Hodge theory for combinatorial geometries

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Abstract

We prove the hard Lefschetz theorem and the Hodge-Riemann relations for a commutative ring associated to an arbitrary matroid $M$. We use the Hodge-Riemann relations to resolve a conjecture of Heron, Rota, and Welsh that postulates the log-concavity of the coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of $M$. We furthermore conclude that the $f$-vector of the independence complex of a matroid forms a log-concave sequence, proving a conjecture of Mason and Welsh for general matroids.

1. Introduction

The combinatorial theory of matroids starts with Whitney [Whi35], who introduced matroids as models for independence in vector spaces and graphs. See [Kun86, Ch. I] for an excellent historical overview. By definition, a matroid $M$ is given by a closure operator defined on all subsets of a finite set $E$ satisfying the Steinitz-MacLane exchange property:

For every subset $I$ of $E$ and every element $a$ not in the closure of $I$, if $a$ is in the closure of $I \cup \{b\}$, then $b$ is in the closure of $I \cup \{a\}$.

The matroid is called loopless if the empty subset of $E$ is closed, and it is called a combinatorial geometry if, in addition, all single element subsets of $E$ are closed. A closed subset of $E$ is called a flat of $M$, and every subset of $E$ has a well-defined rank and corank in the poset of all flats of $M$. The notion of matroid played a fundamental role in graph theory, coding theory, combinatorial optimization, and mathematical logic; we refer to [Wel71] and [Oxl92] for a general introduction.

As a generalization of the chromatic polynomial of a graph [Bir13], [Whi32], Rota defined for an arbitrary matroid $M$ the characteristic polynomial

$$
\chi_M(\lambda) = \sum_{I \subseteq E} (-1)^{|I|} \lambda^{\text{crk}(I)},
$$

Keywords: hard Lefschetz theorem, Hodge-Riemann relation, Bergman fan, matroid
AMS Classification: Primary: 05A99, 05E99, 14F99, 14T05.
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where the sum is over all subsets $I \subseteq E$ and $\text{crk}(I)$ is the corank of $I$ in $M$ [Rot64]. Equivalently, the characteristic polynomial of $M$ is

$$\chi_M(\lambda) = \sum_F \mu(\emptyset, F) \lambda^{\text{crk}(F)},$$

where the sum is over all flats $F$ of $M$ and $\mu$ is the Möbius function of the poset of flats of $M$; see Chapters 7 and 8 of [Whi87]. Among the problems that withstood many advances in matroid theory are the following log-concavity conjectures formulated in the 1970s.

Write $r + 1$ for the rank of $M$, that is, the rank of $E$ in the poset of flats of $M$.

**Conjecture 1.1.** Let $w_k(M)$ be the absolute value of the coefficient of $\lambda^{r-k+1}$ in the characteristic polynomial of $M$. Then the sequence $w_k(M)$ is log-concave:

$$w_{k-1}(M)w_{k+1}(M) \leq w_k(M)^2 \text{ for all } 1 \leq k \leq r.$$

In particular, the sequence $w_k(M)$ is unimodal:

$$w_0(M) \leq w_1(M) \leq \cdots \leq w_l(M) \geq \cdots \geq w_r(M) \geq w_{r+1}(M) \text{ for some index } l.$$

We remark that the positivity of the numbers $w_k(M)$ is used to deduce the unimodality from the log-concavity [Wel76, Ch. 15].

For chromatic polynomials, the unimodality was conjectured by Read, and the log-concavity was conjectured by Hoggar [Rea68], [Hog74]. The prediction of Read was then extended to arbitrary matroids by Rota and Heron, and the conjecture in its full generality was given by Welsh [Rot71], [Her72], [Wel76]. We refer to [Whi87, Ch. 8] and [Oxl92, Ch. 15] for overviews and historical accounts.

A subset $I \subseteq E$ is said to be independent in $M$ if no element $i$ in $I$ is in the closure of $I \setminus \{i\}$. A related conjecture of Welsh and Mason concerns the number of independent subsets of $E$ of given cardinality [Wel71], [Mas72].

**Conjecture 1.2.** Let $f_k(M)$ be the number of independent subsets of $E$ with cardinality $k$. Then the sequence $f_k(M)$ is log-concave:

$$f_{k-1}(M)f_{k+1}(M) \leq f_k(M)^2 \text{ for all } 1 \leq k \leq r.$$

In particular, the sequence $f_k(M)$ is unimodal:

$$f_0(M) \leq f_1(M) \leq \cdots \leq f_l(M) \geq \cdots \geq f_r(M) \geq f_{r+1}(M) \text{ for some index } l.$$

We prove Conjectures 1.1 and 1.2 by constructing a “cohomology ring” of $M$ that satisfies the hard Lefschetz theorem and the Hodge-Riemann relations; see Theorem 1.4.
1.1. Matroid theory has experienced a remarkable development in the past century and has been connected to diverse areas such as topology [GM92], geometric model theory [Pil96], and noncommutative geometry [vN98]. The study of hyperplane arrangements provided a particularly strong connection; see, for example, [OT92], [Sta07]. Most important for our purposes is the work of de Concini and Procesi on certain “wonderful” compactifications of hyperplane arrangement complements [DCP95]. The original work focused only on realizable matroids, but Feichtner and Yuzvinsky [FY04] defined a commutative ring associated to an arbitrary matroid that specializes to the cohomology ring of a wonderful compactification in the realizable case.

**Definition 1.3.** Let \( S_M := \mathbb{R}[x_F | F \text{ is a nonempty proper flat of } M] \).

The **Chow ring** of \( M \) is defined to be the quotient
\[
A^*(M)_{\mathbb{R}} := S_M/(I_M + J_M),
\]
where \( I_M \) is the ideal generated by the quadratic monomials

\[
x_{F_1} x_{F_2}, \quad F_1 \text{ and } F_2 \text{ are two incomparable nonempty proper flats of } M,
\]

and \( J_M \) is the ideal generated by the linear forms
\[
\sum_{i_1 \in F} x_F - \sum_{i_2 \in F} x_F, \quad i_1 \text{ and } i_2 \text{ are distinct elements of the ground set } E.
\]

Conjecture 1.1 was proved for matroids realizable over \( \mathbb{C} \) in [Huh12] by relating \( w_k(M) \) to the Milnor numbers of a hyperplane arrangement realizing \( M \) over \( \mathbb{C} \). Subsequently in [HK12], using the intersection theory of wonderful compactifications and the Khovanskii-Teissier inequality [Laz04, §1.6], the conjecture was verified for matroids that are realizable over some field. Lenz used this result to deduce Conjecture 1.2 for matroids realizable over some field [Len13].

After the completion of [HK12], it was gradually realized that the validity of the Hodge-Riemann relations for the Chow ring of \( M \) is a vital ingredient for the proof of the log-concavity conjectures; see Theorem 1.4 below. While the Chow ring of \( M \) could be defined for arbitrary \( M \), it was unclear how to formulate and prove the Hodge-Riemann relations. From the point of view of [FY04], the ring \( A^*(M)_{\mathbb{R}} \) is the Chow ring of a smooth, but noncompact toric variety \( X(\Sigma_M) \), and there is no obvious way to reduce to the classical case of projective varieties. In fact, we will see that \( X(\Sigma_M) \) is “Chow equivalent” to a smooth or mildly singular projective variety over \( \mathbb{K} \) if and only if the matroid \( M \) is realizable over \( \mathbb{K} \); see Theorem 5.12.

1.2. We are nearing a difficult chasm, as there is no reason to expect a working Hodge theory beyond the case of realizable matroids. Nevertheless,
there was some evidence on the existence of such a theory for arbitrary matroids. For example, it was proved in [AS16], using the method of concentration of measure, that the log-concavity conjectures hold for a class of non-realizable matroids introduced by Goresky and MacPherson in [GM88, III.4.1].

We now state the main theorem of this paper. A real-valued function $c$ on the set of nonempty proper subsets of $E$ is said to be strictly submodular if

$$c_{I_1} + c_{I_2} > c_{I_1 \cap I_2} + c_{I_1 \cup I_2}$$

for any two incomparable subsets $I_1, I_2 \subseteq E,$

where we replace $c_\emptyset$ and $c_E$ by zero whenever they appear in the above inequality. We note that strictly submodular functions exist. For example,

$$(I \mapsto -|I| |E \setminus I|)$$

is a strictly submodular function. A strictly submodular function $c$ defines an element

$$\ell(c) := \sum_F c_F x_F \in A^1(M)_\mathbb{R},$$

where the sum is over all nonempty proper flats of $M$. Note that the rank function of any matroid on $E$ can, when restricted to the set of nonempty proper subsets of $E$, be obtained as a limit of strictly submodular functions. We write “deg” for the isomorphism $A'(M)_\mathbb{R} \simeq \mathbb{R}$ determined by the property that

$$\deg(x_{F_1} x_{F_2} \cdots x_{F_r}) = 1 \text{ for any flag of nonempty proper flats}$$

$$F_1 \subseteq F_2 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq F_r.$$

We refer to Section 5.3 for the existence and the uniqueness of the linear map “deg.”

