

Applying Littlewood-Richardson Homotopies to Schubert Problems

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Outline

1 Numerical Schubert Calculus

- Schubert varieties and Schubert problems
- homotopies for enumerative geometry

2 The Moving Flag in Littlewood-Richardson Homotopies

- specialization and generalization
- encoding the moves by black checkers

3 2 Lines meeting 4 given general Lines in 3-space

- checker games encode moving flag and coordinates for solutions
- coordinate transformations and moving coordinates in homotopy

4 Localization Patterns and Checker Movements

- option -e of phc and Macaulay 2 interface LRhomotopies.m2

Schubert Varieties

A Schubert variety is defined by an n -dimensional flag F :

$$F = [\mathbf{f}_1 \mathbf{f}_2 \cdots \mathbf{f}_n] \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \quad \langle \mathbf{f}_1 \rangle \subset \langle \mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2 \rangle \subset \cdots \subset \langle \mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \dots, \mathbf{f}_n \rangle$$

and a k -dimensional bracket $\omega \in \mathbb{N}^k$, $1 \leq \omega_1 < \omega_2 < \cdots < \omega_k \leq n$:

$$\Omega_\omega(F) = \left\{ X \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \mid \dim(X \cap \langle \mathbf{f}_1, \dots, \mathbf{f}_{\omega_i} \rangle) = i, i = 1, 2, \dots, k \right\}.$$

For example: for $F \in \mathbb{C}^{6 \times 6}$, $\Omega_{[2 \ 4 \ 6]}(F)$ contains

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ x_{31} & x_{32} & 1 \\ x_{41} & x_{42} & x_{43} \\ 0 & x_{52} & x_{53} \\ 0 & 0 & x_{63} \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} \dim(X \cap \langle \mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2 \rangle) &= 1 \\ \dim(X \cap \langle \mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3, \mathbf{f}_4 \rangle) &= 2 \\ \dim(X \cap \langle \mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3, \mathbf{f}_4, \mathbf{f}_5, \mathbf{f}_6 \rangle) &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

expressed via conditions on minors \rightarrow
system of 13 polynomials in 9 variables

Schubert Problems

A triple intersection $[2 \ 4 \ 6]^3 = [2 \ 4 \ 6][2 \ 4 \ 6][2 \ 4 \ 6]$ means

$$\Omega_{[2 \ 4 \ 6]}(I) \cap \Omega_{[2 \ 4 \ 6]}(M) \cap \Omega_{[2 \ 4 \ 6]}(F)$$

where I : the identity matrix represents the standard flag,
 M : a matrix represents the moving flag,
 F : another matrix represents the fixed flag.

The Littlewood-Richardson rule computes the number of solutions:

$$\begin{aligned}[2 \ 4 \ 6]^3 &= ([2 \ 4 \ 6][2 \ 4 \ 6])[2 \ 4 \ 6] \\&= ([2 \ 3 \ 4] + 2[1 \ 3 \ 5] + [1 \ 2 \ 6])[2 \ 4 \ 6] \\&= [2 \ 3 \ 4][2 \ 4 \ 6] + 2[1 \ 3 \ 5][2 \ 4 \ 6] + [1 \ 2 \ 6][2 \ 4 \ 6] \\&= 0 + 2[1 \ 2 \ 3] + 0\end{aligned}$$

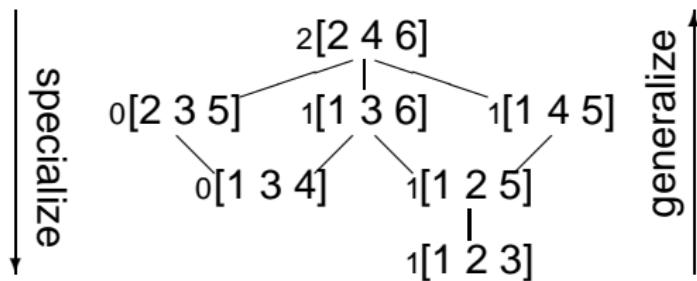
→ there are 2 isolated 3-planes in $\Omega_{[2 \ 4 \ 6]}(I) \cap \Omega_{[2 \ 4 \ 6]}(M) \cap \Omega_{[2 \ 4 \ 6]}(F)$.

poset to resolve general problems

Resolving $[2\ 4\ 6][2\ 5\ 6]^3$:

$$\begin{aligned}[2\ 4\ 6][2\ 5\ 6]^3 &= (1[2\ 3\ 5] + 1[1\ 4\ 5] + 1[1\ 3\ 6])[2\ 5\ 6]^2 \\ &= (2[1\ 3\ 4] + 2[1\ 2\ 5])[2\ 5\ 6] \\ &= 2[1\ 2\ 3].\end{aligned}$$

Using a poset:



a Geometric Littlewood-Richardson Rule

William Fulton: *Young Tableau. With Applications to Representation Theory and Geometry.* Cambridge University Press, 1997.

The first geometric proof and interpretation was given by

Ravi Vakil: *a geometric Littlewood-Richardson rule.* Ann of Math, 2006.

A combinatorial checker game for the Littlewood-Richardson coefficients gives homotopies to solve Schubert problems:

F. Sottile, R. Vakil, and J. Verschelde: *Solving Schubert problems with Littlewood-Richardson Homotopies.* In Proceedings of ISSAC 2010.

Motivation: experimental study of reality conjectures

<http://www.math.tamu.edu/~secant>

Christopher Hillar, Luis Garcia-Puente, Abraham Martin del Campo, James Ruffo, Zach Teitler, Stephen L. Johnson, Frank Sottile: *Experimentation at the Frontiers of Reality in Schubert Calculus.* Contemporary Math. AMS 2010.

Homotopies for Enumerative Geometry

- B. Huber, F. Sottile, and B. Sturmfels: Numerical Schubert calculus. *J. of Symbolic Computation*, 26(6):767–788, 1998.
- J. Verschelde: Numerical evidence for a conjecture in real algebraic geometry. *Experimental Mathematics* 9(2): 183–196, 2000.
- B. Huber and J. Verschelde: Pieri homotopies for problems in enumerative geometry applied to pole placement in linear systems control. *SIAM J. Control Optim.* 38(4):1265–1287, 2000.
- F. Sottile and B. Sturmfels: A sagbi basis for the quantum Grassmannian. *J. Pure and Appl. Algebra* 158(2-3): 347–366, 2001.
- T.Y. Li, X. Wang, and M. Wu: Numerical Schubert calculus by the Pieri homotopy algorithm. *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.* 20(2):578–600, 2002.
- J. Verschelde and Y. Wang: Computing dynamic output feedback laws. *IEEE Trans. Automat. Control*. 49(8):1393–1397, 2004.
- A. Leykin and F. Sottile: Galois group of Schubert problems via homotopy continuation. *Math. Comp.* 78(267): 1749–1765, 2009.

Degenerating the moving Flag

Given I : the identity matrix represents the standard flag,
 M : a matrix represents the moving flag,
 F : another matrix represents the fixed flag,

we consider a triple intersection for some bracket ω :

general problem: $\Omega_\omega(I) \cap \Omega_\omega(M) \cap \Omega_\omega(F)$

degeneration *generalization*

degenerate problem: $\Omega_\omega(I) \cap \Omega_\omega(M) \cap \Omega_\omega(F)$

The degeneration $M \rightarrow I$ allows to satisfy the intersection condition by solving some linear systems.

Littlewood-Richardson homotopies generalize I to M via invertible transformations involving a parameter t .

