

LINEAR CYCLE SPACES IN FLAG DOMAINS, I: FLAGS CORRESPONDING TO THE CLASSICAL GROUPS

JOSEPH A. WOLF AND ROGER ZIERAU

ABSTRACT. Let $Z = G/Q$, complex flag manifold, where G is a complex semisimple Lie group and Q is a parabolic subgroup. Fix a real form $G_0 \subset G$ and consider the linear cycle spaces M_D , spaces of maximal compact linear subvarieties of open orbits $D = G_0(z) \subset Z$. In general M_D is a Stein manifold. Here the exact structure of M_D is worked out when G_0 is a classical group that corresponds to a bounded symmetric domain B . In that case M_D is biholomorphic to B if a certain double fibration is holomorphic, is biholomorphic to $B \times \bar{B}$ otherwise. There are also a number of structural results that do not require G_0 to be classical.

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION.

Fix a connected simply connected complex simple Lie group G and a parabolic subgroup Q . That defines a connected irreducible complex flag manifold $Z = G/Q$. Let $G_0 \subset G$ be a real form, let $\mathfrak{g}_0 \subset \mathfrak{g}$ be the corresponding real form of the Lie algebra of G , and fix a Cartan involution θ of G_0 and \mathfrak{g}_0 . We extend θ to a holomorphic automorphism of G and a complex linear automorphism of \mathfrak{g} , thus decomposing

$$(1.1) \quad \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} + \mathfrak{s} \text{ and } \mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathfrak{k}_0 + \mathfrak{s}_0, \text{ decomposition into } \pm 1 \text{ eigenspaces of } \theta.$$

Then the fixed point set $K_0 = G_0^\theta$ is a maximal compact subgroup of G_0 , K_0 has Lie algebra \mathfrak{k}_0 , and $K = G^\theta$ is the complexification of K_0 . K_0 is connected and is the G_0 -normalizer of \mathfrak{k}_0 , and K is connected because G is connected and simply connected.

The subspace $\mathfrak{g}_u = \mathfrak{k}_0 + \sqrt{-1} \mathfrak{s}_0 \subset \mathfrak{g}$ is a compact real form of \mathfrak{g} . The corresponding real analytic subgroup $G_u \subset G$ is a compact real form of G .

We can view Z as the set of G -conjugates of \mathfrak{q} . Then $gQ = z \in Z = G/Q$ corresponds to $Q_z = \text{Ad}(g)Q = \{g \in G \mid g(z) = z\}$ as well as its Lie algebra $\mathfrak{q}_z = \text{Ad}(g)\mathfrak{q}$.

If $D = G_0(z)$ is an open G_0 -orbit on Z , then $Y = K_0(z) = K(z)$ is a compact complex subvariety of D [14], and the *linear cycle space* is

$$(1.2) \quad M_D : \text{component of } Y \text{ in } \{gY \mid g \in G \text{ and } gY \subset D\}.$$

Research partially supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (JAW) and by N.S.F. Grants DMS 93 21285 (JAW) and DMS 93 03224 (RZ). The first author thanks the Ruhr-Universität Bochum for hospitality during the Fall of 1995. The second author thanks the MSRI for hospitality during the Fall of 1994 and the Institute for Advanced Study for hospitality during Spring of 1995. Both authors thank the Schroedinger Institute for hospitality during Spring of 1996.

M_D is an open submanifold of the complex flag manifold $M_Z = \{gY \mid g \in G\} \cong G/J$ where¹ $J = \{g \in G \mid gY = Y\}$, thus also is a complex manifold. It is known ([12], [13]) that M_D is a Stein manifold. We are going to sharpen that result when G_0 is of hermitian type.

From this point on we assume that G_0 is of hermitian symmetric type, that is,

$$(1.3) \quad \mathfrak{s} = \mathfrak{s}_+ \oplus \mathfrak{s}_- \text{ where } K_0 \text{ acts irreducibly on each of } \mathfrak{s}_\pm \text{ and } \mathfrak{s}_- = \overline{\mathfrak{s}_+}$$

where $\xi \mapsto \bar{\xi}$ denotes complex conjugation of \mathfrak{g} over \mathfrak{g}_0 . Set $S_\pm = \exp(\mathfrak{s}_\pm)$. So $S_- = \overline{S_+}$ where $g \mapsto \bar{g}$ also denotes complex conjugation of G over G_0 . Then

$$(1.4) \quad \begin{aligned} &\text{the } \mathfrak{p}_\pm = \mathfrak{k} + \mathfrak{s}_\pm \text{ are parabolic subalgebras of } \mathfrak{g} \text{ with } \mathfrak{p}_- = \overline{\mathfrak{p}_+}, \\ &\text{the } P_\pm = KS_\pm \text{ are parabolic subgroups of } G \text{ with } P_- = \overline{P_+}, \text{ and} \\ &\text{the } X_\pm = G/P_\pm \text{ are hermitian symmetric flag manifolds.} \end{aligned}$$

Note that $X_- = \overline{X_+}$ in the sense of conjugate complex structure, for \mathfrak{s}_+ represents the holomorphic tangent space of X_- and $\mathfrak{s}_- = \overline{\mathfrak{s}_+}$ represents the holomorphic tangent space of X_+ . Let $x_\pm = 1 \cdot P_\pm \in X_\pm$, so $G_0/K_0 \cong G_0(x_\pm) \subset X_\pm$. We denote

$$(1.5) \quad \begin{aligned} B &= G_0/K_0 : \text{ symmetric space } G_0/K_0 \text{ with the complex structure of } G_0(x_-), \\ \overline{B} &= \overline{G_0/K_0} : \text{ space } G_0/K_0 \text{ with the (conjugate) complex structure of } G_0(x_+). \end{aligned}$$

The distinction between \mathfrak{s}_- and \mathfrak{s}_+ in (1.3) is made by a choice of positive root system $\Delta^+ = \Delta^+(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ for \mathfrak{g} relative to a Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{h} = \bar{\mathfrak{h}} \subset \mathfrak{k}$ of \mathfrak{g} . The choice is made so that \mathfrak{s}_+ is spanned by positive root spaces and consequently \mathfrak{s}_- is spanned by negative root spaces.

Since $\mathfrak{h}_0 = \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{g}_0 \subset \mathfrak{k}_0$ is a Cartan subalgebra of \mathfrak{g}_0 , complex conjugation acts on the root spaces by $\overline{\mathfrak{g}_\alpha} = \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}$. Thus a G_0 -orbit in $Z = G/Q$ is open if and only if it is of the form $G_0(z)$ in such a way $\mathfrak{h} \subset \mathfrak{q}_z$. This choice of z in the open orbit amounts to a choice of G_0 -conjugate of \mathfrak{q}_z , and some such conjugate must contain \mathfrak{h}_0 because all compact Cartan subalgebras of \mathfrak{g}_0 are G_0 -conjugate. In other words, our standing assumption (1.3) that G_0 be of hermitian type, implies that all open G_0 -orbits on Z are measurable. See [10].

Fix an open orbit $D = G_0(z) \subset Z$ as above. We may suppose $\mathfrak{h} \subset \mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{q}_z$ and $Q = Q_z$. Since D is measurable we decompose $\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathfrak{r}_-$ where $\mathfrak{h} \subset \mathfrak{l}$, where \mathfrak{r}_- is the nilradical of \mathfrak{q} , and where $\mathfrak{l} = \mathfrak{q} \cap \bar{\mathfrak{q}}$ is a reductive complement (Levy component). Here $L_0 = G_0 \cap Q$ is connected and is a real form of the analytic subgroup $L \subset G$ with Lie algebra \mathfrak{l} . Its Lie algebra is the real form $\mathfrak{l}_0 = \mathfrak{g}_0 \cap \mathfrak{l}$ of \mathfrak{l} . Similarly $L_u = G_u \cap Q$ is connected and is the compact real form of L , and it has Lie algebra $\mathfrak{l}_u = \mathfrak{g}_u \cap \mathfrak{l}$.