**Theorem 1.4.** Let $\ell$ be an element of $A^1(M)_\mathbb{R}$ associated to a strictly submodular function.

1. (Hard Lefschetz theorem). For every nonnegative integer $q \leq \frac{r}{2},$ the multiplication by $\ell$ defines an isomorphism

$$L^q_\ell : A^q(M)_\mathbb{R} \to A^{r-q}(M)_\mathbb{R}, \quad a \mapsto \ell^{r-2q} \cdot a.$$

2. (Hodge–Riemann relations). For every nonnegative integer $q \leq \frac{r}{2},$ the multiplication by $\ell$ defines a symmetric bilinear form

$$Q^q_\ell : A^q(M)_\mathbb{R} \times A^q(M)_\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}, \quad (a_1, a_2) \mapsto (-1)^q \deg(a_1 \cdot L^q_\ell a_2)$$

that is positive definite on the kernel of $\ell \cdot L^q_\ell.$

In fact, we will prove that the Chow ring of $M$ satisfies the hard Lefschetz theorem and the Hodge–Riemann relations with respect to any strictly convex piecewise linear function on the tropical linear space $\Sigma_M$ associated to $M$; see Theorem 8.8. This implies Theorem 1.4. Our proof of the hard Lefschetz
theorem and the Hodge-Riemann relations for general matroids is inspired by
an ingenious inductive proof of the analogous facts for simple polytopes given
by McMullen [McM93]; compare also [dCM02] for related ideas in a different
context. To show that this program, with a considerable amount of work,
extends beyond polytopes, is our main purpose here.

In Section 9, we show that the Hodge-Riemann relations, which are in
fact stronger than the hard Lefschetz theorem, imply Conjectures 1.1 and 1.2.
We remark that, in the context of projective toric varieties, a similar reasoning
leads to the Alexandrov-Fenchel inequality on mixed volumes of convex bodies.
In this respect, broadly speaking the approach of the present paper can be
viewed as following Rota’s idea that log-concavity conjectures should follow
from their relation with the theory of mixed volumes of convex bodies; see
[Kun95].

1.3. There are other combinatorial approaches to intersection theory for
matroids. Mikhalkin et al. introduced an integral Hodge structure for arbitrary
matroids modeled on the cohomology of hyperplane arrangement complements
[IKMZ16]. Adiprasito and Björner showed that an analogue of the Lefschetz
hyperplane section theorem holds for all smooth (i.e., locally matroidal) pro-
jective tropical varieties [AB14].

Theorem 1.4 should be compared with the counterexample to a version of
Hodge conjecture for positive currents in [BH17]: The example used in [BH17]
gives a tropical variety that satisfies Poincaré duality, the hard Lefschetz the-
orem, but not the Hodge-Riemann relations.

Finally, we remark that Zilber and Hrushovski have worked on subjects
related to intersection theory for finitary combinatorial geometries; see [Hru92].
At present the relationship between their approach and ours is unclear.

1.4. Overview over the paper. Sections 2 and 3 develop basic combina-
torics and geometry of order filters in the poset of nonempty proper flats of a
matroid M. The order filters and the corresponding geometric objects \( \Sigma_{M, \mathcal{F}} \),
which are related to each other by “matroidal flips,” play a central role in our
inductive approach to the Main Theorem 1.4.

Sections 4 and 5 discuss piecewise linear and polynomial functions on sim-
plicial fans and, in particular, those on the Bergman fan \( \Sigma_M \). These sections are
more conceptual than the previous sections and, with the exception of the im-
portant technical Section 4.3, can be read immediately after the introduction.

In Section 6 we prove that the Chow ring \( A^*(M) \) satisfies Poincaré duality.
The result and the inductive scheme in its proof will be used in the proof of the
Main Theorem 1.4. After some general algebraic preparation in Section 7, the
Hard Lefschetz theorem and the Hodge-Riemann relations for matroids will be
proved in Section 8.
In Section 9, we identify the coefficients of the reduced characteristic polynomial of a matroid as “intersection numbers” in the Chow ring of the matroid. The identification is used to deduce the log-concavity conjectures from the Hodge-Riemann relations.

Acknowledgements. The authors thank Patrick Brosnan, Eduardo Cattani, Ben Elias, Ehud Hrushovski, Gil Kalai, and Sam Payne for valuable conversations. We thank Antoine Chambert-Loir, Chi Ho Yuen, and the anonymous referees for meticulous reading. Their valuable suggestions significantly improved the quality of the paper. Karim Adiprasito was supported by a Minerva Fellowship from the Max Planck Society, NSF Grant DMS-1128155, and ERC StG 716424 - CASe and ISF Grant 1050/16. June Huh was supported by a Clay Research Fellowship and NSF Grant DMS-1128155. Eric Katz was supported by an NSERC Discovery grant.

2. Finite sets and their subsets

2.1. Let $E$ be a nonempty finite set of cardinality $n+1$, say $\{0, 1, \ldots, n\}$. We write $\mathbb{Z}^E$ for the free abelian group generated by the standard basis vectors $e_i$ corresponding to the elements $i \in E$. For an arbitrary subset $I \subseteq E$, we set

$$e_I := \sum_{i \in I} e_i.$$ 

We associate to the set $E$ a dual pair of rank $n$ free abelian groups

$$\mathbb{N}_E := \mathbb{Z}^E / \langle e_E \rangle, \quad \mathbb{M}_E := e_E^\perp \subset \mathbb{Z}^E, \quad \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \mathbb{N}_E \times \mathbb{M}_E \to \mathbb{Z}.$$ 

The corresponding real vector spaces will be denoted

$$\mathbb{N}_{E, \mathbb{R}} := \mathbb{N}_E \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbb{M}_{E, \mathbb{R}} := \mathbb{M}_E \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}.$$ 

We use the same symbols $e_i$ and $e_I$ to denote their images in $\mathbb{N}_E$ and $\mathbb{N}_{E, \mathbb{R}}$.

The groups $\mathbb{N}$ and $\mathbb{M}$ associated to nonempty finite sets are related to each other in a natural way. For example, if $F$ is a nonempty subset of $E$, then we have a surjective homomorphism

$$\mathbb{N}_E \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{N}_F, \quad e_I \mapsto e_{I \cap F}$$

and an injective homomorphism

$$\mathbb{M}_F \hookrightarrow \mathbb{M}_E, \quad e_i - e_j \mapsto e_i - e_j.$$ 

If $F$ is a nonempty proper subset of $E$, we have a decomposition

$$\langle e_F^\perp \subset \mathbb{M}_E \rangle = \langle e_{E \setminus F}^\perp \subset \mathbb{M}_E \rangle = \mathbb{M}_F \oplus \mathbb{M}_{E \setminus F}.$$

Dually, we have an isomorphism from the quotient space

$$\mathbb{N}_E / \langle e_F \rangle = \mathbb{N}_E / \langle e_{E \setminus F} \rangle \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{N}_F \oplus \mathbb{N}_{E \setminus F}, \quad e_I \mapsto e_{I \cap F} \oplus e_{I \setminus F}.$$ 

This isomorphism will be used later to analyze local structure of Bergman fans.
More generally, for any map between nonempty finite sets \( \pi : E_1 \to E_2 \), there are an associated homomorphism

\[
\pi_N : N_{E_2} \to N_{E_1}, \quad e_I \mapsto e_{\pi^{-1}(I)}
\]

and the dual homomorphism

\[
\pi_M : M_{E_1} \to M_{E_2}, \quad e_i - e_j \mapsto e_{\pi(i)} - e_{\pi(j)}.
\]

When \( \pi \) is surjective, \( \pi_N \) is injective and \( \pi_M \) is surjective.

2.2. Let \( \mathcal{P}(E) \) be the poset of nonempty proper subsets of \( E \). Throughout this section the symbol \( \mathcal{F} \) will stand for a totally ordered subset of \( \mathcal{P}(E) \), that is, a flag of nonempty proper subsets of \( E \):

\[
\mathcal{F} = \{ F_1 \subset F_2 \subset \cdots \subset F_l \} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(E).
\]

We write \( \min \mathcal{F} \) for the intersection of all subsets in \( \mathcal{F} \). In other words, we set

\[
\min \mathcal{F} := \begin{cases} F_1 & \text{if } \mathcal{F} \text{ is nonempty,} \\ E & \text{if } \mathcal{F} \text{ is empty.} \end{cases}
\]

**Definition 2.1.** When \( I \) is a proper subset of \( \min \mathcal{F} \), we say that \( I \) is compatible with \( \mathcal{F} \) in \( E \), and we write \( I < \mathcal{F} \).

The set of all compatible pairs in \( E \) form a poset under the relation

\[
(I_1 < \mathcal{F}_1) \leq (I_2 < \mathcal{F}_2) \iff I_1 \subseteq I_2 \text{ and } \mathcal{F}_1 \subseteq \mathcal{F}_2.
\]

We note that any maximal compatible pair \( I < \mathcal{F} \) gives a basis of the group \( N_E \):

\[
\{ e_i \text{ and } e_F \text{ for } i \in I \text{ and } F \in \mathcal{F} \} \subseteq N_E.
\]

If \( 0 \) is the unique element of \( E \) not in \( I \) and not in any member of \( \mathcal{F} \), then the above basis of \( N_E \) is related to the basis \( \{ e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n \} \) by an invertible upper triangular matrix.