Generalizing the moving Flag

first three moves for $n = 4$, random $\gamma_{ij} \in \mathbb{C}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma_{31}t & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma_{31}t & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma_{31} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{21}t & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{21}t & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{31} & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{31} & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11}t & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11}t & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \gamma_{21} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \gamma_{31} & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Generalizing the moving Flag

last three moves for $n = 4$, random $\gamma_{ij} \in \mathbb{C}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \gamma_{21} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \gamma_{31} & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma_{22}t & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \gamma_{21} & 0 & \gamma_{22}t & 1 \\ \gamma_{31} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \gamma_{21} & 0 & \gamma_{22} & 1 \\ \gamma_{31} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{21}t & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{21}t & 1 & 0 \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} & 0 & 1 \\ \gamma_{31} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

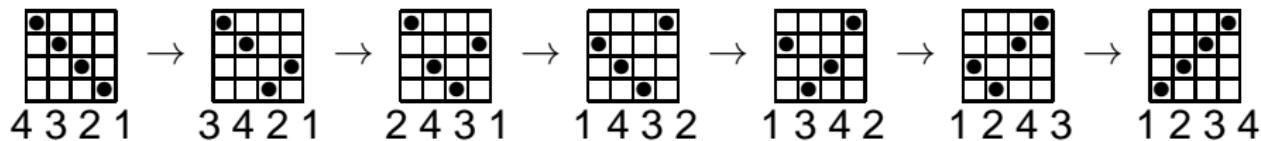
$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} & 0 & 1 \\ \gamma_{31} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma_{13}t & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{13}t & 1 \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} & 1 & 0 \\ \gamma_{31} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Encoding the Moves

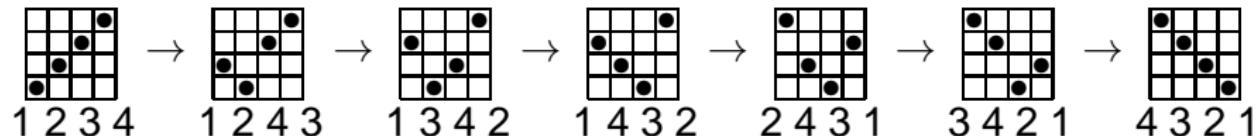
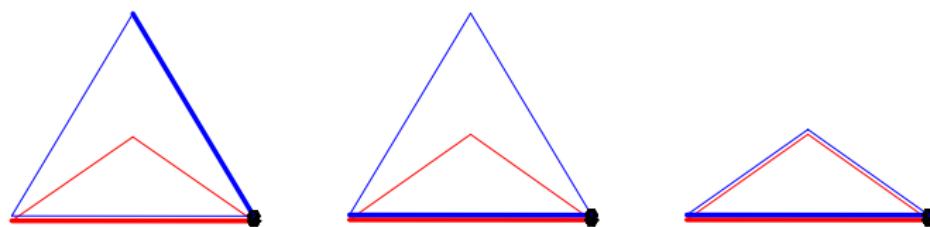
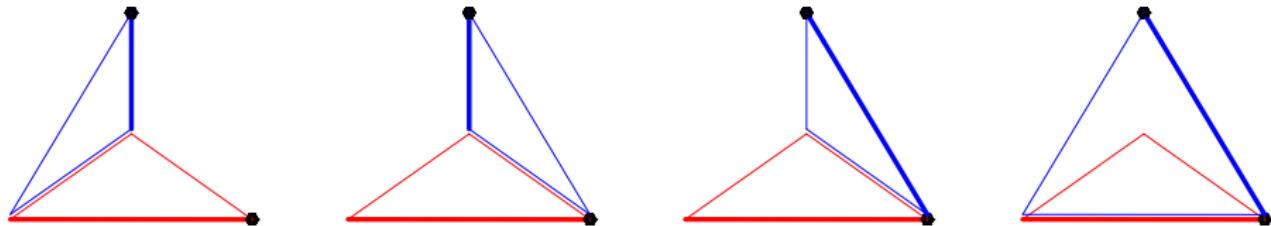
bubble sort on $n \ n - 1 \ \dots \ 2 \ 1$

$$I \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma_{31} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{31} & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \gamma_{21} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \gamma_{31} & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \gamma_{21} & 0 & \gamma_{22} & 1 \\ \gamma_{31} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} & 0 & 1 \\ \gamma_{31} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{13} & 1 \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} & 1 & 0 \\ \gamma_{31} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



Specialization in \mathbb{P}^3



Littlewood-Richardson Homotopies

Degeneration of general flag from M to I in $\binom{n}{2}$ moves.

Three flag intersection condition $\Omega_\omega(I) \cap \Omega_\omega(M) \cap \Omega_\omega(F)$ is at the special position for $M = I$ reduced to the equations imposed on

$$X \in \Omega_\omega(F) : \quad P(X) = 0.$$

Generalizing the moving flag M leads to homotopies of the form

$$P(M(t)X) = 0, \quad t \in [0, 1].$$

The solution k -plane X is represented in this moving basis $M(t)$ in suitable local coordinates, via a localization pattern.

The Problem of Four General Lines

Classical problem in projective 3-space \mathbb{P}^3 :

**Given four general lines in \mathbb{P}^3 (no triplet is coplanar),
find all lines that meet those four given lines nontrivially.**

Identify \mathbb{P}^3 with \mathbb{C}^4 with natural basis $(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3, \mathbf{e}_4)$.

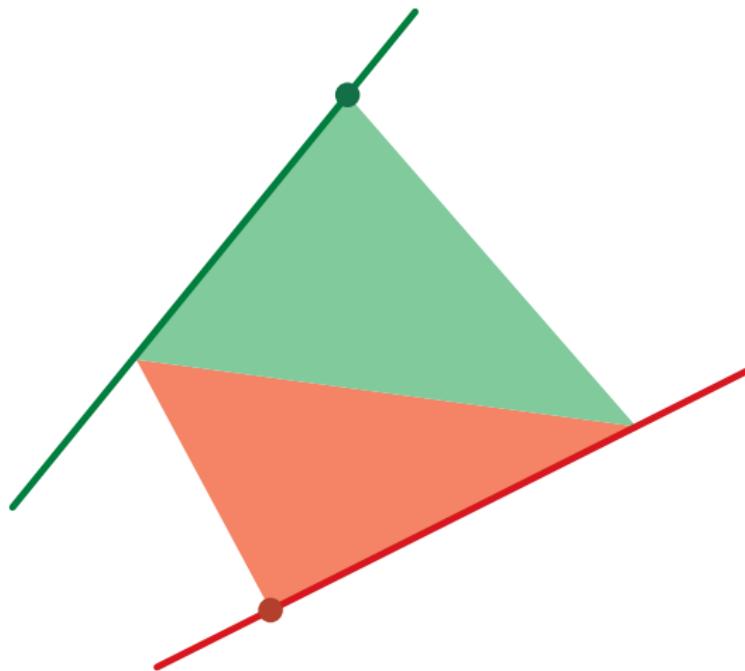
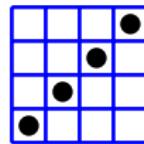
Let $L_1 = \text{span}(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2)$ and $L_2 = \text{span}(\mathbf{e}_3, \mathbf{e}_4)$, consider

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ x_{2,1} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & x_{4,2} \end{bmatrix} \quad P(X) = \begin{cases} \det([X|L_3]) = 0 \\ \det([X|L_4]) = 0 \end{cases}$$