1.6. Definition. Consider the double fibration

$$(1.7) \quad D = G_0/L_0 \xleftarrow{\pi_D} G_0/(L_0 \cap K_0) \xrightarrow{\pi_B} G_0/K_0 = B$$

¹In earlier work on this topic ([12], [13]) we used L to denote the G -stabilizer of Y . Here we use J for that stabilizer, reserving L for the reductive part of Q .

The open orbit $D \subset Z$ is said to be of holomorphic type if there is a G_0 -invariant complex structure on $G_0/(L_0 \cap K_0)$ and a choice of \mathfrak{s}_\pm such that

$$\pi_D : G_0/(L_0 \cap K_0) \rightarrow D \text{ and } \pi_B : G_0/(L_0 \cap K_0) \rightarrow B$$

are simultaneously holomorphic, of nonholomorphic type if there is no such choice.

The orbits of holomorphic type are characterized by [10, Prop. 1.9], which is an extension of [12, Prop. 1.3]. It says

1.8. Proposition. *For the proper choice of \mathfrak{s}_+ in (1.3), the following conditions are equivalent: (a) the open orbit D is of holomorphic type, (b) either $\mathfrak{s} \cap \mathfrak{r}_+ = \mathfrak{s}_+ \cap \mathfrak{r}_+$ or $\mathfrak{s} \cap \mathfrak{r}_+ = \mathfrak{s}_- \cap \mathfrak{r}_+$, (c) either $\mathfrak{s}_- \cap \mathfrak{r}_+ = 0$ or $\mathfrak{s}_- \cap \mathfrak{r}_- = 0$, (d) one of $\mathfrak{q} \cap \mathfrak{p}$ and $\mathfrak{q} \cap \bar{\mathfrak{p}}$ is a parabolic subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} , (e) there is a positive root system $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ such that both \mathfrak{r}_+ and \mathfrak{s}_+ are sums of positive root spaces, (f) there is a positive root system $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ such that \mathfrak{q} is defined by a subset of the corresponding simple root system Ψ , and Ψ contains just one \mathfrak{g}_0 -noncompact root.*

Now we can state our main result. It is an immediate consequence of Theorems 3.1 and 5.1 below.

1.9. Theorem. *Let G_0 be a classical simple Lie group of hermitian type. Let $D = G_0(z) \subset Z = G/Q$ be an open G_0 -orbit. If D is of holomorphic type then the linear cycle space M_D is biholomorphic either to B or to \bar{B} . If D is not of holomorphic type then M_D is biholomorphic to $B \times \bar{B}$.*

Theorem 1.9 extends a number of earlier results. In his work on periods of integrals on algebraic manifolds ([2], [3]), Griffiths set up moduli spaces M_D for certain classes of compact Kaehler manifolds. Wells [8] worked out an explicit parameterization of the M_D when $D \cong SO(2r, s)/U(r) \times SO(s)$. He used that parameterization to verify that the corresponding M_D are Stein, but he drew no connections between the structure of G_0 and the structure of M_D . Then Wells and Wolf [9] proved that M_D is a Stein manifold whenever the open orbit $D = G_0(z) \subset Z$ is of the form G_0/L_0 with L_0 compact. This was done in order to prove Fréchet convergence of certain Poincaré series for construction of automorphic cohomology related to Griffiths' period domains, and here some tentative connections were drawn between the structure of G_0 and M_D . Later, in connection with their work [6] on ladder representations, Patton and Rossi [7] looked at the case $G_0 = SU(p, q)$ where Z is the Grassmannian of $(r + s)$ -planes in \mathbb{C}^{p+q} and D is the open orbit consisting of the $(r + s)$ -planes of a fixed indefinite signature (r, s) . Thus G_0 is of hermitian type and D is not of holomorphic type. This is the first instance in which close connections are indicated between the structure of G_0 and the structure of M_D . Recently Wolf proved that M_D is Stein whenever D is an open G_0 -orbit on Z ; see [12] for the measurable case and [13] for the general case. Also recently, Dunne and Zierau [1] worked out the cases $G_0 = SO(2n, 1)$ with D indefinite hermitian symmetric, and also the cases $G_0 = SU(p, q)$ with D arbitrary. In the $SU(p, q)$ case they found that $M_D \cong B \times \bar{B}$. And very recently Novak ([4], [5]) studied the cases where $G_0 = Sp(n; \mathbb{R})$ and $D \cong Sp(n; \mathbb{R})/U(r, s)$ with $n = r + s$ and $rs \neq 0$. (Here $rs \neq 0$ is the condition that D is not of holomorphic type.) She proved $D \cong B \times \bar{B}$ in those cases.

SECTION 2. AN EMBEDDING FOR THE LINEAR CYCLE SPACE.

The linear cycle space M_D is the component of $Y = K_0(z) = K(z)$ in $\{gY \mid g \in G \text{ and } gY \subset D\}$ as in (1.2). Here Y is a maximal compact subvariety of the open orbit $D = G_0(z)$. As before, $J = \{gY \mid g \in G\}$ so M_D is an open submanifold of the complex homogeneous space $M_Z \cong G/J$.

Recall the notation (1.4); $X_- \times X_+$ is a complex flag manifold $(G \times G)/(P_- \times P_+)$. Both the diagonal subgroup $\delta G \subset G \times G$ and the product $G_0 \times G_0$ are real forms of $G \times G$, so each of them acts on the complex flag manifold $X_- \times X_+$ with only finitely many orbits [10]. Let $(x_0^-, x_0^+) \in X_- \times X_+$ denote the base point $(1P_-, 1P_+)$. Thus $B \times \bar{B} = (G_0 \times G_0)(x_0^-, x_0^+)$. Our goal is to identify this with M_D in the nonholomorphic case. We start with

2.1. Lemma. $(G_0 \times G_0)(x_0^-, x_0^+) \subset \delta G(x_0^-, x_0^+) \subset X_- \times X_+$, and both of these orbits are open in $X_- \times X_+$.

Remark. Novak [5] was the first to see the key role of this sort of embedding.