**Definition 2.2.** For each compatible pair \( I < \mathcal{F} \) in \( E \), we define two polyhedra

\[
\Delta_{I < \mathcal{F}} := \text{conv} \{ e_i \text{ and } e_F \text{ for } i \in I \text{ and } F \in \mathcal{F} \} \subseteq N_{E;R},
\]

\[
\sigma_{I < \mathcal{F}} := \text{cone} \{ e_i \text{ and } e_F \text{ for } i \in I \text{ and } F \in \mathcal{F} \} \subseteq N_{E;R}.
\]

Here “conv \( S \)” stands for the set of convex combinations of a set of vectors \( S \), and “cone \( S \)” stands for the set of nonnegative linear combinations of a set of vectors \( S \).
Since maximal compatible pairs give bases of $N_E$, the polytope $\triangle_{I<F}$ is a simplex, and the cone $\sigma_{I<F}$ is unimodular with respect to the lattice $N_E$. When $\{i\}$ is compatible with $F$,

$$\triangle_{\{i\}<F} = \triangle_{\emptyset<\{i\} \cup F} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_{\{i\}<F} = \sigma_{\emptyset<\{i\} \cup F}.$$ 

Any proper subset of $E$ is compatible with the empty flag in $\mathcal{P}(E)$, and the empty subset of $E$ is compatible with any flag in $\mathcal{P}(E)$. Thus we may write the simplex $\triangle_{I<F}$ as the simplicial join

$$\triangle_{I<F} = \triangle_{I<\emptyset} \ast \triangle_{\emptyset<F}$$

and the cone $\sigma_{I<F}$ as the vector sum

$$\sigma_{I<F} = \sigma_{I<\emptyset} + \sigma_{\emptyset<F}.$$ 

The set of all simplices of the form $\triangle_{I<F}$ is in fact a simplicial complex. More precisely, we have

$$\triangle_{I_1<F_1} \cap \triangle_{I_2<F_2} = \triangle_{I_1 \cap I_2<F_1 \cap F_2} \quad \text{if} \quad |I_1| \neq 1 \text{ and } |I_2| \neq 1.$$ 

2.3. An order filter $\mathcal{P}$ of $\mathcal{P}(E)$ is a collection of nonempty proper subsets of $E$ with the following property:

If $F_1 \subseteq F_2$ are nonempty proper subsets of $E$, then $F_1 \in \mathcal{P}$ implies $F_2 \in \mathcal{P}$.

We do not require that $\mathcal{P}$ is closed under intersection of subsets. We will see in Proposition 2.4 that any such order filter cuts out a simplicial sphere in the simplicial complex of compatible pairs.

**Definition 2.3.** The Bergman complex of an order filter $\mathcal{P} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(E)$ is the collection of simplices

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{P}} := \{ \triangle_{I<F} \text{ for } I \notin \mathcal{P} \text{ and } F \subseteq \mathcal{P} \}.$$ 

The Bergman fan of an order filter $\mathcal{P} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(E)$ is the collection of simplicial cones

$$\Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} := \{ \sigma_{I<F} \text{ for } I \notin \mathcal{P} \text{ and } F \subseteq \mathcal{P} \}.$$ 

The Bergman complex $\Delta_{\mathcal{P}}$ is a simplicial complex because $\mathcal{P}$ is an order filter.

The extreme cases $\mathcal{P} = \emptyset$ and $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(E)$ correspond to familiar geometric objects. When $\mathcal{P}$ is empty, the collection $\Sigma_{\emptyset}$ is the normal fan of the standard $n$-dimensional simplex

$$\Delta_n := \text{conv}\{e_0, e_1, \ldots, e_n\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^E.$$
When \( \mathcal{P} \) contains all nonempty proper subsets of \( E \), the collection \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} \) is the normal fan of the \( n \)-dimensional permutohedron

\[
\Pi_n := \text{conv} \left\{ (x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n) \mid x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n \text{ is a permutation of } 0, 1, \ldots, n \right\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^E.
\]

Proposition 2.4 below shows that, in general, the Bergman complex \( \Delta_\mathcal{P} \) is a simplicial sphere and \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} \) is a complete unimodular fan.

**Proposition 2.4.** For any order filter \( \mathcal{P} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(E) \), the collection \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} \) is the normal fan of a polytope.

**Proof.** We show that \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} \) can be obtained from \( \Sigma_\emptyset \) by performing a sequence of stellar subdivisions. This implies that a polytope with normal fan \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} \) can be obtained by repeatedly truncating faces of the standard simplex \( \Delta_n \).

For a detailed discussion of stellar subdivisions of normal fans and truncations of polytopes, we refer to Chapters III and V of [Ewa96]. In the language of toric geometry, this shows that the toric variety of \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} \) can be obtained from the \( n \)-dimensional projective space by blowing up torus orbit closures.

Choose a sequence of order filters obtained by adding a single subset in \( \mathcal{P} \) at a time:

\[
\emptyset, \ldots, \mathcal{P}_-, \mathcal{P}_+, \ldots, \mathcal{P} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{P}_+ = \mathcal{P}_- \cup \{Z\}.
\]

The corresponding sequence of \( \Sigma \) interpolates between the collections \( \Sigma_\emptyset \) and \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} \):

\[
\Sigma_\emptyset \leadsto \cdots \leadsto \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}_-} \leadsto \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}_+} \leadsto \cdots \leadsto \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}}.
\]

The modification in the middle replaces the cones of the form \( \sigma_{Z<\mathcal{F}} \) with the sums of the form

\[
\sigma_{Z<\mathcal{F}} + \sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}},
\]

where \( I \) is any proper subset of \( Z \). In other words, the modification is the stellar subdivision of \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}_-} \) relative to the cone \( \sigma_{Z<\mathcal{F}} \). Since a stellar subdivision of the normal fan of a polytope is the normal fan of a polytope, by induction we know that the collection \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} \) is the normal fan of a polytope. \( \square \)

Note that, in the notation of the preceding paragraph, \( \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}_-} = \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}_+} \) if \( Z \) has cardinality 1.

### 3. Matroids and their flats

3.1. Let \( M \) be a loopless matroid of rank \( r + 1 \) on the ground set \( E \). We denote \( \text{rk}_M \), \( \text{crk}_M \), and \( \text{cl}_M \) for the rank function, the corank function, and
the closure operator of \( M \) respectively. We omit the subscripts when \( M \) is understood from the context. If \( F \) is a nonempty proper flat of \( M \), we write
\[
M^F := \text{the restriction of } M \text{ to } F, \text{ a loopless matroid on } F \text{ of rank } \text{rk}_M(F),
\]
\[
M_F := \text{the contraction of } M \text{ by } F, \text{ a loopless matroid on } E \setminus F \text{ of rank } \text{crk}_M(F).
\]

We refer to [Oxl92] and [Wel76] for basic notions of matroid theory.

Let \( \mathcal{P}(M) \) be the poset of nonempty proper flats of \( M \). There are an injective map from the poset of the restriction
\[
\iota^F : \mathcal{P}(M^F) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(M), \quad G \mapsto G
\]
and an injective map from the poset of the contraction
\[
\iota_F : \mathcal{P}(M_F) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(M), \quad G \mapsto G \cup F.
\]

We identify the flats of \( M_F \) with the flats of \( M \) containing \( F \) using \( \iota_F \).

3.2. Throughout this section the symbol \( \mathcal{F} \) will stand for a totally ordered subset of \( \mathcal{P}(M) \), that is, a flag of nonempty proper flats of \( M \):
\[
\mathcal{F} = \left\{ F_1 \subseteq F_2 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq F_l \right\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(M).
\]

As before, we write \( \text{min } \mathcal{F} \) for the intersection of all members of \( \mathcal{F} \) inside \( E \).

We extend the notion of compatibility in Definition 2.1 to the case when the matroid \( M \) is not Boolean.

**Definition** 3.1. When \( I \) is a subset of \( \text{min } \mathcal{F} \) of cardinality less than \( \text{rk}_M(\text{min } \mathcal{F}) \), we say that \( I \) is compatible with \( \mathcal{F} \) in \( M \), and we write \( I \prec_M \mathcal{F} \).

Since any flag of nonempty proper flats of \( M \) has length at most \( r \), any cone
\[
\sigma_{I \prec_M \mathcal{F}} = \text{cone}\left\{ e_i \text{ and } e_F \text{ for } i \in I \text{ and } F \in \mathcal{F} \right\}
\]
associated to a compatible pair in \( M \) has dimension at most \( r \). Conversely, any such cone is contained in an \( r \)-dimensional cone of the same type: For this one may take
\[
I' = \text{a subset that is maximal among those containing } I
\]
and compatible with \( \mathcal{F} \) in \( M \),
\[
\mathcal{F}' = \text{a flag of flats maximal among those containing } \mathcal{F}
\]
and compatible with \( I' \) in \( M \),
or alternatively take
\[ F' = \text{a flag of flats maximal among those containing } F \]
and compatible with \( I \) in \( M \),
\[ I' = \text{a subset that is maximal among those containing } I \]
and compatible with \( F' \) in \( M \).

We note that any subset of \( E \) with cardinality at most \( r \) is compatible in \( M \) with the empty flag of flats, and the empty subset of \( E \) is compatible in \( M \) with any flag of nonempty proper flats of \( M \). Therefore we may write
\[ \triangle I < M \emptyset = \triangle I < M \emptyset \ast \triangle \emptyset < M \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma I < M \emptyset = \sigma I < M \emptyset + \sigma \emptyset < M \emptyset . \]
The set of all simplices associated to compatible pairs in \( M \) form a simplicial complex, that is,
\[ \triangle I_1 < M F_1 \cap \triangle I_2 < M F_2 = \triangle I_1 \cap I_2 < M F_1 \cap F_2 . \]

3.3. An order filter \( P \) of \( \mathcal{P}(M) \) is a collection of nonempty proper flats of \( M \) with the following property:
If \( F_1 \subseteq F_2 \) are nonempty proper flats of \( M \), then \( F_1 \in P \) implies \( F_2 \in P \).
We write \( \hat{P} := P \cup \{ E \} \) for the order filter of the lattice of flats of \( M \) generated by \( P \).

**Definition 3.2.** The Bergman fan of an order filter \( P \subseteq \mathcal{P}(M) \) is the set of simplicial cones
\[ \Sigma M, P := \left\{ \sigma I < \emptyset \mid \text{for } \cl M(I) \notin \hat{P} \text{ and } F \subseteq P \right\} . \]
The reduced Bergman fan of \( P \) is the subset of the Bergman fan
\[ \tilde{\Sigma} M, P := \left\{ \sigma I < M \emptyset \mid \text{for } \cl M(I) \notin \hat{P} \text{ and } F \subseteq P \right\} . \]
When \( P = \mathcal{P}(M) \), we omit \( P \) from the notation and write the Bergman fan by \( \Sigma M \).