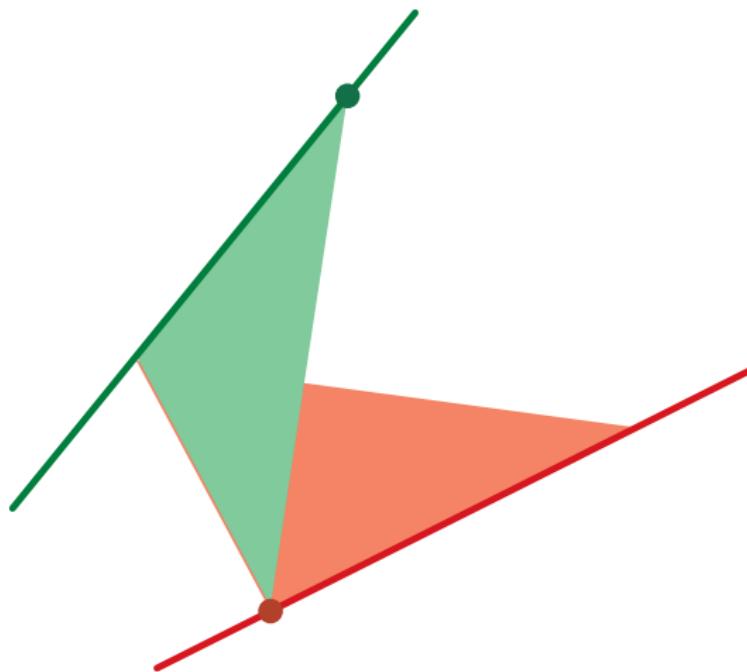
where X meets L_1 and L_2 by its pattern.

Specializing L_2 to coincide with L_1 makes X change pattern
so $P(X) = \mathbf{0}$ becomes a linear system.

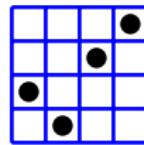
Specializing Moving Flag to Fixed Flag – stage 0


$$\begin{matrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{matrix}$$


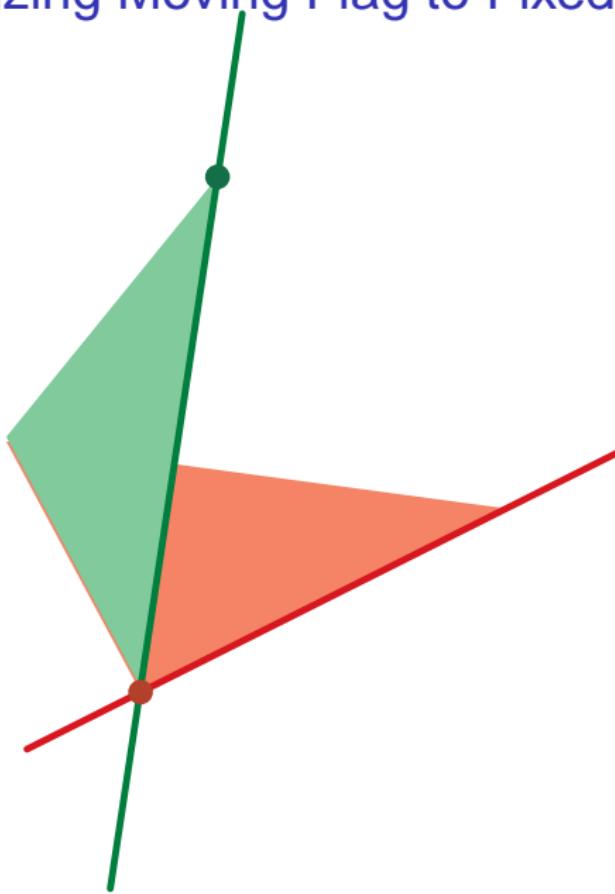
Specializing Moving Flag to Fixed Flag – stage 1



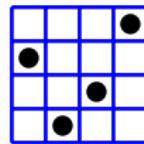
1 1 1 0
1 1 0 1
1 1 0 0
1 0 0 0



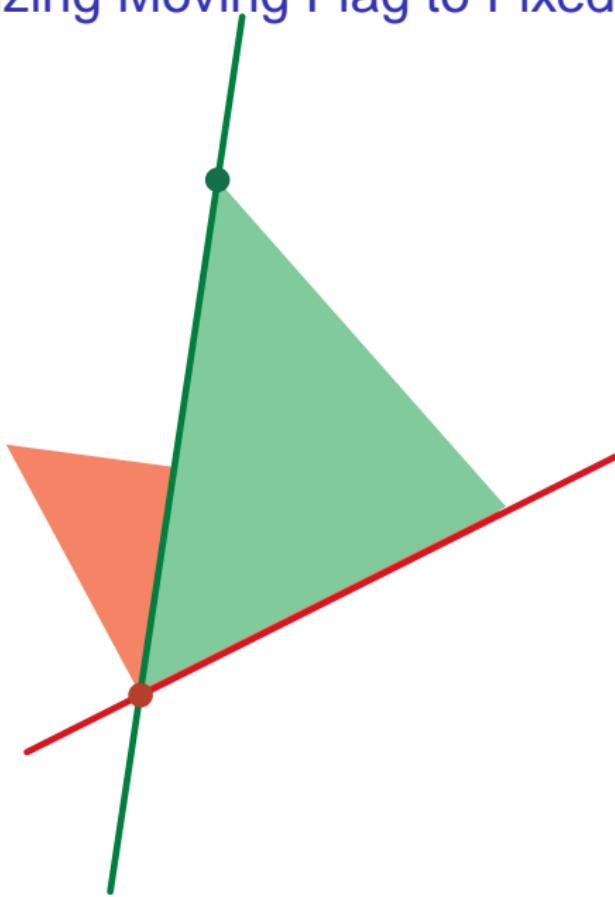
Specializing Moving Flag to Fixed Flag – stage 2



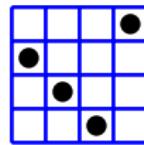
1 1 0 0
1 0 1 1
1 0 1 0
1 0 0 0



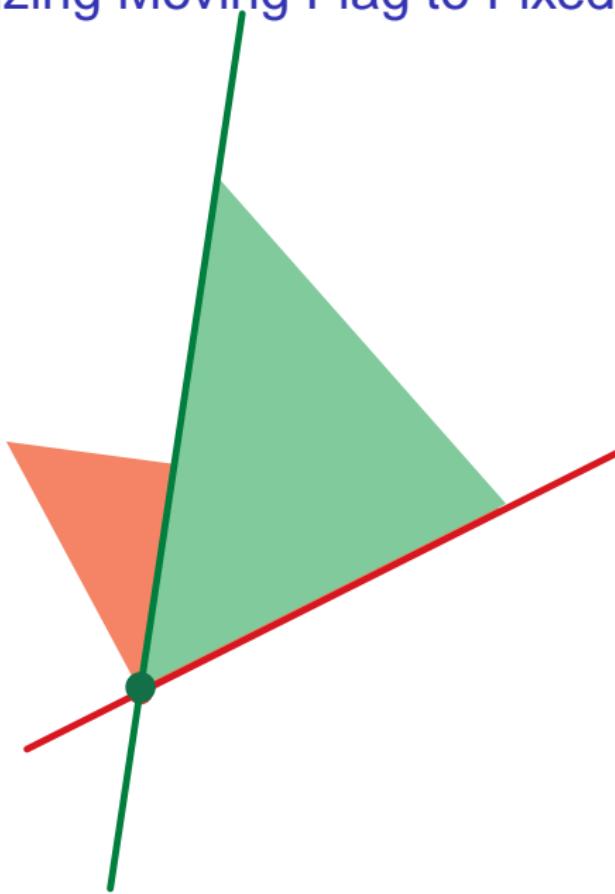
Specializing Moving Flag to Fixed Flag – stage 3