Proof. Let $g_1, g_2 \in G_0$. Use $G_0 \subset S_+KS_-$ to write $g_2^{-1}g_1 = \exp(\xi_+)k \exp(\xi_-)$ with $k \in K$ and $\xi_{\pm} \in \mathfrak{s}_{\pm}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (g_1x_0^-, g_2x_0^+) &= \delta g_2(g_2^{-1}g_1x_0^-, x_0^+) = \delta g_2(\exp(\xi_+)x_0^-, x_0^+) \\ &= \delta g_2(\exp(\xi_+)x_0^-, \exp(\xi_+)x_0^+) = \delta g_2 \delta \exp(\xi_+)(x_0^-, x_0^+) \in \delta G(x_0^-, x_0^+) \end{aligned}$$

shows that $(G_0 \times G_0)(x_0^-, x_0^+) \subset \delta G(x_0^-, x_0^+) \subset X_- \times X_+$. They are open because $G_0(x_0^-) = B$ is open in X_- and $G_0(x_0^+) = \bar{B}$ is open in X_+ , so they all have full dimension. \square

The isotropy subgroup of δG at (x_0^-, x_0^+) is $\{(g, g) \in G \times G \mid gx_0^- = x_0^- \text{ and } gx_0^+ = x_0^+\}$, in other words $\{(g, g) \in G \times G \mid g \in P_- \cap P_+ = K\}$. Thus

$$(2.2) \quad \delta G \text{ has isotropy subgroup } \delta K \text{ at } (x_0^-, x_0^+), \text{ i.e. } \delta G(x_0^-, x_0^+) \cong G/K.$$

We combine (2.2) with Lemma 2.1 and take Proposition 1.8 into account. That gives us the first part of

2.3. Proposition. *There is a natural holomorphic embedding of $B \times \bar{B}$ into G/K . Let $\pi : G/K \rightarrow G/J = M_Z$ be the natural projection. If the open G_0 -orbit $D \subset Z$ is not of holomorphic type, then π is injective on $B \times \bar{B}$.*

Proof. Suppose that D is not of holomorphic type. Let $g_1, g'_1, g_2, g'_2 \in G_0$ and suppose $\pi(g_1x_0^-, g_2x_0^+) = \pi(g'_1x_0^-, g'_2x_0^+)$. As in the argument of Lemma 2.1, write

$$g_2^{-1}g_1 = \exp(\xi_+)k \exp(\xi_-) \text{ so } (g_1x_0^-, g_2x_0^+) = \delta g_2 \delta \exp(\xi_+)(x_0^-, x_0^+).$$

Similarly, this time reversing roles of the two factors,

$$g_2'^{-1}g_1' = \exp(\xi'_-)k' \exp(\xi'_+) \text{ so } (g_1'x_0^-, g_2'x_0^+) = \delta g_1' \delta \exp(\xi'_-)(x_0^-, x_0^+).$$

The hypothesis $\pi(g_1 x_0^-, g_2 x_0^+) = \pi(g'_1 x_0^-, g'_2 x_0^+)$ now provides $j \in J$ such that $g_2 \exp(\xi_+) = g'_1 \exp(\xi_-)j$. In other words, $(g'_1)^{-1}g_2 \in S_{-j}S_+$.

Let $\{w_i\}$ be a set of representatives of the double coset space $W_K \backslash W_G / W_K$ for the Weyl groups of G and K . The Bruhat decomposition of G for X_+ is $G = \bigcup_i P_- w_i P_+$, the real group G_0 is contained in the cell $P_- P_+$ for $w_i = 1$, and G_0 does not meet any other cell $P_- w_i P_+$.

Write $j = nk$ with $n \in N_{G_u}(K_0)$ and $k \in K$. This is where we use the assumption that D is not of holomorphic type. Express $n = wk_0$ with $w \in \{w_i\}$ and $k_0 \in K_0$. Then $j = k''wk''' \in KwK$ with $k'', k''' \in K$, so $(g'_1)^{-1}g_2 = \exp(\xi'_-)k''wk''' \exp(-\xi_+) \in P_- w P_+$. In particular G_0 meets $P_- w P_+$, so $w = 1 \in W_K$ and $j \in K$. This shows $g_2 \exp(\xi_+)K = g'_1 \exp(\xi'_-)K$. Now

$$(g_1 x_0^-, g_2 x_0^+) = \delta g_2 \delta \exp(\xi_+)(x_0^-, x_0^+) = \delta g'_1 \delta \exp(\xi'_-)(x_0^-, x_0^+) = (g'_1 x_0^-, g'_2 x_0^+)$$

as asserted. That completes the proof. \square

SECTION 3. $B \times \bar{B} \supset M_D$.

In this Section we prove that $M_D \subset B \times \bar{B}$ whenever the open orbit $D = G_0(z) \subset Z$ is not of holomorphic type. Here G_0 is of hermitian symmetric type. That is the standing hypothesis in this paper.

3.1. Lemma. *One or both of $\Delta(\mathfrak{t}_+ \cap \mathfrak{s}_\pm, \mathfrak{h})$ contains a long root of \mathfrak{g} .*

Proof. If all the roots of \mathfrak{g} are of the same length there is nothing to prove. Now assume that there are two root lengths. The only cases are (i) $G_0 = Sp(n; \mathbb{R})$ up to a covering and (ii) $G_0 = SO(2, 2k+1)$ up to a covering.

Consider case (i). $D = G_0(z) \subset Z$ is open and $\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{q}_z$. The positive root system is adapted to $\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathfrak{t}_-$, so \mathfrak{t}_- is spanned by negative root spaces. Let γ be the maximal root. Then $\gamma \in \Delta(\mathfrak{t}_+, \mathfrak{h})$ and γ is long. Every compact root of $\mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathfrak{sp}(n; \mathbb{R})$ is short. So γ is noncompact, hence contained in one of \mathfrak{s}_\pm . Now Lemma 3.1 is proved in case (i).

Consider case (ii). Then \mathfrak{g} has a simple root system of the form $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{k+1}\}$ with α_1 noncompact and the other α_i compact. Here $\alpha_i = \epsilon_i - \epsilon_{i+1}$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$ and $\alpha_{k+1} = \epsilon_{k+1}$ with the ϵ_i mutually orthogonal and of the same length. The noncompact positive roots are the $\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_m$ with $1 \leq m \leq k+1$ and the $(\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_m) + 2(\alpha_{m+1} + \dots + \alpha_{k+1})$. All are long except for $\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_{k+1} = \epsilon_1$, which is short. Now at least one of $\Delta(\mathfrak{t}_+ \cap \mathfrak{s}_\pm, \mathfrak{h})$ contains a long root unless both $\mathfrak{t}_+ \cap \mathfrak{s}_+ = \mathfrak{g}_{\epsilon_1}$ and $\mathfrak{t}_+ \cap \mathfrak{s}_- = \mathfrak{g}_{-\epsilon_1}$. That is impossible because \mathfrak{t}_+ is nilpotent. Now Lemma 3.1 is proved in case (ii), and that completes the proof. \square

Interchange \mathfrak{s}_+ and \mathfrak{s}_- if necessary so that $\Delta(\mathfrak{t}_+ \cap \mathfrak{s}_+, \mathfrak{h})$ contains at least one long root. Now construct

$$(3.2) \quad \Psi^{\mathfrak{g}} = \{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_t\} : \\ \text{maximal set of strongly orthogonal noncompact positive roots of } \mathfrak{g}$$

as in [14, (3.2)]: γ_1 is the maximal root and, at each stage, the next γ_{i+1} a maximal root in $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{s}_+, \mathfrak{h})$ that is orthogonal to $\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_i\}$. Then $\Psi^\mathfrak{g}$ consists of long roots, and any maximal set of strongly orthogonal long roots in $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{s}_+, \mathfrak{h})$ is $W(K_0, H_0)$ -conjugate to $\Psi^\mathfrak{g}$. In particular, by modifying the choice of z within the open orbit $D = G_0(z)$ we may assume that

$$(3.3) \quad \Psi^\mathfrak{g} \text{ meets } \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h}).$$

3.4. Lemma. $G[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](z)$ is a polysphere holomorphically embedded in Z and $G_0[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](z)$ is a Borel-embedded product of open hemispheres in the factors of $G[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](z)$. If an orbit $G_0(z') \subset Z$ is open then it does not meet the boundary of $G_0[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](z)$ in $G[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](z)$. In particular, if $\Gamma \subset \Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})$ is non-empty, then $c_\Gamma(z)$ is not contained in any open G_0 -orbit on Z .