We note that the Bergman complex and the reduced Bergman complex \( \Delta M, P \subseteq \Delta M, P \), defined in analogous ways using the simplices \( \Delta I < \emptyset \) and \( \Delta I < M \emptyset \), share the same set of vertices.

Two extreme cases give familiar geometric objects. When \( P \) is the set of all nonempty proper flats of \( M \), we have
\[ \Sigma M = \Sigma M, P = \tilde{\Sigma} M, P = \text{the fine subdivision of the tropical linear space of } M \text{ [AK06]} . \]
When \( P \) is empty, we have
\[ \tilde{\Sigma} M, \emptyset = \text{the } r\text{-dimensional skeleton of the normal fan of the simplex } \Delta_n , \]
and $\Sigma_{M, \emptyset}$ is the fan whose maximal cones are $\sigma_{F, \emptyset}$ for rank $r$ flats $F$ of $M$. We remark that

$$\Delta_{M, \emptyset} = \text{the Alexander dual of the matroid complex}$$

$$\text{IN}(M^*) \text{ of the dual matroid } M^*.$$  

See [Bjö92] for basic facts on the matroid complexes and [MS05b, Ch. 5] for the Alexander dual of a simplicial complex.

We show that, in general, the Bergman fan and the reduced Bergman fan are indeed fans, and the reduced Bergman fan is pure of dimension $r$.

**Proposition 3.3.** The collection $\Sigma_{M, \emptyset}$ is a subfan of the normal fan of a polytope.

*Proof.* Since $\mathcal{P}$ is an order filter, any face of a cone in $\Sigma_{M, \emptyset}$ is in $\Sigma_{M, \emptyset}$. Therefore it is enough to show that there is a normal fan of a polytope that contains $\Sigma_{M, \emptyset}$ as a subset.

For this we consider the order filter of $\mathcal{P}(E)$ generated by $\mathcal{P}$, that is, the collection of sets

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{P}} := \{\text{nonempty proper subset of } E \text{ containing a flat in } \mathcal{P}\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(E).$$

If the closure of $I \subseteq E$ in $M$ is not in $\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}$, then $I$ does not contain any flat in $\mathcal{P}$, and hence

$$\Sigma_{M, \emptyset} \subseteq \Sigma_{\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}}. $$

The latter collection is the normal fan of a polytope by Proposition 2.4. $\Box$

Since $\mathcal{P}$ is an order filter, any face of a cone in $\Sigma_{M, \emptyset}$ is in $\Sigma_{M, \emptyset}$, and hence $\Sigma_{M, \emptyset}$ is a subfan of $\Sigma_{M, \emptyset}$. It follows that the reduced Bergman fan also is a subfan of the normal fan of a polytope.

**Proposition 3.4.** The reduced Bergman fan $\widetilde{\Sigma}_{M, \emptyset}$ is pure of dimension $r$.

*Proof.* Let $I$ be a subset of $E$ whose closure is not in $\mathcal{P}$, and let $\mathcal{F}$ be a flag of flats in $\mathcal{P}$ compatible with $I$ in $M$. We show that there are $I'$ containing $I$ and $\mathcal{F}'$ containing $\mathcal{F}$ such that

$$I' <_M \mathcal{F}', \quad \text{cl}_M(I') \notin \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}, \quad \mathcal{F}' \subseteq \mathcal{P}, \quad \text{and } |I'| + |\mathcal{F}'| = r.$$ 

First choose any flag of flats $\mathcal{F}'$ that is maximal among those containing $\mathcal{F}$, contained in $\mathcal{P}$, and compatible with $I$ in $M$. Next choose any flat $F$ of $M$ that is maximal among those containing $I$ and strictly contained in $\text{min } \mathcal{F}'$.

We note that, by the maximality of $F$ and the maximality of $\mathcal{F}'$ respectively,

$$\text{rk}_M(F) = \text{rk}_M(\text{min } \mathcal{F}') - 1 = r - |\mathcal{F}'|.$$
Since the rank of a set is at most its cardinality, the above implies

$$|I| \leq r - |F'| \leq |F|.$$ 

This shows that there is $I'$ containing $I$, contained in $F$, and with cardinality exactly $r - |F'|$. Any such $I'$ is automatically compatible with $F'$ in $M$.

We show that the closure of $I'$ is not in $\mathcal{P}$ by showing that the flat $F$ is not in $\mathcal{P}$. If otherwise, by the maximality of $F'$, the set $I$ cannot be compatible in $M$ with the flag $\{F\}$, meaning

$$|I| \geq \text{rk}_M(F).$$

The above implies that the closure of $I$ in $M$, which is not in $\mathcal{P}$, is equal to $F$. This gives the desired contradiction. \qed

Our inductive approach to the hard Lefschetz theorem and the Hodge-Riemann relations for matroids is modeled on the observation that any facet of a permutohedron is the product of two smaller permutohedrons. We note below that the Bergman fan $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}}$ has an analogous local structure when $M$ has no parallel elements, that is, when no two elements of $E$ are contained in a common rank 1 flat of $M$.

Recall that the star of a cone $\sigma$ in a fan $\Sigma$ in a vector space $N_{\mathbb{R}}$ is the fan $\text{star}(\sigma, \Sigma) := \{\sigma' \mid \sigma' \text{ is the image in } N_{\mathbb{R}}/\langle \sigma \rangle \text{ of a cone } \sigma' \text{ in } \Sigma \text{ containing } \sigma\}$. If $\sigma$ is a ray generated by a vector $e$, we write $\text{star}(e, \Sigma)$ for the star of $\sigma$ in $\Sigma$.

**Proposition 3.5.** Let $M$ be a loopless matroid on $E$, and let $\mathcal{P}$ be an order filter of $\mathcal{P}(M)$.

1. If $F$ is a flat in $\mathcal{P}$, then the isomorphism $N_{E}/\langle e_{F} \rangle \rightarrow N_{F} \oplus N_{E \setminus F}$ induces a bijection

$$\text{star}(e_{F}, \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}) \rightarrow \Sigma_{M_{F}} \times \Sigma_{M_{E}}.$$ 

2. If $\{i\}$ is a proper flat of $M$, then the isomorphism $N_{E}/\langle e_{i} \rangle \rightarrow N_{E \setminus \{i\}}$ induces a bijection

$$\text{star}(e_{i}, \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}) \rightarrow \Sigma_{M_{\{i\}}} \times \Sigma_{M_{\{i\}}}.$$ 

Under the same assumptions, the stars of $e_{F}$ and $e_{i}$ in the reduced Bergman fan $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ admit analogous descriptions.

Recall that a loopless matroid is a combinatorial geometry if all single element subsets of $E$ are flats. When $M$ is not a combinatorial geometry, the star of $e_{i}$ in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ is not necessarily a product of smaller Bergman fans. However, when $M$ is a combinatorial geometry, Proposition 3.5 shows that the star of every ray in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ is a product of at most two Bergman fans.
4. Piecewise linear functions and their convexity

4.1. Piecewise linear functions on possibly incomplete fans will play an important role throughout the paper. In this section, we prove several general properties concerning convexity of such functions, working with a dual pair free abelian groups

\[ (\alpha, \beta) : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, \quad \mathbb{N}_\mathbb{R} := \mathbb{N} \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbb{M}_\mathbb{R} := \mathbb{M} \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R} \]

and a fan \( \Sigma \) in the vector space \( \mathbb{N}_\mathbb{R} \). Throughout this section we assume that \( \Sigma \) is unimodular; that is, every cone in \( \Sigma \) is generated by a part of a basis of \( \mathbb{N} \).

The set of primitive ray generators of \( \Sigma \) will be denoted \( \mathbb{V}_\Sigma \).

We say that a function \( \ell : |\Sigma| \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) is piecewise linear if it is continuous and the restriction of \( \ell \) to any cone in \( \Sigma \) is the restriction of a linear function on \( \mathbb{N}_\mathbb{R} \). The function \( \ell \) is said to be integral if

\[ \ell(|\Sigma| \cap \mathbb{N}) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}, \]

and the function \( \ell \) is said to be positive if

\[ \ell(|\Sigma| \setminus \{0\}) \subseteq \mathbb{R}_{>0}. \]

An important example of a piecewise linear function on \( \Sigma \) is the Courant function \( x_e \) associated to a primitive ray generator \( e \) of \( \Sigma \), whose values at \( \mathbb{V}_\Sigma \) are given by the Kronecker delta function. Since \( \Sigma \) is unimodular, the Courant functions are integral, and they form a basis of the group of integral piecewise linear functions on \( \Sigma \):

\[ \text{PL}(\Sigma) = \left\{ \sum_{e \in \mathbb{V}_\Sigma} c_e x_e \mid c_e \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} \cong \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{V}_\Sigma}. \]

An integral linear function on \( \mathbb{N}_\mathbb{R} \) restricts to an integral piecewise linear function on \( \Sigma \), giving a homomorphism

\[ \text{res}_\Sigma : \mathbb{M} \rightarrow \text{PL}(\Sigma), \quad m \mapsto \sum_{e \in \mathbb{V}_\Sigma} \langle e, m \rangle x_e. \]

We denote the cokernel of the restriction map by

\[ A^1(\Sigma) := \text{PL}(\Sigma)/\mathbb{M}. \]

In general, this group may have torsion, even under our assumption that \( \Sigma \) is unimodular. When integral piecewise linear functions \( \ell \) and \( \ell' \) on \( \Sigma \) differ by the restriction of an integral linear function on \( \mathbb{N}_\mathbb{R} \), we say that \( \ell \) and \( \ell' \) are equivalent over \( \mathbb{Z} \).