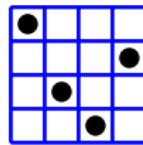
1 1 0 0
1 0 1 0
1 0 0 1
1 0 0 0



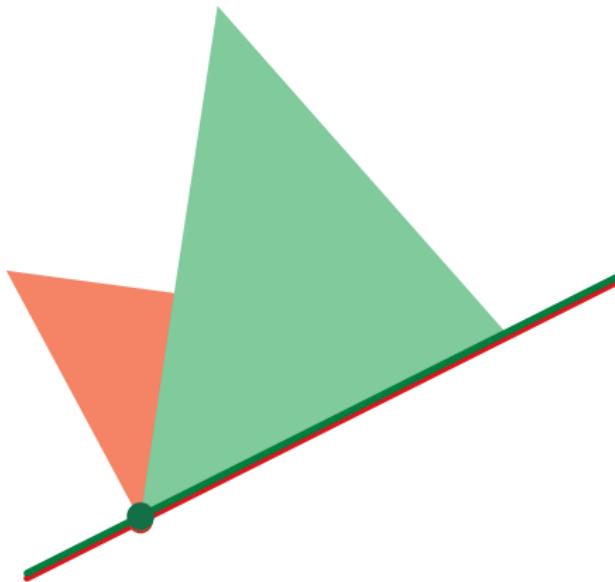
Specializing Moving Flag to Fixed Flag – stage 4



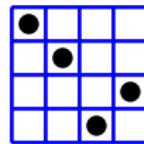
1 0 0 0
0 1 1 0
0 1 0 1
0 1 0 0



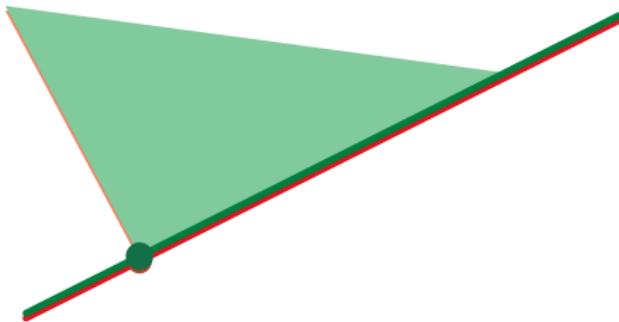
Specializing Moving Flag to Fixed Flag – stage 5



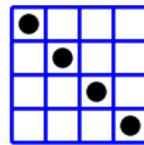
1 0 0 0
0 1 0 0
0 0 1 1
0 0 1 0



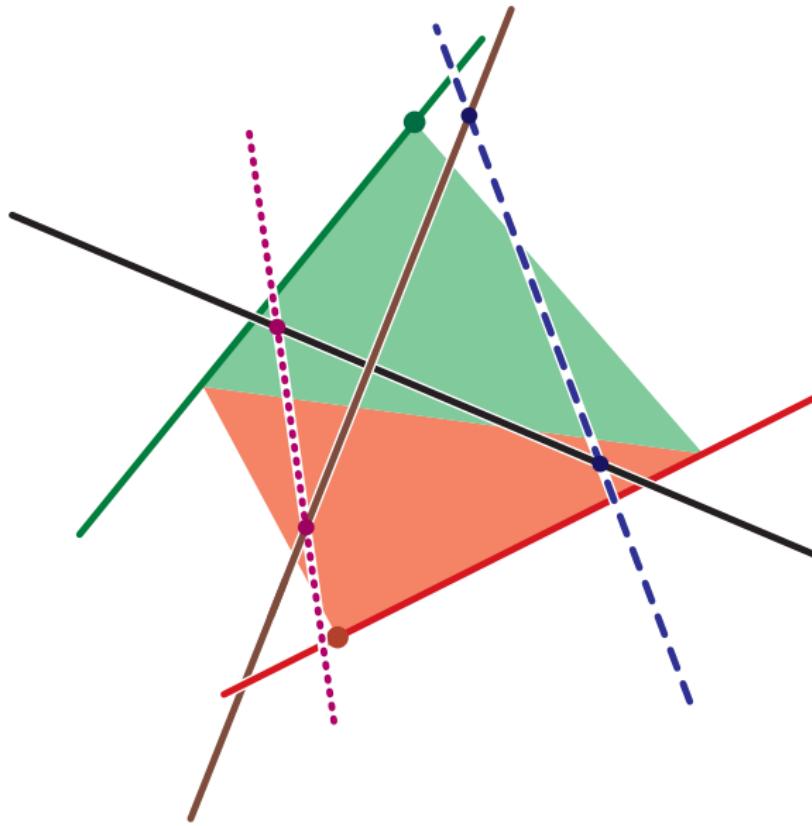
Specializing Moving Flag to Fixed Flag – stage 6