Proof. Let $\gamma \in \Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})$. Then $G[\gamma](z)$ is a Riemann sphere holomorphically embedded in Z and $G_0[\gamma](z)$ the lower hemisphere, where z is taken to be the south pole, because γ is a noncompact root in \mathfrak{r}_+ . As the roots of $\Psi^\mathfrak{g}$ are strongly orthogonal, $G[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](z) \subset Z$ is a holomorphically embedded polysphere and $G_0[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](z)$ is the product of the open lower hemispheres.

Let $\emptyset \neq \Gamma \subset \Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})$. The isotropy subgroup of G_0 at $c_\Gamma(z)$ has Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}_0 \cap \mathfrak{q}'$ where $\mathfrak{q}' = \text{Ad}(c_\Gamma)\mathfrak{q}$. If $\gamma \in \Gamma$ then, by [14, (3.5)], $\text{Ad}(c_\Gamma)(e_{-\gamma}) = \text{Ad}(c_\Gamma)(\frac{1}{2}x_\gamma + \sqrt{-1}y_\gamma) = \frac{1}{2}(x_\gamma - \sqrt{-1}h_\gamma)$. But $x_\gamma, \sqrt{-1}h_\gamma \in \mathfrak{g}_0$, so now $\text{Ad}(c_\Gamma)(e_{-\gamma}) \in \mathfrak{g}_0 \cap \mathfrak{q}'$. Evidently $\text{Ad}(c_\Gamma)(e_\gamma) \notin \mathfrak{g}_0 \cap \mathfrak{q}'$. Conclusion: $\mathfrak{g}_0 \cap \mathfrak{q}'$ is not reductive. As the G_0 -orbits on Z are measurable, now $G_0(c_\Gamma(z))$ cannot be open in Z .

The boundary of $G_0[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](z)$ in $G[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](z)$ is the union of the $G_0[\Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})](c_\Gamma(z))$ with $\emptyset \neq \Gamma \subset \Psi^\mathfrak{g} \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})$. Thus no open G_0 -orbit on Z can meet that boundary. \square

We'll also need a topological lemma:

3.5. Lemma. Let X_1 and X_2 be topological spaces, let $B_i \subset X_i$ be open subsets, and let $M \subset (X_1 \times X_2)$ be a connected open subset such that (i) M meets $B_1 \times B_2$ and (ii) $M \cap (\text{bd}(B_1) \times B_2) = \emptyset = (B_1 \times \text{bd}(B_2))$. Then $M \subset (B_1 \times B_2)$.

Proof. $(X_1 \times X_2) \setminus M$ is closed in $(X_1 \times X_2)$ because M is open, contains $(\text{bd}(B_1) \times B_2) \cup (B_1 \times \text{bd}(B_2))$ by (ii), and thus contains the closure of $(\text{bd}(B_1) \times B_2) \cup (B_1 \times \text{bd}(B_2))$. That closure contains the boundary of the open set $B_1 \times B_2$. Thus

$$M = \left(M \cap (B_1 \times B_2) \right) \cup \left(M \cap \left((X_1 \times X_2) \setminus \text{closure}(B_1 \times B_2) \right) \right).$$

As M is connected and meets $B_1 \times B_2$, now $M \subset (B_1 \times B_2)$. \square

Now we come to the main result of this Section:

3.6. Theorem. *Let G_0 be of hermitian type, let $Z = G/Q$ be a complex flag manifold, and let $D = G_0(z) \subset Z = G/Q$ be an open G_0 -orbit that is not of holomorphic type. View $B \times \bar{B} \subset M_Z$ as in Proposition 2.3 and $M_D \subset M_Z$ as usual. Then $M_D \subset B \times \bar{B}$.*

Proof. Retain the notation of §2. Suppose that $(g_1x_0^-, g_2x_0^+)$ belongs to the boundary of $B \times \bar{B}$ in $X_- \times X_+$. The closure of G_0KS_- in G is contained in S_+KS_- , and similarly the closure of G_0KS_+ in G is contained in S_-KS_+ . That allows us to write $g_2^{-1}g_1 = \exp(\xi_+)k \exp(\xi_-)$ with $\xi_{\pm} \in \mathfrak{s}_{\pm}$ and $k \in K$, as before. We will prove that $g_2 \exp(\xi_+)Y \notin D$, that is, $g_2 \exp(\xi_+)Y \notin M_D$. The Theorem will follow. The proof breaks into three cases, according to the way $(g_1x_0^-, g_2x_0^+)$ sits in the boundary of $B \times \bar{B}$.

Case 1. Here $g_1x_0^- \in \text{bd}(B)$ and $g_2x_0^+ \in \bar{B}$ with $g_1, g_2 \in G$. We may suppose $g_2 \in G_0$. Then $g_2^{-1}g_1x_0^-$ belongs to some boundary component, say $k_0G_0[\Psi^{\mathfrak{g}} \setminus \Gamma](c_{\Gamma}(x_0^-))$, of B in X_- . Here $\emptyset \neq \Gamma \subset \Psi^{\mathfrak{g}}$, $k_0 \in K_0$, and $g_0 \in G_0[\Psi^{\mathfrak{g}} \setminus \Gamma]$. Using [14, (3.4)], [14, (3.5)], and strong orthogonality of $\Psi^{\mathfrak{g}}$, decompose

$$g_0 = \prod_{\Psi^{\mathfrak{g}} \setminus \Gamma} \left(\exp(\xi_{+, \psi}) k_{\psi} \exp(\xi_{-, \psi}) \right) \text{ and } c_{\Gamma} = \prod_{\Gamma} \left(\exp(\sqrt{-1}e_{\gamma}) \exp(\sqrt{2}h_{\gamma}) \exp(\sqrt{-1}e_{-\gamma}) \right)$$

with $\xi_{\pm, \psi} \in \mathfrak{g}_{\pm\psi}$. Set $\xi_{\pm, \gamma} = \sqrt{-1}e_{\pm\gamma}$ for $\gamma \in \Gamma$. Now

$$(g_1x_0^-, g_2x_0^+) = \delta g_2 \delta \exp(\text{Ad}(k_0)\xi'_+)(x_0^-, x_0^+) \text{ where } \xi'_+ = \sum_{\psi \in \Psi^{\mathfrak{g}}} \xi_{+, \psi}.$$

At the cost of changing k_0 within K_0 , and in view of (3.3), we may assume $\Gamma \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h}) \neq \emptyset$. Then $c_{\Gamma}(z) = c_{\Gamma \cap \Delta(\mathfrak{r}_+, \mathfrak{h})}(z)$ is not contained in any open G_0 -orbit on Z , by Lemma 3.4. In particular $c_{\Gamma}(z) \notin D$. Now $\exp(\xi_+)(z) = \exp(\text{Ad}(k_0)\xi'_+)(z) \notin D$, so $g_2 \exp(\xi_+)(z) \notin D$, and thus $g_2 \exp(\xi_+)Y \notin D$.

Case 2. Here $g_1x_0^- \in B$ and $g_2x_0^+ \in \text{bd}(\bar{B})$. The argument is exactly as in Case 1, but with the rôles of B and \bar{B} reversed. Here note that this reversal of rôles replaces $\Psi^{\mathfrak{g}}$ by $-\Psi^{\mathfrak{g}}$ and c_{Γ} by $c_{-\Gamma}$.

