})$  and  $\xi_{i} := c_{1}\mathcal{L}_{i}$  for  $i = 1, \ldots, d$ . Let  $Z := \operatorname{Flag}(A_{1}, \ldots, A_{d})$  and, more generally, let  $Z_{i}$  be the preimage in F of  $\operatorname{Flag}(A_{1}, \ldots, A_{i})$  under the natural map  $F = \operatorname{Flag}^{d}(\mathcal{E}) \to \operatorname{Flag}^{i}(\mathcal{E})$ . Then, for  $i = 1, \ldots, d$ , we have the equation in A(F):

$$[Z_i] = \prod_{j=1}^i C_{\mathcal{V}_j}(\xi_j) \cap [F].$$

Note that, by the Whitney Sum formula,  $C_{\mathcal{V}_i}(T) = C_{\mathcal{E}}(T)/C_{\mathcal{A}_i}(T)$ .

**6.5 Conclusion.** Recall that for the Chow group of the *d*'th flag scheme  $F = \text{Flag}^d(\mathcal{E})$  there is a canonical identification,

$$A(F) = A^{*}(F) \otimes_{A^{*}(X)} A(X) = \text{Split}_{A^{*}(X)}^{d}(C_{\mathcal{F}}) \otimes_{A^{*}(X)} A(X),$$
(6.5.1)

where  $\text{Split}_{A}^{d}(p)$  denotes the *d*'the *splitting algebra* for the polynomial *p* over *A* in *d* linear factors  $p(T) = (T - \xi_1) \cdots (T - \xi_d) \tilde{p}(T)$ , where  $\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_d$  are the *universal roots* in  $\text{Split}_{A}^{d}(p)$ . By the identification (6.5.1), the Chern classes  $x_i \in A^*(X)$  correspond to the universal roots  $\xi_i$ .

Recall in addition that the A-subalgebra of  $\text{Split}_A^d(p)$  generated by the elementary symmetric polynomials in the  $\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_d$  is the *factorization algebra*  $\text{Fact}_A^d(p)$ , universal with

respect to factorizations  $p = q\tilde{q}$  into factors of degree d and n - d. The Chern ring  $A^*(G)$  of the d'th Grassmannian  $G = \text{Grass}^d(\mathcal{E})$  is in fact the d'th factorization algebra of  $C_{\mathcal{E}}$ , and the equation  $C_{\mathcal{E}} = C_{\mathcal{Q}}C_{\mathcal{R}}$  in  $A^*(G)[T]$  resulting from the exact sequence (6.0.2) is the universal factorization. Moreover the pull back of the morphism  $g: F \to G$  and the inclusion of the factorization algebra into the splitting algebra induce a commutative diagram,

**6.6 Theorem.** Consider over the base scheme X a locally free module  $\mathcal{E}$  and a flag of d locally free quotients,

$$\mathcal{E} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A}_d \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A}_2 \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A}_1,$$
 (6.6.1)

with  $\operatorname{rk} A_i \geq i$ , say  $A_i := I\!P(\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{V}_i)$  with a decreasing sequence,

$$\mathcal{V}_d \subseteq \dots \subseteq \mathcal{V}_1 \subseteq \mathcal{E},\tag{6.6.2}$$

of d locally split submodules  $\mathcal{V}_i$ . Form the Grassmanian  $G := \operatorname{Grass}^d(\mathcal{E})$  parametrizing rank-d locally free quotients of  $\mathcal{E}$  with the universal quotient  $\mathcal{E}_G \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ , fitting into an exact sequence,

$$0 \to \mathcal{R} \to \mathcal{E}_G \to \mathcal{Q} \to 0. \tag{6.6.3}$$

Let  $\Omega = \Omega(A_1, ..., A_d)$  be the corresponding Schubert subscheme of G. Then the class of  $\Omega$  in the Chow group A(G) is given by the determinantal formula,

$$[\Omega] = \operatorname{Res}\left(\frac{C_{\mathcal{V}_1}}{C_{\mathcal{Q}}}, \dots, \frac{C_{\mathcal{V}_d}}{C_{\mathcal{Q}}}\right)[G] = \operatorname{Res}\left(\frac{C_{\mathcal{R}}}{C_{\mathcal{A}_1}}, \dots, \frac{C_{\mathcal{R}}}{C_{\mathcal{A}_d}}\right)[G].$$
(6.6.4)