Note that the group of piecewise linear functions modulo linear functions on \( \Sigma \) can be identified with the tensor product

\[ A^1(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R} := A^1(\Sigma) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R}. \]
When piecewise linear functions $\ell$ and $\ell'$ on $\Sigma$ differ by the restriction of a linear function on $N_{\mathbb{R}}$, we say that $\ell$ and $\ell'$ are equivalent.

We describe three basic pullback homomorphisms between the groups $A^1$. Let $\Sigma'$ be a subfan of $\Sigma$, and let $\sigma$ be a cone in $\Sigma$.

1. The restriction of functions from $\Sigma$ to $\Sigma'$ defines a surjective homomorphism

   $$PL(\Sigma) \rightarrow PL(\Sigma'),$$

   and this descends to a surjective homomorphism

   $$p_{\Sigma' \subset \Sigma} : A^1(\Sigma) \rightarrow A^1(\Sigma').$$

   In terms of Courant functions, $p_{\Sigma' \subset \Sigma}$ is uniquely determined by its values $x_e \mapsto$

   $$\begin{cases} x_e & \text{if } e \text{ is in } V_{\Sigma'}, \\ 0 & \text{if otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

2. Any integral piecewise linear function $\ell$ on $\Sigma$ is equivalent over $\mathbb{Z}$ to an integral piecewise linear function $\ell'$ that is zero on $\sigma$, and the choice of such $\ell'$ is unique up to an integral linear function on $N_{\mathbb{R}}/<\sigma>$. Therefore we have a surjective homomorphism

   $$p_{\sigma \in \Sigma} : A^1(\Sigma) \rightarrow A^1(\text{star}(\sigma, \Sigma)),$$

   uniquely determined by its values on $x_e$ for primitive ray generators $e$ not contained in $\sigma$:

   $$x_e \mapsto\begin{cases} x_{\overline{e}} & \text{if there is a cone in } \Sigma \text{ containing } e \text{ and } \sigma, \\ 0 & \text{if otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

   Here $\overline{e}$ is the image of $e$ in the quotient space $N_{\mathbb{R}}/<\sigma>$.

3. A piecewise linear function on the product of two fans $\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2$ is the sum of its restrictions to the subfans

   $$\Sigma_1 \times \{0\} \subseteq \Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2 \text{ and } \{0\} \times \Sigma_2 \subseteq \Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2.$$

   Therefore we have an isomorphism

   $$PL(\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2) \simeq PL(\Sigma_1) \oplus PL(\Sigma_2),$$

   and this descends to an isomorphism

   $$p_{\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2} : A^1(\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2) \simeq A^1(\Sigma_1) \oplus A^1(\Sigma_2).$$
4.2. We define the link of a cone $\sigma$ in $\Sigma$ to be the collection

$$\text{link}(\sigma, \Sigma) := \left\{ \sigma' \in \Sigma \mid \sigma' \text{ is contained in a cone in } \Sigma \text{ containing } \sigma, \text{ and } \sigma \cap \sigma' = \{0\} \right\}.$$ 

Note that the link of $\sigma$ in $\Sigma$ is a subfan of $\Sigma$.

**Definition 4.1.** Let $\ell$ be a piecewise linear function on $\Sigma$, and let $\sigma$ be a cone in $\Sigma$.

1. The function $\ell$ is **convex** around $\sigma$ if it is equivalent to a piecewise linear function that is zero on $\sigma$ and nonnegative on the rays of the link of $\sigma$.
2. The function $\ell$ is **strictly convex** around $\sigma$ if it is equivalent to a piecewise linear function that is zero on $\sigma$ and positive on the rays of the link of $\sigma$.

The function $\ell$ is **convex** if it is convex around every cone in $\Sigma$ and **strictly convex** if it is strictly convex around every cone in $\Sigma$.

When $\Sigma$ is complete, the function $\ell$ is convex in the sense of Definition 4.1 if and only if it is convex in the usual sense:

$$\ell(u_1 + u_2) \leq \ell(u_1) + \ell(u_2) \quad \text{for } u_1, u_2 \in \mathbb{N}_R.$$ 

In general, writing $\iota$ for the inclusion of the torus orbit closure corresponding to $\sigma$ in the toric variety of $\Sigma$, we have

$$\ell \text{ is convex around } \sigma \iff \iota^* \text{ of the class of the divisor associated to } \ell \text{ is effective.}$$ 

For a detailed discussion and related notions of convexity from the point of view of toric geometry, see [GM12, §2].

**Definition 4.2.** The **ample cone** of $\Sigma$ is the open convex cone

$$\mathcal{K}_\Sigma := \left\{ \text{classes of strictly convex piecewise linear functions on } \Sigma \right\} \subseteq A^1(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R}.$$ 

The **nef cone** of $\Sigma$ is the closed convex cone

$$\mathcal{N}_\Sigma := \left\{ \text{classes of convex piecewise linear functions on } \Sigma \right\} \subseteq A^1(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R}.$$ 

Note that the closure of the ample cone $\mathcal{K}_\Sigma$ is contained in the nef cone $\mathcal{N}_\Sigma$. In many interesting cases, the reverse inclusion also holds.

**Proposition 4.3.** If $\mathcal{K}_\Sigma$ is nonempty, then $\mathcal{N}_\Sigma$ is the closure of $\mathcal{K}_\Sigma$.

**Proof.** If $\ell_1$ is a convex piecewise linear function and $\ell_2$ is strictly convex piecewise linear function on $\Sigma$, then the sum $\ell_1 + \epsilon \ell_2$ is strictly convex for every positive number $\epsilon$. This shows that the nef cone of $\Sigma$ is in the closure of the ample cone of $\Sigma$. \qed
We record here that the various pullbacks of an ample class are ample. The proof is straightforward from Definition 4.1.

**Proposition 4.4.** Let $\Sigma'$ be a subfan of $\Sigma$, $\sigma$ be a cone in $\Sigma$, and let $\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2$ be a product fan.

1. The pullback homomorphism $p_{\Sigma' \subseteq \Sigma}$ induces a map between the ample cones $K_\Sigma \longrightarrow K_{\Sigma'}$.

2. The pullback homomorphism $p_{\sigma \in \Sigma'}$ induces a map between the ample cones $K_\Sigma \longrightarrow K_{\text{star}(\sigma, \Sigma)}$.

3. The isomorphism $p_{\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2}$ induces a bijective map between the ample cones $K_{\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2} \longrightarrow K_{\Sigma_1} \times K_{\Sigma_2}$.

Recall that the support function of a polytope is a strictly convex piecewise linear function on the normal fan of the polytope. An elementary proof can be found in [Oda88, Cor. A.19]. It follows from the first item of Proposition 4.4 that any subfan of the normal fan of a polytope has a nonempty ample cone. In particular, by Proposition 3.3, the Bergman fan $\Sigma_M$ has a nonempty ample cone.

Strictly convex piecewise linear functions on the normal fan of the permutohedron can be described in a particularly nice way: A piecewise linear function on $\Sigma_P(E)$ is strictly convex if and only if it is of the form

$$\sum_{F \in P(E)} c_F x_F, \quad c_{F_1} + c_{F_2} > c_{F_1 \cap F_2} + c_{F_1 \cup F_2}$$

for any incomparable $F_1, F_2$, with $c_{\emptyset} = c_E = 0$.

For this and related results, see [BB11]. The restriction of any such strictly submodular function gives a strictly convex function on the Bergman fan $\Sigma_M$ and defines an ample class on $\Sigma_M$.

4.3. We specialize to the case of matroids and prove basic properties of convex piecewise linear functions on the Bergman fan $\Sigma_M$. We write $K_{\Sigma, M}$ for the ample cone of $\Sigma_M$ and $N_{\Sigma, M}$ for the nef cone of $\Sigma_M$.

**Proposition 4.5.** Let $M$ be a loopless matroid on $E$, and let $\mathcal{P}$ be an order filter of $\mathcal{P}(M)$.

1. The nef cone of $\Sigma_M$ is equal to the closure of the ample cone of $\Sigma_M$:

$$\overline{K_{\Sigma, M}} = N_{\Sigma, M}.$$

2. The ample cone of $\Sigma_M$ is equal to the interior of the nef cone of $\Sigma_M$:

$$K_{\Sigma, M} = N_{\Sigma, M}^\circ.$$
Proof. Propositions 3.3 shows that the ample cone $\mathcal{K}_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ is nonempty. Therefore, by Proposition 4.3, the nef cone $\mathcal{N}_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ is equal to the closure of $\mathcal{K}_{M,\mathcal{P}}$.

The second assertion can be deduced from the first using the following general property of convex sets: An open convex set is equal to the interior of its closure. □

The main result here is that the ample cone and its ambient vector space

$$\mathcal{K}_{M,\mathcal{P}} \subseteq A^1(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}})_\mathbb{R}$$

depend only on $\mathcal{P}$ and the combinatorial geometry of $M$; see Proposition 4.8 below. We set

$$E := \{ A \mid A \text{ is a rank } 1 \text{ flat of } M \}.$$ 

Definition 4.6. The combinatorial geometry of $M$ is the simple matroid $\overline{M}$ on $E$ determined by its poset of nonempty proper flats $\mathcal{P}(\overline{M}) = \mathcal{P}(M)$.