Case 3. Here $g_1x_0^- \in \text{bd}(B)$ and $g_2x_0^+ \in \text{bd}(\bar{B})$. Then M_D is connected, M_D meets $B \times \bar{B}$ because $Y \in M_D \cap (B \times \bar{B})$, and $M_D \cap (\text{bd}(B) \times \bar{B}) = \emptyset = M_D \cap (B \times \text{bd}(\bar{B}))$ by Cases 1 and 2. Case 3 now follows from Lemma 3.5. \square

SECTION 4. SOME REDUCTIONS FOR THE INCLUSION $B \times \bar{B} \subset M_D$.

We first reduce to the case where Q is a Borel subgroup of G :

4.1. Proposition. *Suppose that, if Q is a Borel subgroup of G , then $B \times \bar{B} \subset M_D$ whenever D is an open G_0 -orbit on G/Q that is not of holomorphic type. Then the same is true when Q is any parabolic subgroup of G .*

Proof. The maximal compact subvariety in the open orbit $D = G(z) \subset Z$ is $Y = K(z) = K_0(z)$. We may, and do, take Q to be the G -stabilizer of z ; in other words we may

assume that $\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{q}_z$. Let $Q' \subset Q$ be any parabolic subgroup of G contained in Q such that $G_0 \cap Q'$ contains a compact Cartan subgroup $H_0 \subset K_0$ of G_0 , let $Z' = G/Q'$ be the corresponding flag manifold, and let $\pi : Z' \rightarrow Z$ denote the associated G -equivariant projection $gQ' \mapsto gQ$. Write $z' \in Z'$ for the base point $1Q'$. Then $D' = G_0(z')$ is open in Z' because $\mathfrak{g}_0 \cap \mathfrak{q}'$ contains a compact Cartan subalgebra of \mathfrak{g}_0 . We have set things up so that $Y' = K(z') = K_0(z')$ is a maximal compact subvariety of D' .

Since D is not of holomorphic type, both intersections $\mathfrak{t}_- \cap \mathfrak{s}_\pm$ are nonzero. But \mathfrak{t}_- is contained in the nilradical \mathfrak{t}'_- of \mathfrak{q}' . Now both intersections $\mathfrak{t}'_- \cap \mathfrak{s}_\pm$ are nonzero, so D' is not of holomorphic type.

If $g \in G$ with $gY' \subset D'$ then $gK_0 \subset G_0Q'$, so $gK_0 \subset G_0Q$ and thus $gY \subset D$. In other words, π maps $M_{D'}$ to M_D . This map is an injection equivariant for the correspondence of Proposition 2.3. If the inclusion holds for Z' then $B \times \overline{B} \subset M_{D'} \subset M_D$, so it holds for Z . The assertion of the Proposition is the case where Q' is a Borel subgroup. \square

Proposition 4.1 will be used in the verification of Theorem 5.1 below. We expect to use it in [15] to prove the general case, relying on

4.2. Theorem. *Suppose that the real form G_0 is of hermitian type. Let $Z = G/Q$ be a complex flag manifold such that some open G_0 -orbit on Z is a semisimple symmetric space. Then every open G_0 -orbit on Z is a semisimple symmetric space. Let $D = G_0(z) \subset Z = G/Q$ be any open G_0 -orbit that is not of holomorphic type. View $B \times \overline{B} \subset M_Z$ as in Proposition 2.3 and $M_D \subset M_Z$ as usual. Then $B \times \overline{B} \subset M_D$.*

Since we don't use Theorem 4.2 here, we defer its proof to [15].

SECTION 5. $B \times \overline{B} \subset M_D$ WHEN G IS CLASSICAL.

In this section we prove a partial counterpart of Theorem 3.6:

5.1. Theorem. *Suppose that G is a classical group and that its real form G_0 is of hermitian type. Let $Z = G/Q$ be a complex flag manifold, and let $D = G_0(z) \subset Z = G/Q$ be an open G_0 -orbit that is not of holomorphic type. View $B \times \overline{B} \subset M_Z$ as in Proposition 2.3 and $M_D \subset M_Z$ as usual. Then $B \times \overline{B} \subset M_D$.*

We now run through the classical cases. In each case, the standard basis of \mathbb{C}^m will be denoted $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$. Without further comment we will decompose vectors as $v = \sum v_j e_j$. We will have symmetric bilinear forms (\cdot, \cdot) or antisymmetric bilinear forms $\omega(\cdot, \cdot)$ on \mathbb{C}^m and the term *isotropic* will refer only to those bilinear forms. We will also have hermitian forms $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on \mathbb{C}^m , and the term *signature* will refer only to those hermitian forms. In each case the flag manifold Z is described as a flag of subspaces $z = (z_1 \subset \dots \subset z_m)$ in some \mathbb{C}^m with $\dim z_j = j$, usually with $m = 2n$ or $m = n$. As we run through the cases, B and \overline{B} are described in terms of such flags, as in [11]. Then we give explicit descriptions of (i) the embeddings of Section 2, (ii) the full flag and its open G_0 -orbits, and (iii) we describe the G -action on M_Z , in such a way that the result of Theorem 5.1 is easily visible.

If $\{f_1, \dots, f_\ell\}$ is a linearly independent subset in a vector space V then $[f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_\ell]$ denotes its span.

Type I: $B = \{Z \in \mathbb{C}^{p \times q} \mid I - Z^*Z \gg 0\}$. Here $G = SL(n; \mathbb{C})$ and $G_0 = SU(p, q)$, indefinite unitary group defined by the hermitian form $\langle u, v \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^p v_j \bar{w}_j - \sum_{j=1}^q v_{p+j} \bar{w}_{p+j}$ with $p + q = n$.

The hermitian symmetric flag $X_- = G/KS_-$ is identified with the Grassmannian of q -planes in \mathbb{C}^n , the base point $x_- = [e_{p+1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{p+q}]$, and $B = G_0(x_-)$ consists of the negative definite q -planes. Similarly, $X_+ = G/KS_+$ is identified with the Grassmannian of p -planes in \mathbb{C}^n , $x_+ = [e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_p]$, and $\bar{B} = G_0(x_+)$ consists of the positive definite p -planes. The embedding

$$B \times \bar{B} \subset G/K = G(x_-, x_+) \subset X_- \times X_+$$

of Section 2 is given by

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{aligned} B \times \bar{B} &= \{(V, W) \subset (X_- \times X_+) \mid V \text{ negative definite and } W \text{ positive definite}\} \\ \text{and } G/K &= G(x_-, x_+) = \{(V, W) \in (X_- \times X_+) \mid V \text{ and } W \text{ transverse in } \mathbb{C}^n\}. \end{aligned}$$

The full flag manifold is $Z = \{z = (z_1 \subset \dots \subset z_{n-1}) \mid \dim z_j = j\}$. By Witt's Theorem, if two subspaces $U, U' \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ have the same signature and nullity (relative to the hermitian form $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$) then there exists $g \in U(p, q)$ with $gU = U'$, and of course we can scale and choose $g \in G_0 = SU(p, q)$. It follows that the G_0 -orbits on the full flag $Z = G/Q$ are determined by the rank and signature sequences of the subspaces in the flag. Let $r = (r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})$ and $s = (s_1, \dots, s_{n-1})$ consist of integers such that $0 \leq r_1 \leq \dots \leq r_{n-1} \leq p$, $0 \leq s_1 \leq \dots \leq s_{n-1} \leq q$, and $r_j + s_j = j$ for all j . Then r and s define a point $z_{r,s} \in Z$ and an open G_0 -orbit $D_{r,s} \subset Z$ by

$$(5.3) \quad \begin{aligned} z_{r,s} &= (z_{r,s,1}, \dots, z_{r,s,n-1}) \text{ where } z_{r,s,j} = [e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_{r_j} \wedge e_{p+1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{s_j}] \text{ and} \\ D_{r,s} &= G_0(z_{r,s}) = \{z = (z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}) \mid z_j \text{ has signature } (r_j, s_j) \text{ for all } j\}. \end{aligned}$$

Each pair r, s is obtained by choosing p of the numbers from 1 to $p+q$, the indices at which $r_j > r_{j-1}$, so the number of pairs r, s is $\binom{n}{p} = \frac{n!}{p!q!}$, which is the quotient $|W_G|/|W_K|$ of the orders of the Weyl groups. As these $D_{r,s}$ are distinct open orbits, it follows from [10, Corollary 4.7] that they are exactly the open G_0 -orbits on Z .