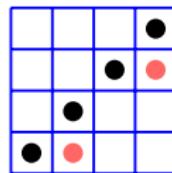
1 0 0 0
0 1 0 0
0 0 1 0
0 0 0 1



Resolving the Problem of Four Lines – stage 0

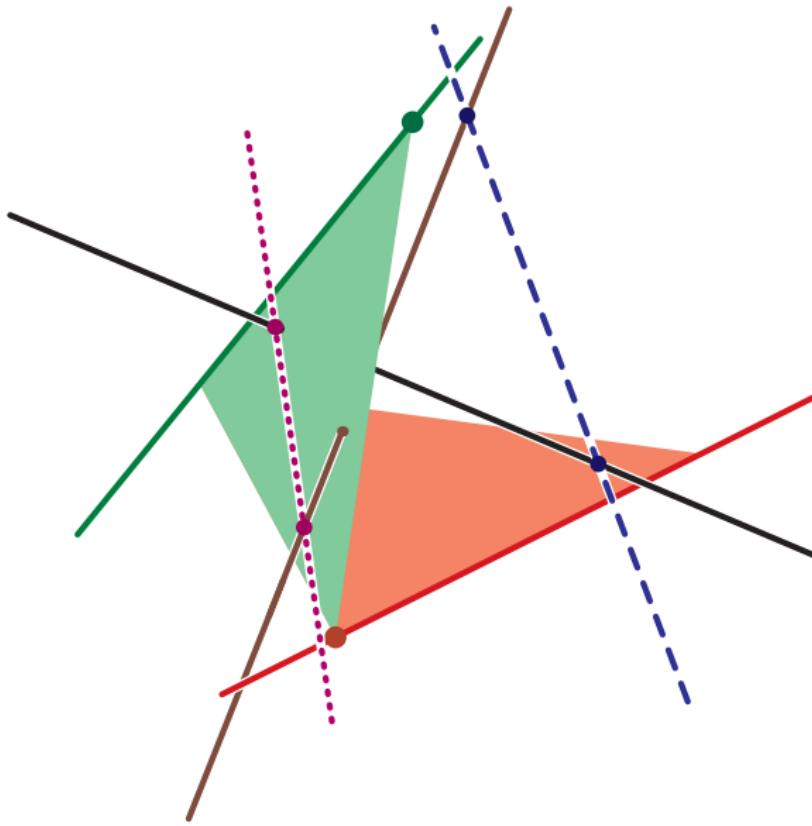


$$\begin{matrix} * & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

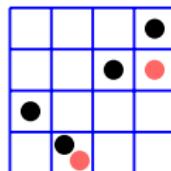


$$\begin{matrix} * & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

Resolving the Problem of Four Lines – stage 1

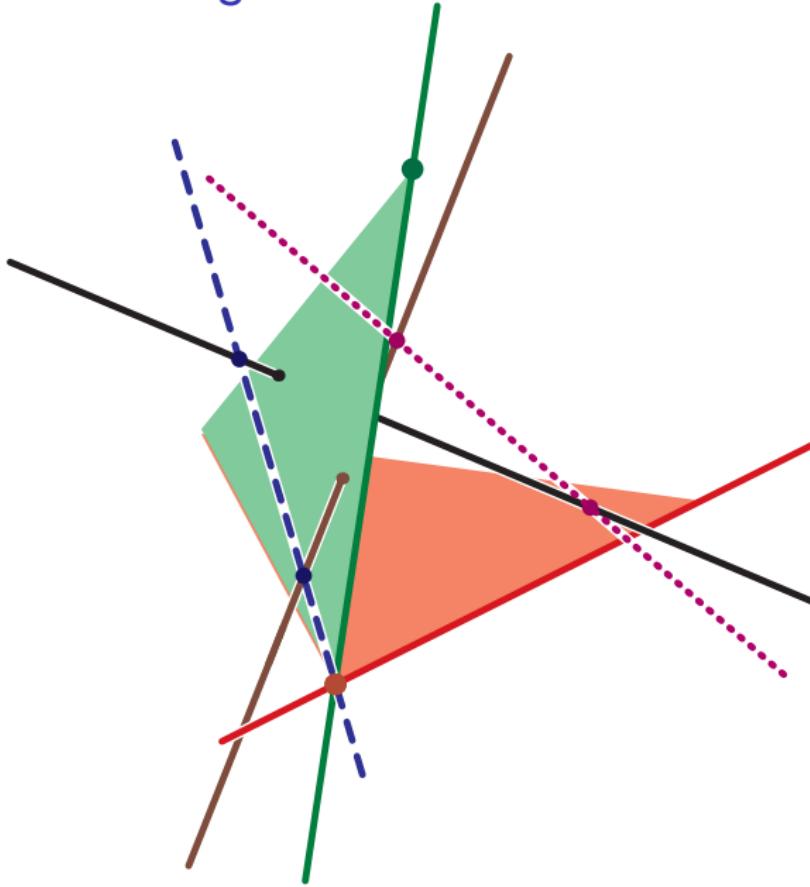


$$\begin{matrix} * & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$$



$$\begin{matrix} * & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

Resolving the Problem of Four Lines – stage 2

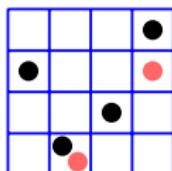
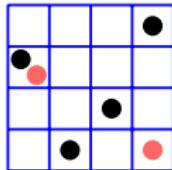


0 *

1 0

0 *

0 1



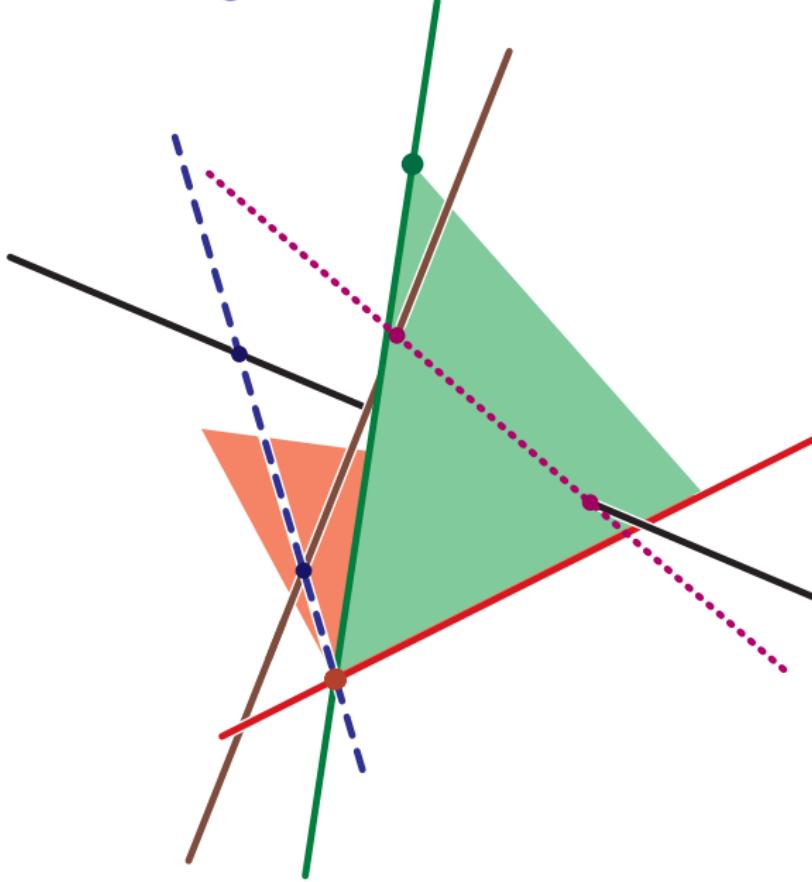
* 0

1 *

0 0

0 1

Resolving the Problem of Four Lines – stage 3

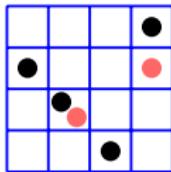
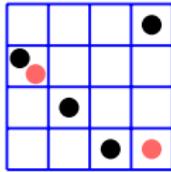


0 *

1 0

0 *

0 1



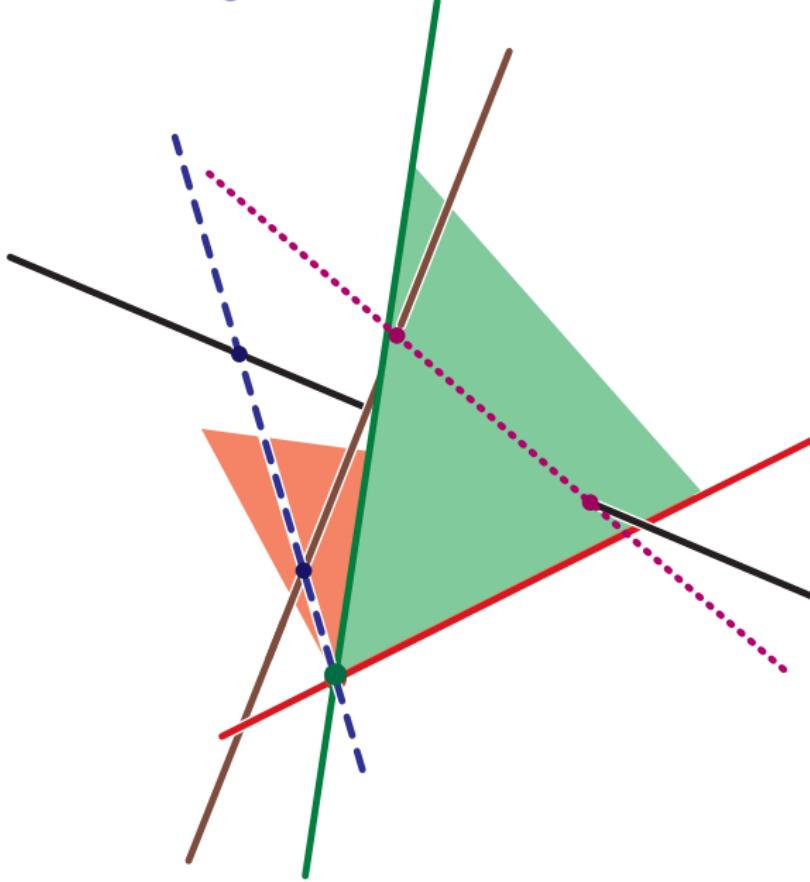
* 0

1 *

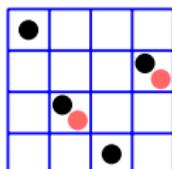
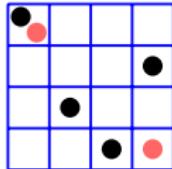
0 1