The set of primitive ray generators of $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ is the disjoint union

$$\{ e_i \mid \text{the closure of } i \text{ in } M \text{ is not in } \mathcal{P} \} \cup \{ e_F \mid F \text{ is a flat in } \mathcal{P} \} \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{E,\mathbb{R}},$$

and the set of primitive ray generators of $\Sigma_{\overline{M},\mathcal{P}}$ is the disjoint union

$$\{ e_A \mid A \text{ is a rank } 1 \text{ flat of } M \text{ not in } \mathcal{P} \} \cup \{ e_F \mid F \text{ is a flat in } \mathcal{P} \} \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{E,\mathbb{R}}.$$ 

The corresponding Courant functions on the Bergman fans will be denoted $x_i$, $x_F$, and $x_A$, $x_F$ respectively.

Let $\pi$ be the surjective map between the ground sets of $M$ and $\overline{M}$ given by the closure operator of $M$. We fix an arbitrary section $\iota$ of $\pi$ by choosing an element from each rank 1 flat:

$$\pi : E \longrightarrow \overline{E}, \quad \iota : \overline{E} \longrightarrow E, \quad \pi \circ \iota = \text{id}.$$ 

The maps $\pi$ and $\iota$ induce the horizontal homomorphisms in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
PL(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}) & \xrightarrow{\pi_{PL}} & PL(\Sigma_{\overline{M},\mathcal{P}}) \\
\downarrow \text{res} & & \downarrow \text{res} \\
M_E & \xrightarrow{\pi_M, \iota_M} & M_{\overline{E}},
\end{array}$$

where the homomorphism $\pi_{PL}$ is obtained by setting

$$x_i \mapsto x_{\pi(i)}, \quad x_F \mapsto x_F$$

for elements $i$ whose closure is not in $\mathcal{P}$, and for flats $F$ in $\mathcal{P}$,
and the homomorphism $\iota_{\text{PL}}$ is obtained by setting
\[ x_A \mapsto x_{i(A)}, \quad x_F \mapsto x_F \]
for rank 1 flats $A$ not in $\mathcal{P}$, and for flats $F$ in $\mathcal{P}$.

In the diagram above, we have
\[ \pi_{\text{PL}} \circ \text{res} = \text{res} \circ \pi_{\text{M}}, \quad \iota_{\text{PL}} \circ \text{res} = \text{res} \circ \iota_{\text{M}}, \quad \pi_{\text{PL}} \circ \iota_{\text{PL}} = \text{id}, \quad \pi_{\text{M}} \circ \iota_{\text{M}} = \text{id}. \]

**Proposition 4.7.** The homomorphism $\pi_{\text{PL}}$ induces an isomorphism
\[ \pi_{\text{PL}} : A^1(\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}}) \to A^1(\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}}). \]
The homomorphism $\iota_{\text{PL}}$ induces the inverse isomorphism
\[ \iota_{\text{PL}} : A^1(\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}}) \to A^1(\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}}). \]

We use the same symbols to denote the isomorphisms $A^1(\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}})_{\mathbb{R}} \cong A^1(\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}})_{\mathbb{R}}$.

**Proof.** It is enough to check that the composition $\iota_{\text{PL}} \circ \pi_{\text{PL}}$ is the identity. Let $i$ and $j$ be elements whose closures are not in $\mathcal{P}$. Consider the linear function on $\mathbb{N}_E$, $\mathbb{R}$ given by the integral vector $e_i - e_j \in M_E$.

The restriction of this linear function to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}}$ is the linear combination
\[ \text{res}(e_i - e_j) = \left( x_i + \sum_{i \in F \in \mathcal{P}} x_F \right) - \left( x_j + \sum_{j \in F \in \mathcal{P}} x_F \right). \]
If $i$ and $j$ have the same closure, then a flat contains $i$ if and only if it contains $j$, and hence the linear function witnesses that the piecewise linear functions $x_i$ and $x_j$ are equivalent over $\mathbb{Z}$. It follows that $\iota_{\text{PL}} \circ \pi_{\text{PL}} = \text{id}$. \[ \square \]

**Proposition 4.8.** The isomorphism $\pi_{\text{PL}}$ restricts to a bijective map between the ample cones
\[ \mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}} \to \mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{P}}. \]
Proof. By Proposition 4.5, it is enough to show that $\pi_{PL}$ restricts to a bijective map

$$\mathcal{N}_{M,\mathcal{P}} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{M},\mathcal{P}}.$$

We use the following maps corresponding to $\pi_\Delta$ and $\iota_\Delta$:

$$\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}} \xrightarrow{\pi_\Sigma} \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}, \quad \sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}} \mapsto \sigma_{\pi(I)<\mathcal{F}}, \quad \sigma_{\mathcal{F}<\mathcal{F}} \mapsto \sigma_{\iota_{\mathcal{F}}<\mathcal{F}}.$$

One direction is more direct: The homomorphism $\iota_{PL}$ maps a convex piecewise linear function $\ell$ to a convex piecewise linear function $\iota_{PL}(\ell)$. Indeed, for any cone $\sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}}$ in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$,

$$\left( \ell \text{ is zero on } \sigma_{\pi(I)<\mathcal{F}} \text{ and nonnegative on the link of } \sigma_{\pi(I)<\mathcal{F}} \text{ in } \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}} \right) \implies \left( \iota_{PL}(\ell) \text{ is zero on } \sigma_{\pi(I)<\mathcal{F}} \text{ and nonnegative on the link of } \sigma_{\iota_{\mathcal{F}}<\mathcal{F}} \right),$$

Next we show the other direction: The homomorphism $\pi_{PL}$ maps a convex piecewise linear function $\ell$ to a convex piecewise linear function $\pi_{PL}(\ell)$. The main claim is that, for any cone $\sigma_{\mathcal{F}<\mathcal{F}}$ in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$,

$$\ell \text{ is convex around } \sigma_{\pi^{-1}(\mathcal{F})<\mathcal{F}} \implies \pi_{PL}(\ell) \text{ is convex around } \sigma_{\mathcal{F}<\mathcal{F}}.$$

This can be deduced from the following identities between the subfans of $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$:

$$\pi_\Sigma^{-1} \left( \text{the set of all faces of } \sigma_{\mathcal{F}<\mathcal{F}} \right) = \left( \text{the set of all faces of } \sigma_{\pi^{-1}(\mathcal{F})<\mathcal{F}} \right),$$

$$\pi_\Sigma^{-1} \left( \text{the link of } \sigma_{\mathcal{F}<\mathcal{F}} \text{ in } \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}} \right) = \left( \text{the link of } \sigma_{\pi^{-1}(\mathcal{F})<\mathcal{F}} \text{ in } \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}} \right).$$

It is straightforward to check the two equalities from the definitions of $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ and $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$. \hfill \square

Remark 4.9. Note that a Bergman fan and the corresponding reduced Bergman fan share the same set of primitive ray generators. Therefore we have isomorphisms

$$A^1(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}) \xrightarrow{\cong} A^1(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}})$$

$$A^1(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}) \xrightarrow{\cong} A^1(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}).$$
We remark that there are inclusion maps between the corresponding ample cones
\[
\mathcal{K}_{M, \mathcal{P}} \subset \mathcal{K}_{M, \mathcal{P}}^\circ \subset \mathcal{K}_{M, \mathcal{P}}^\circ.
\]
In general, all three inclusions shown above may be strict.

5. Homology and cohomology

5.1. Let \( \Sigma \) be a unimodular fan in an \( n \)-dimensional latticed vector space \( \mathbb{N}_\mathbb{R} \), and let \( \Sigma_k \) be the set of \( k \)-dimensional cones in \( \Sigma \). If \( \tau \) is a codimension 1 face of a unimodular cone \( \sigma \), we write
\[
e_{\sigma/\tau} := \text{the primitive generator of the unique 1-dimensional face of} \ \sigma \ \text{not in} \ \tau.
\]

Definition 5.1. A \( k \)-dimensional Minkowski weight on \( \Sigma \) is a function
\[
\omega : \Sigma_k \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}
\]
that satisfies the balancing condition: For every \((k-1)\)-dimensional cone \( \tau \) in \( \Sigma \),
\[
\sum_{\tau \subset \sigma} \omega(\sigma)e_{\sigma/\tau} \text{ is contained in the subspace generated by } \tau.
\]
The group of Minkowski weights on \( \Sigma \) is the group
\[
\text{MW}_*(\Sigma) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \text{MW}_k(\Sigma),
\]
where \( \text{MW}_k(\Sigma) := \{ \text{\( k \)-dimensional Minkowski weights on } \Sigma \} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^\Sigma_k \).

The group of Minkowski weights was studied by Fulton and Sturmfels in the context of toric geometry [FS97]. An equivalent notion of stress space was independently pursued by Lee in [Lee96]. Both were inspired by McMullen, who introduced the notion of weights on polytopes and initiated the study of its algebraic properties [McM89], [McM96]. We record here some immediate properties of the group of Minkowski weights on \( \Sigma \).

(1) The group \( \text{MW}_0(\Sigma) \) is canonically isomorphic to the group of integers:
\[
\text{MW}_0(\Sigma) = \mathbb{Z}^{\Sigma_0} \simeq \mathbb{Z}.
\]

(2) The group \( \text{MW}_1(\Sigma) \) is perpendicular to the image of the restriction map from \( \text{M} \):
\[
\text{MW}_1(\Sigma) = \text{im}(\text{res}_\Sigma)^\perp \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^{\Sigma_1}.
\]

(3) The group \( \text{MW}_k(\Sigma) \) is trivial for \( k \) negative or \( k \) larger than the dimension of \( \Sigma \).
If $\Sigma$ is in addition complete, then an $n$-dimensional weight on $\Sigma$ satisfies the balancing condition if and only if it is constant. Therefore, in this case, there is a canonical isomorphism

$$\text{MW}_n(\Sigma) \simeq \mathbb{Z}.$$  

We show that the Bergman fan $\Sigma_M$ has the same property with respect to its dimension $r$.