Fix r and s . Let $(V, W) \in G/K \subset (X_- \times X_+)$. Define

$$(5.4) \quad Y_{V,W} = \{z \in Z \mid \dim z_j \cap V = s_j \text{ and } \dim z_j \cap W = r_j \text{ for all } j\}.$$

We set $D = D_{r,s}$ so $Y = K(z_{r,s}) = Y_{x_-, x_+}$. If $g \in G$ then $gY = Y_{gx_-, gx_+}$. If $(V, W) \in B \times \bar{B}$ then $Y_{V,W} \subset D_{r,s}$, so $Y_{V,W} \in M_{D_{r,s}}$. Thus $(V, W) \mapsto Y_{V,W}$ defines a map $\eta : B \times \bar{B} \rightarrow M_{D_{r,s}}$. If $r_1 = \dots = r_q = 0$ then $r_{q+j} = j$ for $1 \leq j \leq p$ and $\eta(V, W)$ depends only on V ; if $s_1 = \dots = s_p = 0$ then $s_{p+j} = j$ for $1 \leq j \leq q$ and $\eta(V, W)$ depends only on W ; those are the cases where $D_{r,s}$ is of holomorphic type. In the nonholomorphic cases, η injects $B \times \bar{B}$ into $M_{D_{r,s}}$ and we have $B \times \bar{B} \subset M_{D_{r,s}}$. Theorem 5.1 is verified when B is of type I.

Type II: $B = \{Z \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \mid Z = {}^t Z \text{ and } I - Z \cdot Z^* \gg 0\}$. Here $G = Sp(n; \mathbb{C})$ and $G_0 = Sp(n; \mathbb{R})$. These are the complex and real symplectic groups, defined by the antisymmetric bilinear form $\omega(v, w) = \sum_{j=1}^n (v_j w_{n+j} - v_{n+j} w_j)$ on \mathbb{C}^{2n} and \mathbb{R}^{2n} , respectively. Here it is more convenient to realize G_0 as $G \cap U(n, n)$ where $U(n, n)$ is the unitary group of the hermitian form $\langle v, w \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^n v_j \overline{w_j} - \sum_{j=1}^n v_{n+j} \overline{w_{n+j}}$, and we do that.

The hermitian symmetric flag $X_- = G/KS_-$ is identified with the Grassmannian of ω -isotropic n -planes in \mathbb{C}^{2n} , the base point $x_- = [e_{n+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{2n}]$, and $B = G_0(x_-)$ consists of the negative definite ω -isotropic n -planes. Similarly, $X_+ = G/KS_+$ is identified with the Grassmannian of ω -isotropic n -planes in \mathbb{C}^{2n} , $x_+ = [e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_n]$, and $\overline{B} = G_0(x_+)$ consists of the positive definite ω -isotropic n -planes. The embedding

$$B \times \overline{B} \subset G/K = G(x_-, x_+) \subset X_- \times X_+$$

of Section 2 is given by

$$(5.5) \quad \begin{aligned} B \times \overline{B} &= \{(V, W) \subset (X_- \times X_+) \mid V \text{ negative definite and } W \text{ positive definite}\} \\ \text{and } G/K &= G(x_-, x_+) = \{(V, W) \in (X_- \times X_+) \mid V \text{ and } W \text{ transverse in } \mathbb{C}^{2n}\}. \end{aligned}$$

The full flag is $Z = \{z = (z_1 \subset \cdots \subset z_{n-1}) \mid \text{each } z_j \text{ is isotropic with } \dim z_j = j\}$. One extends Witt's Theorem from $(\mathbb{C}^{2n}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ to prove

5.6. Lemma. *Let $U_1, U_2 \subset \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ be ω -isotropic subspaces of the same nondegenerate signature for $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. Then there exists $g \in G_0$ with $gU_1 = U_2$.*

Somewhat as in the Type I case it will follow that the open G_0 -orbits on the full flag $Z = G/Q$ are determined by the signature sequences of the subspaces in the flag. Let $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n)$ and $s = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$ consist of integers such that $0 \leq r_1 \leq \cdots \leq r_n \leq n$, $0 \leq s_1 \leq \cdots \leq s_n \leq n$, and $r_j + s_j = j$ for all j . Then r and s define a point $z_{r,s} \in Z$ and a G_0 -orbit $D_{r,s} \subset Z$ by

$$(5.7) \quad \begin{aligned} z_{r,s} &= (z_{r,s,1} \subset \cdots \subset z_{r,s,n}) \text{ where } z_{r,s,j} = [e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{r_j} \wedge e_{2n-s_j+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{2n}] \\ \text{and } D_{r,s} &= G_0(z_{r,s}) = \{z = (z_1 \subset \cdots \subset z_n) \mid z_j \text{ has signature } (r_j, s_j) \text{ for all } j\}. \end{aligned}$$

The last equality uses Lemma 5.6.

5.8. Proposition. *The $D_{r,s}$ are exactly the open G_0 -orbits on Z , and they are distinct.*

Proof. The G_0 -stabilizer of $z_{r,s}$ is the maximal torus consisting of diagonal unitary matrices, so $D_{r,s}$ is open in Z by dimension. If $D_{r,s} = D_{r',s'}$ then (5.7) forces $r = r'$ and $s = s'$. Now the open orbits $D_{r,s}$ are distinct. Each pair r, s is obtained by choosing a set of numbers from 1 to n , the indices at which $r_j > r_{j-1}$, so the number of pairs r, s is 2^n , which is the quotient $|W_G|/|W_K|$ of the orders of the Weyl groups. As these $D_{r,s}$ are distinct open orbits, it follows from [10, Corollary 4.7] that they are exactly the open G_0 -orbits on Z . \square

Fix r and s . Let $(V, W) \in G/K \subset (X_- \times X_+)$. Define

$$(5.9) \quad Y_{V,W} = \{z \in Z \mid \dim z_j \cap V = s_j \text{ and } \dim z_j \cap W = r_j \text{ for all } j\}.$$

We set $D = D_{r,s}$ so $Y = K(z_{r,s}) = Y_{x_-, x_+}$. If $g \in G$ then $gY = Y_{gx_-, gx_+}$. If $(V, W) \in B \times \bar{B}$ then $Y_{V,W} \subset D_{r,s}$, so $Y_{V,W} \in M_{D_{r,s}}$. Thus $(V, W) \mapsto Y_{V,W}$ defines a map $\eta : B \times \bar{B} \rightarrow M_{D_{r,s}}$. If $r_1 = \dots = r_n = 0$ then $r_{n+j} = j$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$ and $\eta(V, W)$ depends only on V ; if $s_1 = \dots = s_n = 0$ then $s_{n+j} = j$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$ and $\eta(V, W)$ depends only on W ; those are the cases where $D_{r,s}$ is of holomorphic type. In the nonholomorphic cases, η injects $B \times \bar{B}$ into $M_{D_{r,s}}$ and we have $B \times \bar{B} \subset M_{D_{r,s}}$. Theorem 5.1 is verified when B is of type II.