0 0

Resolving the Problem of Four Lines – stage 4

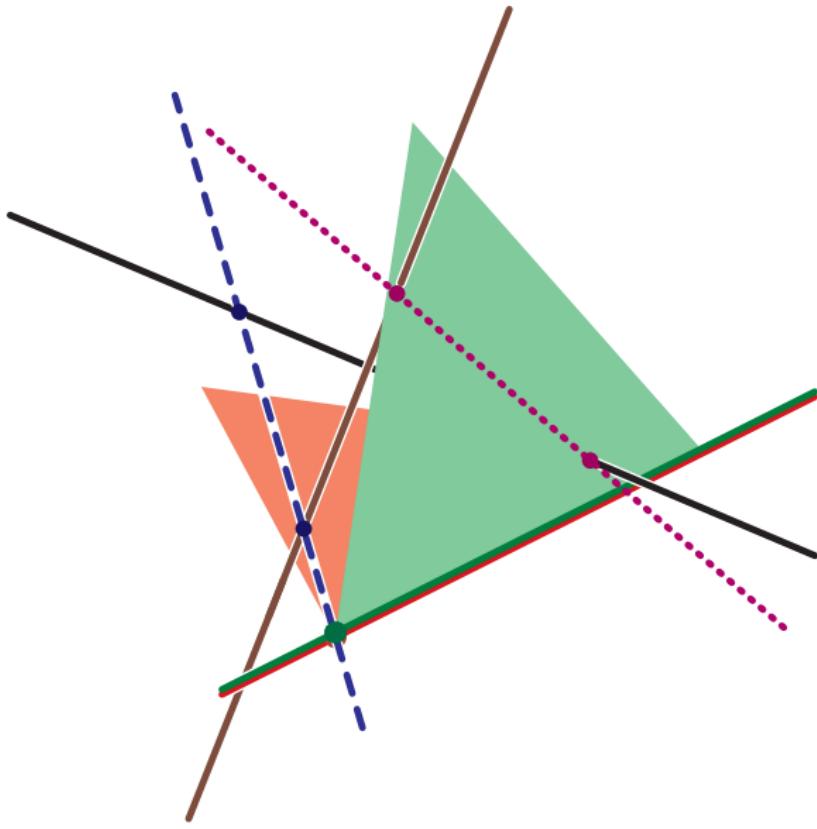


$$\begin{matrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

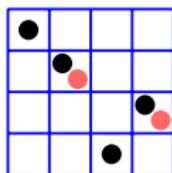
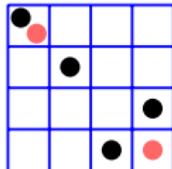


$$\begin{matrix} * & * \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix}$$

Resolving the Problem of Four Lines – stage 5

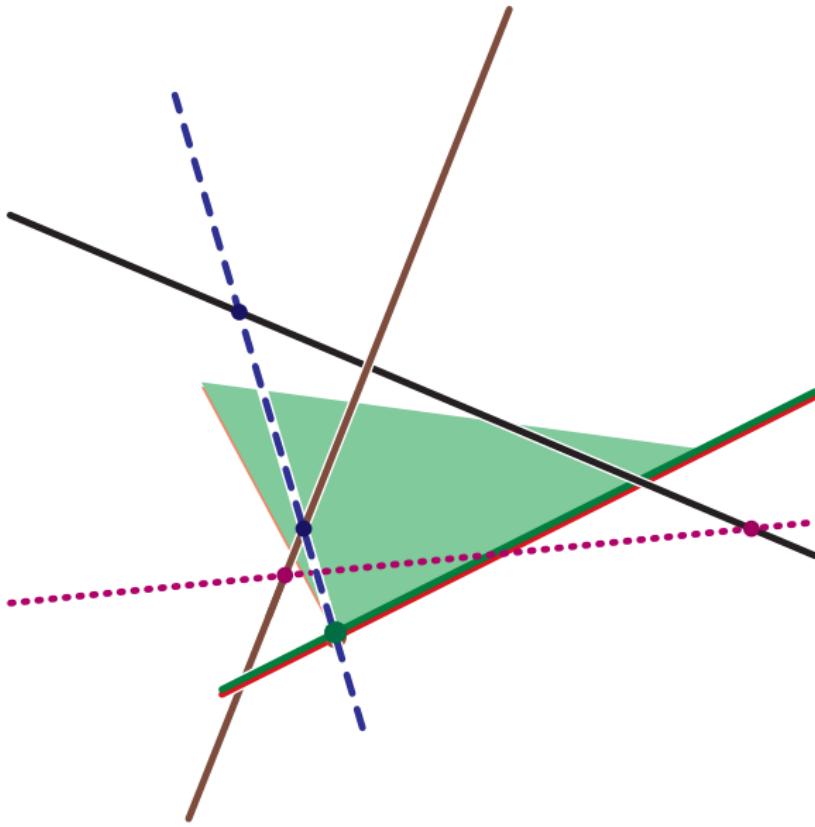


$$\begin{matrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

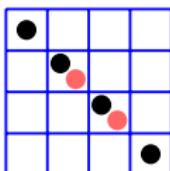
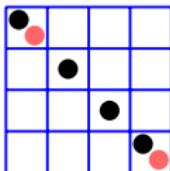


$$\begin{matrix} * & * \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix}$$