**Proposition 5.2.** An $r$-dimensional weight on $\Sigma_M$ satisfies the balancing condition if and only if it is constant.

It follows that there is a canonical isomorphism $\text{MW}_r(\Sigma_M) \simeq \mathbb{Z}$. We begin the proof of Proposition 5.2 with the following lemma.

**Lemma 5.3.** The Bergman fan $\Sigma_M$ is connected in codimension 1.

We remark that Lemma 5.3 is a direct consequence of the shellability of $\Delta_M$; see [Bjö92].

**Proof.** The claim is that, for any two $r$-dimensional cones $\sigma_{\mathcal{F}}, \sigma_{\mathcal{G}}$ in $\Sigma_M$, there is a sequence

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{F}} = \sigma_0 \supset \tau_1 \subset \sigma_1 \supset \cdots \supset \sigma_{l-1} \supset \tau_l \subset \sigma_l = \sigma_{\mathcal{G}},$$

where $\tau_i$ is a common facet of $\sigma_{i-1}$ and $\sigma_i$ in $\Sigma_M$. We express this by writing $\sigma_{\mathcal{F}} \sim \sigma_{\mathcal{G}}$.

We prove by induction on the rank of $M$. If $\min \mathcal{F} = \min \mathcal{G}$, then the induction hypothesis applied to $M_{\min \mathcal{F}}$ shows that

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{F}} \sim \sigma_{\mathcal{G}}.$$  

If otherwise, we choose a flag of nonempty proper flats $\mathcal{H}$ maximal among those satisfying $\min \mathcal{F} \cup \min \mathcal{G} < \mathcal{H}$. By the induction hypothesis applied to $M_{\min \mathcal{F}}$, we have

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{F}} \sim \sigma_{\{\min \mathcal{F}\} \cup \mathcal{H}}.$$  

Similarly, by the induction hypothesis applied to $M_{\min \mathcal{G}}$, we have

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{G}} \sim \sigma_{\{\min \mathcal{G}\} \cup \mathcal{H}}.$$  

Since any 1-dimensional fan is connected in codimension 1, this complete the induction. \qed

**Proof of Proposition 5.2.** The proof is based on the flat partition property for matroids $M$ on $E$:

If $F$ is a flat of $M$, then the flats of $M$ that cover $F$ partition $E \setminus F$. 

Let $\tau_G$ be a codimension 1 cone in the Bergman fan $\Sigma_M$, and set

$$V_{\text{star}(\tau)} := \text{the set of primitive ray generators of the star of } \tau_G \text{ in } \Sigma_M \subseteq \mathbb{N}_E / \langle \tau_G \rangle.$$ 

The flat partition property applied to the restrictions of $M$ shows that, first, the sum of all the vectors in $V_{\text{star}(\tau)}$ is zero and, second, any proper subset of $V_{\text{star}(\tau)}$ is linearly independent. Therefore, for an $r$-dimensional weight $\omega$ on $\Sigma_M$,

$$\omega \text{ satisfies the balancing condition at } \tau_G \iff \omega \text{ is constant on cones containing } \tau_G.$$

By the connectedness of Lemma 5.3, the latter condition for every $\tau_G$ implies that $\omega$ is constant. □

5.2. We continue to work with a unimodular fan $\Sigma$ in $\mathbb{N}_R$. As before, we write $V_\Sigma$ for the set of primitive ray generators of $\Sigma$. Let $S_\Sigma$ be the polynomial ring over $\mathbb{Z}$ with variables indexed by $V_\Sigma$:

$$S_\Sigma := \mathbb{Z}[x_e]_{e \in V_\Sigma}.$$

For each $k$-dimensional cone $\sigma$ in $\Sigma$, we associate a degree $k$ square-free monomial

$$x_{\sigma} := \prod_{e \in \sigma} x_e.$$

The subgroup of $S_\Sigma$ generated by all such monomials $x_{\sigma}$ will be denoted

$$Z^k(\Sigma) := \bigoplus_{\sigma \in \Sigma_k} \mathbb{Z} x_{\sigma}.$$

Let $Z^*(\Sigma)$ be the sum of $Z^k(\Sigma)$ over all nonnegative integers $k$.

**Definition 5.4.** The **Chow ring** of $\Sigma$ is the commutative graded algebra

$$A^*(\Sigma) := S_\Sigma / (I_\Sigma + J_\Sigma),$$

where $I_\Sigma$ and $J_\Sigma$ are the ideals of $S_\Sigma$ defined by

$$I_\Sigma := \text{the ideal generated by the square-free monomials not in } Z^*(\Sigma),$$

$$J_\Sigma := \text{the ideal generated by the linear forms } \sum_{e \in V_\Sigma} \langle e, m \rangle x_e \text{ for } m \in M.$$ 

We write $A^k(\Sigma)$ for the degree $k$ component of $A^*(\Sigma)$, and we set

$$A^*(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R} := A^*(\Sigma) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R} \text{ and } A^k(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R} := A^k(\Sigma) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}.$$ 

If we identify the variables of $S_\Sigma$ with the Courant functions on $\Sigma$, then the degree 1 component of $A^*(\Sigma)$ agrees with the group introduced in Section 4:

$$A^1(\Sigma) = \text{PL}(\Sigma) / M.$$
Note that the pullback homomorphisms between $A^1$ introduced in that section uniquely extend to graded ring homomorphisms between $A^*$:

1. The homomorphism $p_{\Sigma \subseteq \Sigma}$ uniquely extends to a surjective graded ring homomorphism

$$p_{\Sigma \subseteq \Sigma} : A^*(\Sigma) \to A^*(\Sigma').$$

2. The homomorphism $p_{\sigma \in \Sigma}$ uniquely extends to a surjective graded ring homomorphism

$$p_{\sigma \in \Sigma} : A^*(\Sigma) \to A^*(\text{star}(\sigma, \Sigma)).$$

3. The isomorphism $p_{\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2}$ uniquely extends to a graded ring isomorphism

$$p_{\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2} : A^*(\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2) \to A^*(\Sigma_1) \otimes_Z A^*(\Sigma_2).$$

We remark that the Chow ring $A^*(\Sigma)$ can be identified with the ring of piecewise polynomial functions on $\Sigma$ modulo linear functions on $N_\mathbb{R}$; see [Bil89].

**Proposition 5.5.** The group $A^k(\Sigma)$ is generated by $Z^k(\Sigma)$ for each non-negative integer $k$.

In particular, if $k$ larger than the dimension of $\Sigma$, then $A^k(\Sigma) = 0$.

**Proof.** Let $\sigma$ be a cone in $\Sigma$, let $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_l$ be its primitive ray generators, and consider a degree $k$ monomial of the form

$$x_{e_1}^{k_1}x_{e_2}^{k_2}\cdots x_{e_l}^{k_l}, \quad k_1 \geq k_2 \geq \cdots \geq k_l \geq 1.$$

We show that the image of this monomial in $A^k(\Sigma)$ is in the span of $Z^k(\Sigma)$.

We do this by descending induction on the dimension of $\sigma$. If $\dim \sigma = k$, there is nothing to prove. If otherwise, we use the unimodularity of $\sigma$ to choose $m \in M$ such that

$$\langle e_1, m \rangle = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad \langle e_2, m \rangle = \cdots = \langle e_l, m \rangle = 0.$$

This shows that, modulo the relations given by $I_\Sigma$ and $J_\Sigma$, we have

$$x_{e_1}^{k_1}x_{e_2}^{k_2}\cdots x_{e_l}^{k_l} = x_{e_1}^{k_1-1}x_{e_2}^{k_2}\cdots x_{e_l}^{k_l} \sum_{e \in \text{link}(\sigma)} \langle e, m \rangle x_e,$$

where the sum is over the set of primitive ray generators of the link of $\sigma$ in $\Sigma$. The induction hypothesis applies to each of the terms in the expansion of the right-hand side. \qed

The group of $k$-dimensional weights on $\Sigma$ can be identified with the dual of $Z^k(\Sigma)$ under the tautological isomorphism

$$t_\Sigma : Z^\Sigma_k \to \text{Hom}_\mathbb{Z}(Z^k(\Sigma), \mathbb{Z}), \quad \omega \mapsto \left(x_\sigma \mapsto \omega(\sigma)\right).$$

By Proposition 5.5, the target of $t_\Sigma$ contains $\text{Hom}_\mathbb{Z}(A^k(\Sigma), \mathbb{Z})$ as a subgroup.
Proposition 5.6. The isomorphism $t_\Sigma$ restricts to the bijection between the subgroups
\[ MW_k(\Sigma) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}_\mathbb{Z}(A^k(\Sigma), \mathbb{Z}). \]

The bijection in Proposition 5.6 is an analogue of the Kronecker duality homomorphism in algebraic topology. We use it to define the cap product
\[ A^l(\Sigma) \times MW_k(\Sigma) \longrightarrow MW_{k-l}(\Sigma), \quad \xi \cap \omega(\sigma) := t_\Sigma \omega(\xi \cdot x_\sigma). \]
This makes the group $\text{MW}_*(\Sigma)$ a graded module over the Chow ring $A^*(\Sigma)$.