Type III: $B = \{Z \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \mid Z = -{}^t Z \text{ and } I - Z \cdot Z^* \gg 0\}$. Here $G = SO(2n; \mathbb{C})$, special orthogonal group defined by the symmetric bilinear form $(v, w) = \sum_{j=1}^n (v_j w_{n+j} + v_{n+j} w_j)$ on \mathbb{C}^{2n} , and $G_0 = SO^*(2n)$, the real form with maximal compact subgroup $U(n)$. We realize G_0 as $G \cap U(n, n)$ where $U(n, n)$ is the unitary group of the hermitian form $(v, w) = \sum_{j=1}^n v_j \bar{w}_j - \sum_{j=1}^n v_{n+j} \bar{w}_{n+j}$.

The hermitian symmetric flags $X_{\pm} = G/KS_{\pm}$ are identified with the two choices of connected component in the Grassmannian of isotropic (relative to (\cdot, \cdot)) n -planes in \mathbb{C}^{2n} . The components in question are specified by orientation. X_- has base point $x_- = [e_{n+1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{2n}]$, $X_- = G(x_-)$, and $B = G_0(x_-)$ consists of the negative definite isotropic n -planes in X_- . Similarly, X_+ has base point $x_+ = [e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n]$, and $X_+ = G(x_+)$, and $\bar{B} = G_0(x_+)$ consists of the positive definite isotropic n -planes in X_+ . The embedding

$$B \times \bar{B} \subset G/K = G(x_-, x_+) \subset X_- \times X_+$$

of Section 2 is given by

$$(5.10) \quad \begin{aligned} B \times \bar{B} &= \{(V, W) \subset (X_- \times X_+) \mid V \text{ negative definite and } W \text{ positive definite}\} \\ \text{and } G/K = G(x_-, x_+) &= \{(V, W) \in (X_- \times X_+) \mid V \text{ and } W \text{ transverse in } \mathbb{C}^{2n}\}. \end{aligned}$$

$Z = \{z = (z_1 \subset \dots \subset z_n) \mid \text{each } z_j \text{ is isotropic with } z_n \in X_- \text{ and } \dim z_j = j\}$ is the full flag. Here of course the z_j are linear subspaces of \mathbb{C}^{2n} . One could require $z_n \in X_+$ instead, with the same results, but it is necessary to make a choice. Witt's Theorem extends from $(\mathbb{C}^{2n}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ as follows.

5.11. Lemma. *Let $U_1, U_2 \subset \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ be (\cdot, \cdot) -isotropic subspaces of the same nondegenerate signature for $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. If $\dim U_i = n$ then assume also that the U_i are contained in the same X_{\pm} . Then there exists $g \in G_0$ with $gU_1 = U_2$.*

As in the Type II case it will follow that the open G_0 -orbits on the full flag $Z = G/Q$ are determined by the signature sequences of the subspaces in the flag. Let $r = (r_1, \dots, r_{n-1})$ and $s = (s_1, \dots, s_{n-1})$ consist of integers such that $0 \leq r_1 \leq \dots \leq r_{n-1} \leq n-1$, $0 \leq s_1 \leq \dots \leq s_{n-1} \leq n-1$, and $r_j + s_j = j$ for all j . Then r and s specify integers r_n

and s_n such that (i) $r_{n-1} \leq r_n \leq n$, (ii) $s_{n-1} \leq s_n \leq n$, (iii) $r_n + s_n = n$, and (iv) $[e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{r_n} \wedge e_{2n-s_n+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{2n}] \in X_-$. In effect, (iv) is a parity condition on r_n . Now r and s define a point $z_{r,s} \in Z$ and a G_0 -orbit $D_{r,s} \subset Z$ by

$$(5.12) \quad \begin{aligned} z_{r,s} &= (z_{r,s,1} \subset \cdots \subset z_{r,s,n}) \text{ where} \\ z_{r,s,j} &= [e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{r_j} \wedge e_{2n-s_j+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{2n}] (j < n), \\ z_{r,s,n} &\in X_- , \end{aligned}$$

and $D_{r,s} = G_0(z_{r,s}) = \{z = (z_1 \subset \cdots \subset z_n) \mid z_j \text{ has signature } (r_j, s_j) \text{ for all } j\}$.

The last equality uses Lemma 5.11.

5.13. Proposition. *The $D_{r,s}$ are exactly the open G_0 -orbits on Z , and they are distinct.*

Proof. The G_0 -stabilizer of $z_{r,s}$ is the maximal torus consisting of diagonal unitary matrices, so $D_{r,s}$ is open in Z by dimension. If $D_{r,s} = D_{r',s'}$ then (5.12) forces $r = r'$ and $s = s'$. Now the open orbits $D_{r,s}$ are distinct. Each pair r, s is obtained by choosing a set of numbers from 1 to $n-1$, the indices at which $r_j > r_{j-1}$, so the number of pairs r, s is 2^{n-1} , which is the quotient $|W_G|/|W_K|$ of the orders of the Weyl groups. As these $D_{r,s}$ are distinct open orbits, it follows from [10, Corollary 4.7] that they are exactly the open G_0 -orbits on Z . \square

Fix r and s . Let $(V, W) \in G/K \subset (X_- \times X_+)$. Define

$$(5.14) \quad Y_{V,W} = \{z \in Z \mid \dim z_j \cap V = s_j \text{ and } \dim z_j \cap W = r_j \text{ for all } j\}.$$

We set $D = D_{r,s}$ so $Y = K(z_{r,s}) = Y_{x_-, x_+}$. If $g \in G$ then $gY = Y_{gx_-, gx_+}$. If $(V, W) \in B \times \bar{B}$ then $Y_{V,W} \subset D_{r,s}$, so $Y_{V,W} \in M_{D_{r,s}}$. Thus $(V, W) \mapsto Y_{V,W}$ defines a map $\eta : B \times \bar{B} \rightarrow M_{D_{r,s}}$. If $r_1 = \cdots = r_n = 0$ then $r_{n+j} = j$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$ and $\eta(V, W)$ depends only on V ; if $s_1 = \cdots = s_n = 0$ then $s_{n+j} = j$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$ and $\eta(V, W)$ depends only on W ; those are the cases where $D_{r,s}$ is of holomorphic type. In the nonholomorphic cases, η injects $B \times \bar{B}$ into $M_{D_{r,s}}$ and we have $B \times \bar{B} \subset M_{D_{r,s}}$. Theorem 5.1 is verified when B is of type III.

Type IV: $B = \{Z \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid 1 + |Z \cdot Z|^2 - 2Z^* \cdot Z > 0 \text{ and } I - Z^* \cdot Z > 0\}$. Here $G = SO(2+n; \mathbb{C})$, special orthogonal group defined by the symmetric bilinear form $(v, w) = \sum_{j=1}^2 v_j w_j - \sum_{j=3}^{2+n} v_j w_j$ on \mathbb{C}^{2+n} , and G_0 is the identity component of $SO(2, n)$. We view G_0 as the identity component of $G \cap U(2, n)$ where $U(2, n)$ is defined by the hermitian form $\langle v, w \rangle = (v, \bar{w})$.