*Proof.* The Laurent series in the two resultants are the same since, by the Whitney Formula,  $C_{\mathcal{E}}(T) = C_{\mathcal{V}_i}(T)C_{\mathcal{A}_i}(T) = C_{\mathcal{R}}(T)C_{\mathcal{Q}}(T)$  in A<sup>\*</sup>(G)[T]. Note also that the Segre series is the inverse of the Chern polynomial so that  $C_{\mathcal{V}_i}/C_{\mathcal{Q}} = C_{\mathcal{V}_i}S_{\mathcal{Q}} = C_{\mathcal{R}}S_{\mathcal{A}_i}$ .

Let *F* be the *d*'th flag scheme,  $F = \operatorname{Flag}^d(\mathcal{E})$ ; under the induced morphism  $g: F \to G$ , the flag scheme *F* is identified with the complete flag scheme  $\operatorname{Flag}^d(\mathcal{Q})$  of  $\mathcal{Q}$ . Let  $Z \subseteq F$  be the closed subscheme  $Z = \operatorname{Flag}(\mathcal{A}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{A}_d)$ . Consider the following diagram,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{A}(Z) & \stackrel{i_{*}}{\longrightarrow} & \mathbf{A}(F) = = \operatorname{Split}^{d}(C_{\mathcal{Q}}) \otimes_{A^{*}(G)} A(G) \\ f_{*} & & & \downarrow^{\partial \otimes 1} \\ A(\Omega) & \stackrel{j_{*}}{\longrightarrow} & \mathbf{A}(G) = = \operatorname{A}^{*}(G) \otimes_{A^{*}(G)} A(G). \end{array}$$

The left square of Chow groups corresponds to the natural commutative diagram of schemes. Hence the first square is commutative. The right vertical map  $\partial$  in the second square is the map  $\partial = \partial^{1,...,d}$  considered in [LT1, Section 6]. It is a map from the splitting algebra Split<sup>d</sup>( $C_Q$ ) of the Chern polynomial  $C_Q \in A^*(G)$  to the base ring  $A^*(G)$ ; the splitting algebra Split<sup>d</sup>( $C_Q$ ) is the full splitting algebra since  $C_Q$  is of degree d.

The inductive construction of full flag scheme  $F = \operatorname{Flag}^d(\mathcal{Q})$  with the map  $g \colon F \to G$  is recalled in Section 6.1. The inductive construction of the splitting algebra  $\operatorname{Split}^d(C_{\mathcal{Q}})$  over

the ring  $A^*(G)$  with its map  $\text{Split}^d(C_Q) \to A^*(G)$  is given in [LT1, Section 6]. It follows from the two constructions that the second diagram is commutative under the top horizontal identification given in [LT2, Formula (4.9.1)] with X := G and  $\mathcal{E} := Q$ .

To prove the formula in (6.6.4), consider the fundamental class  $[Z] \in A(Z)$  and its image in A(G). First,  $f_*[Z] = [\Omega]$  since the map  $f: Z \to \Omega$  is birational by Lemma 6.2. Hence the image of [Z] in A(G) is equal to the class  $[\Omega]$  in A(G).

Next, the inclusion  $i: Z \to F$  is, by the iterative construction 6.3, a composition of d regular embeddings defined by zero schemes of regular sections correspoding to the one considered in (6.3.3). Hence,

$$j_*[Z] = C_{\mathcal{V}_d}(\xi_d) \cdots C_{\mathcal{V}_1}(\xi_1)[F].$$
(6.6.5)

Under the identifications in the diagram, the product of Chern classes in (6.6.5) may be viewed as a product in the splitting algebra  $\text{Split}^d(C_Q)$ . By the fundamental result in [LT1, Proposition 6.3], the image of the product under the map  $\partial$  is the resultant in (6.6.4),

$$\partial \left( C_{\mathcal{V}_d}(\xi_d) \cdots C_{\mathcal{V}_1}(\xi_1) \right) = \operatorname{Res}\left( \frac{C_{\mathcal{V}_1}}{C_{\mathcal{Q}}}, \dots, \frac{C_{\mathcal{V}_d}}{C_{\mathcal{Q}}} \right).$$

Therefore  $g_*i_*[Z]$  is equal to the resultant applied to [G]. Thus formula (6.6.4) has been proved.

## References

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