Resolving the Problem of Four Lines – stage 6



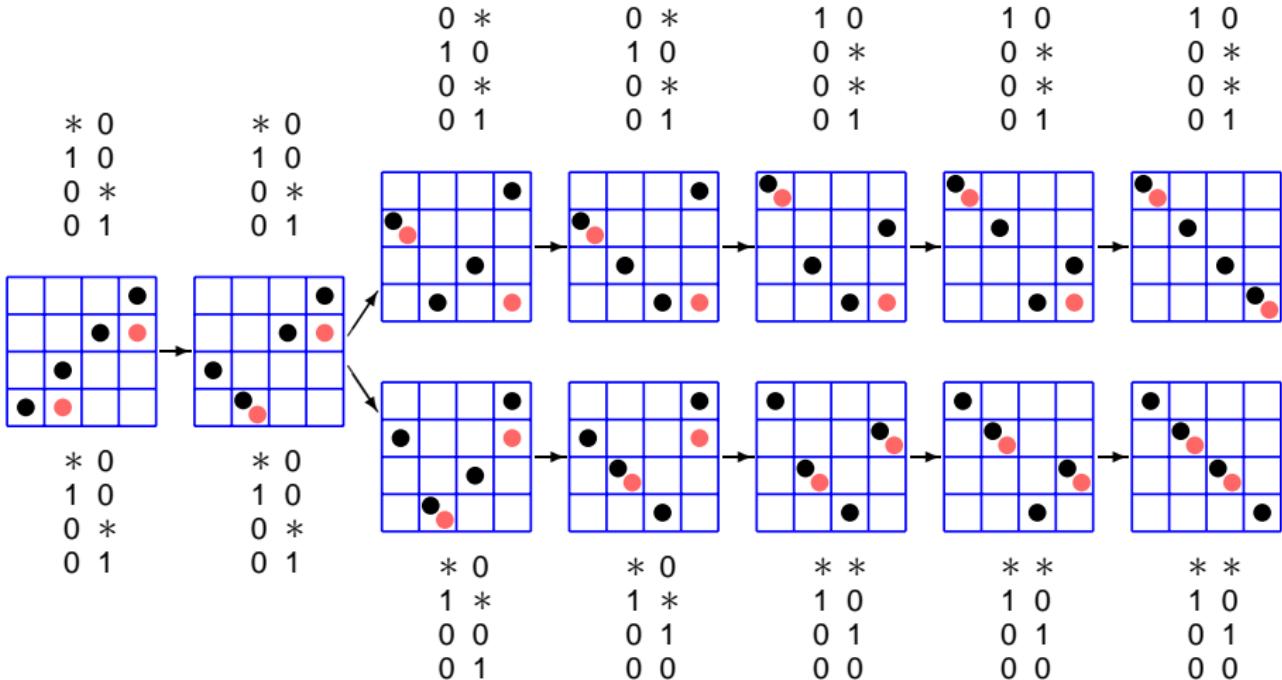
$$\begin{matrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$$



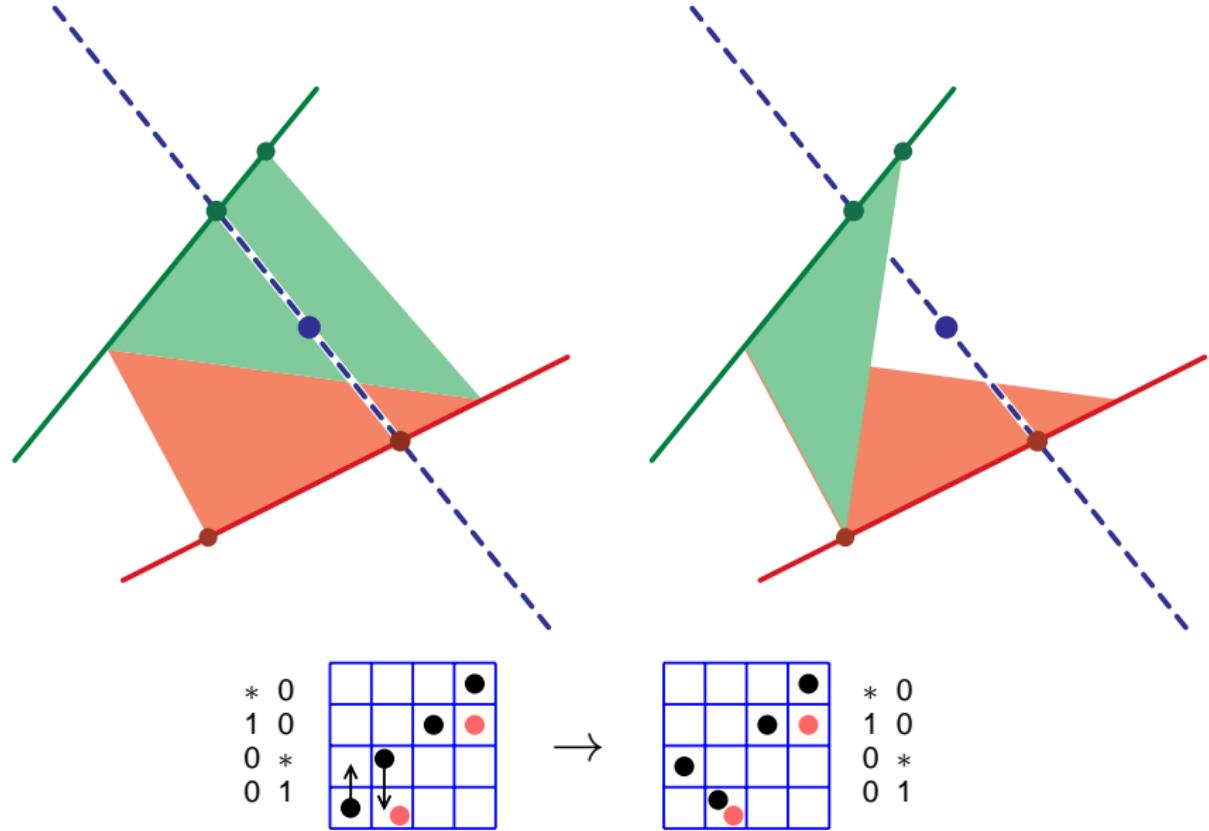
$$\begin{matrix} * & * \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix}$$

Checker Games

resolving [2 4][2 4][2 4][2 4]