The hermitian symmetric flags $X_{\pm} = G/KS_{\pm}$ are each identified with the space of isotropic lines in \mathbb{C}^{2+n} . X_{\pm} has base point $x_{\pm} = [e_1 \pm ie_2]$, $B = G_0(x_-)$ and $\bar{B} = G_0(x_+)$ each consists of the positive definite isotropic lines. The embedding

$$B \times \bar{B} \subset G/K = G(x_-, x_+) \subset X_- \times X_+$$

of Section 2 is given by

$$(5.15) \quad \begin{aligned} B \times \overline{B} &= \{(V, W) \in (X_- \times X_+) \mid V \text{ and } W \text{ positive definite}\} \\ \text{and } G/K &= G(x_-, x_+) = \{(V, W) \in (X_- \times X_+) \mid (V, W) \neq 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

The full flag manifold Z is a connected component of $\tilde{Z} = \{z = (z_1 \subset \cdots \subset z_m) \mid z_j \text{ isotropic subspace of } \mathbb{C}^{2+n} \text{ and } \dim z_j = j\}$. Here $m = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1$. If n is odd then $Z = \tilde{Z}$, in other words \tilde{Z} is connected. If n is even then \tilde{Z} has two topological components. In any case

$$Z_+ = G([(e_1 + ie_2) \wedge (e_3 + ie_4) \wedge \cdots \wedge (e_{2m-1} + ie_{2m})])$$

is a connected component in the variety of all maximal isotropic subspaces of \mathbb{C}^{2+n} , and

$$(5.16) \quad Z = \{z = (z_1 \subset \cdots \subset z_m) \mid z_j \text{ isotropic in } \mathbb{C}^{2+n}, \dim z_j = j, \text{ and } z_m \in Z_+\}.$$

Witt's Theorem extends from $(\mathbb{C}^{2+n}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ as follows.

5.17. Lemma. *Let $U_1, U_2 \subset \mathbb{C}^{2+n}$ be (\cdot, \cdot) -isotropic subspaces of the same nondegenerate signature for $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. Then there exists $g \in O(2+n; \mathbb{C}) \cap U(2, n)$ with $gU_1 = U_2$.*

As in the earlier cases it will follow that the open G_0 -orbits on the full flag $Z = G/Q$ are determined by the signature sequences of the subspaces in the flag. Let $1 \leq k \leq m$, and define points $z_k^\pm \in Z$ and G_0 -orbits $D_k^\pm \subset Z$, by

$$(5.18) \quad \begin{aligned} z_k^\pm &= (z_{k,1}^\pm \subset \cdots \subset z_{k,m}^\pm) \text{ where} \\ z_{k,j}^\pm &= [(e_3 + ie_4) \wedge \cdots \wedge (e_{2j+1} + ie_{2j+2})] \text{ for } j < k, \\ z_{k,j}^\pm &= [(e_1 \pm ie_2) \wedge (e_3 + ie_4) \wedge \cdots \wedge (e_{2j-1} + ie_{2j})] \text{ for } j \geq k \\ \text{and } D_k^\pm &= G_0(z_k^\pm) \\ &= \{z \in Z \mid z_j \text{ has signature } (0, j) \text{ for } j < k, (1, j-1) \text{ for } j \geq k, \\ &\quad \text{and } z_j \text{ meets } G_0(x_\pm) \text{ for } j \geq k\}. \end{aligned}$$

The last equality uses Lemma 5.17.

5.19. Proposition. *The D_k^\pm are exactly the open G_0 -orbits on Z , and they are distinct. The $D_k^+ \cup D_k^-$ are the open $(O(2+n; \mathbb{C}) \cap U(2, n))$ -orbits on Z .*

Proof. The G_0 -stabilizer of z_k^\pm is the maximal torus consisting of independent rotations of the planes $[e_1 \wedge e_2]$ through $[e_{2m-1} \wedge e_{2m}]$, so D_k is open in Z by dimension. If $D_k^\epsilon = D_{k'}^{\epsilon'}$, ($\epsilon, \epsilon' = \pm$) then (5.18) shows that $(k, \epsilon) = (k', \epsilon')$. Now the open G_0 -orbits D_k^\pm are distinct, and the $D_k^+ \cup D_k^-$ are open $(O(2+n; \mathbb{C}) \cap U(2, n))$ -orbits on Z .

There are $2m$ pairs k, ϵ . Whether n is even or odd, the quotient $|W_G|/|W_K|$ of the orders of the Weyl groups is $2m$. As the D_k^\pm are distinct open orbits, it follows from [10, Corollary 4.7] that they are exactly the open G_0 -orbits on Z . \square

Fix k and ϵ . Let $(V, W) \in G/K = (X_- \times X_+)$. So $V = [v]$ and $W = [w]$ where $v, w \in \mathbb{C}^{2+n}$ are isotropic vectors with $(v, w) \neq 0$. Define

$$(5.20) \quad \begin{aligned} Y_{V,W} = \{z \in Z \mid & \dim z_j \cap [v \wedge w] = 0 \text{ and } \dim z_j \cap [v \wedge w]^\perp = j \text{ for } j < k, \\ & \dim z_j \cap [v \wedge w] = 1 \text{ and } \dim z_j \cap [v \wedge w]^\perp = j - 1 \text{ for } j \geq k, \\ & v \in z_j \text{ if } \epsilon = + \text{ and } j \geq k; \quad w \in z_j \text{ if } \epsilon = - \text{ and } j \geq k\}. \end{aligned}$$

Here \perp refers to the symmetric bilinear form. Also, note that the only isotropic vectors in $[v \wedge w]$ are the multiples of v and the multiples of w .

We set $D = D_k^\pm$ so $Y = K(z_k^\pm) = Y_{x_-, x_+}$. If $g \in G$ then $gY = Y_{gx_-, gx_+}$.

5.21. Lemma. *If $(V, W) \in B \times \bar{B}$ then $Y_{V,W} \subset D_k^\pm$, so $Y_{V,W} \in M_{D_k^\pm}$.*

Proof. First consider D_k^+ . Let $z' \in Y_{V,W}$. For $j \geq k$ we have $v \in z'_j$. As $V \in B$ it is positive definite for $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, so we need only check that $z'_j \cap [v \wedge w]^\perp$ is negative definite for $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$.

Let $u \in z'_j \cap [v \wedge w]^\perp$. Here \perp refers to the symmetric bilinear form (\cdot, \cdot) . If $\langle u, u \rangle \geq 0$ then $U = [u]$ is in the closure of B or in the closure of \bar{B} . In the first case the pair (U, W) sits in G/K by the argument for Case 1 in the proof of Theorem 3.6 above. Then $(u, w) \neq 0$, contradicting $u \in [v, w]^\perp$. In the second case the pair $(V, U) \in G/K$, again by the argument for Case 1 in the proof of Theorem 3.6 above, so $(v, u) \neq 0$, contradicting $u \in [v, w]^\perp$. We have verified that $z'_j \cap [v \wedge w]^\perp$ is negative definite for $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. \square

Now $(V, W) \mapsto Y_{V,W}$ defines a map $\eta : B \times \bar{B} \rightarrow M_{D_k^\pm}$. If $k = 1$ and $\epsilon = +$ then $\eta(V, W)$ depends only on V ; if $k = 1$ and $\epsilon = -$ then $\eta(V, W)$ depends only on W ; those are the cases where D_k^\pm is of holomorphic type. In the nonholomorphic cases, η injects $B \times \bar{B}$ into $M_{D_k^\pm}$ and we have $B \times \bar{B} \subset M_{D_k^\pm}$. Theorem 5.1 is verified when B is of type IV, and that completes its proof. \square

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Department of Mathematics
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

jawolf@math.berkeley.edu

Department of Mathematics
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

zierau@math.okstate.edu