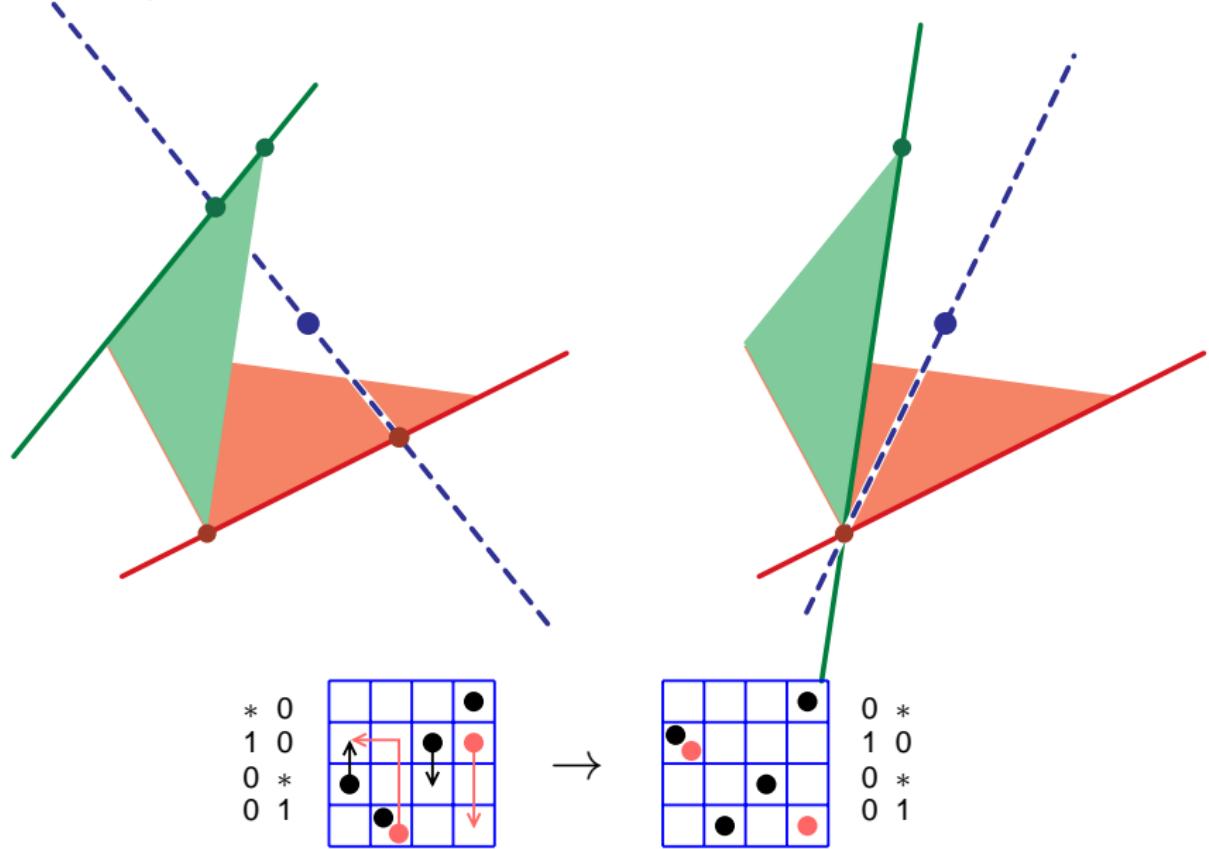
no homotopy, only change of coordinates



corresponding coordinate transformation

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & x_{32} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & x_{32}-1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\equiv \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/(x_{32}-1) \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

homotopy, as red checkers swap rows



homotopy as red checkers swap

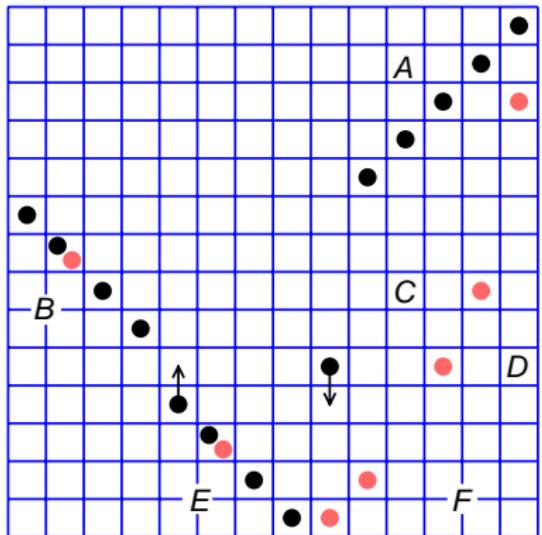
Similar to the case of a line meeting two lines and a fixed point,
we use a homotopy:

$$X(t) = \begin{bmatrix} x_{12}t & x_{12} \\ x_{32} & 0 \\ x_{32}t & x_{32} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

At $t = 0$, $X(0)$ fits the pattern.

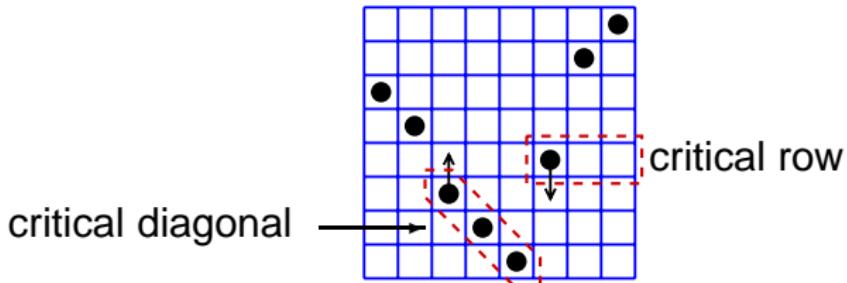
At $t = 1$, a coordinate change makes $X(1)$ to fit the pattern.

Localization Patterns



$X_{1,1}$	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
$X_{2,1}$	.	$X_{2,3}$	.	.	.	.	.
1	.	$X_{3,3}$	$X_{3,4}$	.	.	.	.
.	.	$X_{4,3}$	$X_{4,4}$	.	.	.	.
.	.	$X_{5,3}$	$X_{5,4}$	.	$X_{5,6}$	.	.
.	$X_{6,2}$	$X_{6,3}$	$X_{6,4}$	$X_{6,5}$	$X_{6,6}$	$X_{6,7}$	.
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	1	$X_{8,4}$	$X_{8,5}$	$X_{8,6}$	$X_{8,7}$	.
.	.	.	$X_{9,4}$	$X_{9,5}$	$X_{9,6}$	$X_{9,7}$	.
.	.	.	.	1	.	$X_{10,6}$	$X_{10,7}$
.	.	.	.	.	$X_{11,5}$	$X_{11,6}$	$X_{11,7}$
.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	1	$X_{13,7}$
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

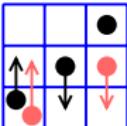
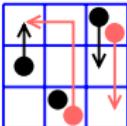
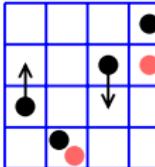
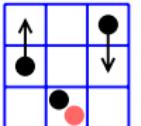
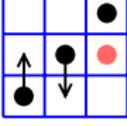
Rising and Falling Checkers



To resolve $\Omega_\omega(F) \cap \Omega_\tau(M)$, 9 cases to consider:

- ① Where is the top red checker in the critical diagonal?
 - (a) In the rising checker's square.
 - (b) Elsewhere in the critical diagonal.
 - (c) There is no red checker in the critical diagonal.
- ② Where is the red checker in the critical row?
 - (α) In the descending checker's square.
 - (β) Elsewhere in the critical row.
 - (γ) There is no red checker in the critical row.

Movement of Red Checkers

	α	β	γ
a			
b			
c			

An Implementation in PHCpack

Since v2.3.46 Littlewood-Richardson homotopies are in PHCpack,
at <http://www.math.uic.edu/~jan/download.html>

phc -e option #4 allows to resolve intersection conditions,

e.g.: in \mathbb{C}^{10} : $[6\ 8\ 10]^7 = 720[1\ 2\ 3]$,

in \mathbb{C}^{11} : $[7\ 9\ 11]^8 = 3598[1\ 2\ 3]$,

in \mathbb{C}^{12} : $[9\ 11\ 12][8\ 11\ 12]^{13} = 860574[1\ 2\ 3]$, etc...

Solving small Schubert problems on a Mac OS X 2.2 Ghz:

- $[2\ 4]^4 = 2$ takes 5 milliseconds,
- $[2\ 4\ 6]^3 = 2$ takes 169 milliseconds,
- $[2\ 5\ 8]^2[4\ 6\ 8] = 2$ takes 2.556 seconds,
- $[2\ 4\ 6\ 8]^2[2\ 5\ 7\ 8] = 3$ takes 8.595 seconds.

Macaulay 2 package LRhomotopies.m2

The example below computes all 3-planes that satisfy $[2 \ 4 \ 6]^3$.

```
i1 : R := ZZ;

i2 : n := 6;

i3 : m := matrix{{3, 2, 4, 6}};

o3 : Matrix ZZ  <---- ZZ
      1          4
      |
o3 : Matrix ZZ  <---- ZZ

i4 : result := LRtriple(n,m);
the input data for phc -e :
5
6
[ 2 4 6 ]^3;
0
/tmp/M2-296-2PHCoutput
0
0

writing data to file /tmp/M2-296-1PHCinput
running phc -e, session output to /tmp/M2-296-3PHCsession
      writing output to /tmp/M2-296-2PHCoutput
opening output file /tmp/M2-296-4PHCsolutions

extracting fixed flags, polynomial system, solutions
```