Proof. The homomorphisms from $A^k(\Sigma)$ to $\mathbb{Z}$ bijectively correspond to the homomorphisms from $Z^k(\Sigma)$ to $\mathbb{Z}$ that vanish on the subgroup
\[ Z^k(\Sigma) \cap (\mathcal{I}_\Sigma + \mathcal{J}_\Sigma) \subseteq Z^k(\Sigma). \]
The main point is that this subgroup is generated by polynomials of the form
\[ \left( \sum_{e \in \text{link}(\tau)} \langle e, m \rangle x_e \right) x_\tau, \]
where $\tau$ is a $(k-1)$-dimensional cone of $\Sigma$ and $m$ is an element perpendicular to $\langle \tau \rangle$. This is a special case of [FMSS95, Th. 1]. It follows that a $k$-dimensional weight $\omega$ corresponds to a homomorphism $A^k(\Sigma) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ if and only if
\[ \sum_{\tau \subseteq \sigma} \omega(\sigma) \langle e_{\sigma/\tau}, m \rangle = 0 \]
for all $m \in \langle \tau \rangle$, where the sum is over all $k$-dimensional cones $\sigma$ in $\Sigma$ containing $\tau$. Since $\langle \tau \rangle^{\perp \perp} = \langle \tau \rangle$, the latter condition is equivalent to the balancing condition on $\omega$ at $\tau$. \square

5.3. The ideals $\mathcal{I}_\Sigma$ and $\mathcal{J}_\Sigma$ have a particularly simple description when $\Sigma = \Sigma_M$. In this case, we label the variables of $S_\Sigma$ by the nonempty proper flats of $M$ and write
\[ S_\Sigma = \mathbb{Z}[x_F]_{F \in \mathcal{P}(M)}. \]
For a flag of nonempty proper flats $\mathcal{F}$, we set $x_\mathcal{F} = \prod_{F \in \mathcal{F}} x_F$.
(Incomparability relations). The ideal $\mathcal{I}_\Sigma$ is generated by the quadratic monomials
\[ x_{F_1} x_{F_2}, \]
where $F_1$ and $F_2$ are two incomparable nonempty proper flats of $M$.
(Linear relations). The ideal $\mathcal{J}_\Sigma$ is generated by the linear forms
\[ \sum_{i_1 \in F} x_F - \sum_{i_2 \in F} x_F, \]
where $i_1$ and $i_2$ are distinct elements of the ground set $E$.

The quotient ring $A^*(\Sigma_M)$ and its generalizations were studied by Feichtner and Yuzvinsky in [FY04].
Definition 5.7. To an element $i$ in $E$, we associate linear forms 
\[ \alpha_{M,i} := \sum_{i \in F} x_F, \quad \beta_{M,i} := \sum_{i \not\in F} x_F. \]
Their classes in $A^*(\Sigma_M)$, which are independent of $i$, will be written $\alpha_M$ and $\beta_M$ respectively.

We show that $A^r(\Sigma_M)$ is generated by the element $\alpha^r_M$, where $r$ is the dimension of $\Sigma_M$.

Proposition 5.8. Let $F_1 \subset F_2 \subset \cdots \subset F_k$ be any flag of nonempty proper flats of $M$.

(1) If the rank of $F_m$ is not $m$ for some $m \leq k$, then 
\[ x_{F_1} x_{F_2} \cdots x_{F_k} \alpha^{r-k}_M = 0 \in A^r(\Sigma_M). \]

(2) If the rank of $F_m$ is $m$ for all $m \leq k$, then 
\[ x_{F_1} x_{F_2} \cdots x_{F_k} \alpha^{r-k}_M = \alpha^r_M \in A^r(\Sigma_M). \]

In particular, for any two maximal flags of nonempty proper flats $\mathcal{F}_1$ and $\mathcal{F}_2$ of $M$, 
\[ x_{\mathcal{F}_1} = x_{\mathcal{F}_2} \in A^r(\Sigma_M). \]

Since $MW_r(\Sigma_M)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}$, this implies that $A^r(\Sigma_M)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}$; see Proposition 5.10.

Proof. As a general observation, we note that for any element $i$ not in a nonempty proper flat $F$, 
\[ x_F \alpha_M = x_F \left( \sum_G x_G \right) \in A^*(\Sigma_M), \]
where the sum is over all proper flats containing $F$ and $\{i\}$. In particular, if the rank of $F$ is $r$, then the product is zero.

We prove the first assertion by descending induction on $k$, which is necessarily less than $r$. If $k = r - 1$, then the rank of $F_k$ should be $r$, and hence the product is zero. For general $k$, we choose an element $i$ not in $F_k$. By the observation made above, we have 
\[ x_{F_1} x_{F_2} \cdots x_{F_k} \alpha^{r-k}_M = x_{F_1} x_{F_2} \cdots x_{F_k} \left( \sum_G x_G \right) \alpha^{r-k-1}_M, \]
where the sum is over all proper flats containing $F_k$ and $\{i\}$. The right-hand side is zero by the induction hypothesis for $k + 1$ applied to each of the terms in the expansion.
We prove the second assertion by ascending induction on $k$. When $k = 1$, we choose an element $i$ in $F_1$ and consider the corresponding representative of $\alpha_M$ to write

$$\alpha^r_M = \left( \sum_G x_G \right) \alpha^{r-1}_M,$$

where the sum is over all proper flats containing $i$. By the first part of the proposition for $k = 1$, only one term in the expansion of the right-hand side is nonzero, and this gives

$$\alpha^r_M = x_{F_1} \alpha^{r-1}_M.$$

For general $k$, we start from the induction hypothesis

$$\alpha^r_M = x_{F_1} x_{F_2} \cdots x_{F_{k-1}} \alpha^{r-(k-1)}_M.$$

Choose an element $i$ in $F_k \setminus F_{k-1}$ and use the general observation made above to write

$$\alpha^r_M = x_{F_1} x_{F_2} \cdots x_{F_{k-1}} \left( \sum_G x_G \right) \alpha^{r-k}_M,$$

where the sum is over all proper flats containing $F_{k-1}$ and $\{i\}$. By the first part of the proposition for $k$, only one term in the expansion of the right-hand side is nonzero, and we get

$$\alpha^r_M = x_{F_1} x_{F_2} \cdots x_{F_{k-1}} x_{F_k} \alpha^{r-k}_M. \quad \square$$

When $\Sigma$ is complete, Fulton and Sturmfels showed in [FS97] that there is an isomorphism

$$A^n(\Sigma) \to MW_{n-k}(\Sigma), \quad \xi \mapsto \deg \xi \cdot x_{\sigma},$$

where $n$ is the dimension of $\Sigma$ and “deg” is the degree map of the complete toric variety of $\Sigma$. In Theorem 6.19, we show that there is an isomorphism for the Bergman fan

$$A^r(\Sigma_M) \to MW_{r-k}(\Sigma_M), \quad \xi \mapsto \deg \xi \cdot x_{\sigma},$$

where $r$ is the dimension of $\Sigma_M$ and “deg” is a homomorphism constructed from $M$. These isomorphisms are analogues of the Poincaré duality homomorphism in algebraic topology.

**Definition 5.9.** The degree map of $M$ is the homomorphism obtained by taking the cap product

$$\deg : A^r(\Sigma_M) \to Z, \quad \xi \mapsto \xi \cap 1_M,$$

where $1_M = 1$ is the constant $r$-dimensional Minkowski weight on $\Sigma_M$. 
By Proposition 5.5, the homomorphism deg is uniquely determined by its property
\[ \text{deg}(x_F) = 1 \quad \text{for all monomials } x_F \]
corresponding to an \( r \)-dimensional cone in \( \Sigma_M \).

**Proposition 5.10.** The degree map of \( M \) is an isomorphism.

**Proof.** The second part of Proposition 5.8 shows that \( A_r(\Sigma_M) \) is generated by the element \( \alpha^r_M \) and that \( \text{deg}(\alpha^r_M) = \text{deg}(x_F) = 1 \). \( \square \)

5.4. We remark on algebraic geometric properties of Bergman fans, working over a fixed field \( K \). For basics on toric varieties, we refer to [Ful93]. The results of this subsection will be independent from the remainder of the paper.

The main object is the smooth toric variety \( X(\Sigma) \) over \( K \) associated to a unimodular fan \( \Sigma \) in \( \mathbb{N} \):
\[
X(\Sigma) := \bigcup_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \text{Spec } K[\sigma^\vee \cap M].
\]
It is known that the Chow ring of \( \Sigma \) is naturally isomorphic to the Chow ring of \( X(\Sigma) \):
\[
A^*(\Sigma) \rightarrow A^*(X(\Sigma)), \quad x_\sigma \mapsto [X(\text{star}(\sigma))].
\]
See [Dan78, §10] for the proof when \( \Sigma \) is complete, and see [BDCP90] and [Bri96] for the general case.

**Definition 5.11.** A morphism between smooth algebraic varieties \( X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \) is a **Chow equivalence** if the induced homomorphism between the Chow rings \( A^*(X_2) \rightarrow A^*(X_1) \) is an isomorphism.

In fact, the results of this subsection will be valid for any variety that is locally a quotient of a manifold by a finite group so that \( A^*(X) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q} \) has the structure of a graded algebra over \( \mathbb{Q} \). Matroids provide nontrivial examples of Chow equivalences. For example, consider the subfan \( \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}} \subseteq \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}} \) and the corresponding open subset
\[
X(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}) \subseteq X(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}).
\]
In Proposition 6.2, we show that the above inclusion is a Chow equivalence for any \( M \) and \( \mathcal{P} \).

We remark that, when \( K = \mathbb{C} \), a Chow equivalence need not induce an isomorphism between singular cohomology rings. For example, consider any line in a projective plane minus two points
\[
\mathbb{C}P^1 \subseteq \mathbb{C}P^2 \setminus \{p_1, p_2\}.
\]
The inclusion is a Chow equivalence for any two distinct points \( p_1, p_2 \) outside \( \mathbb{C}P^1 \), but the two spaces have different singular cohomology rings.
We show that the notion of Chow equivalence can be used to characterize the realizability of matroids.

**Theorem 5.12.** There is a Chow equivalence from a smooth projective variety over $\mathbb{K}$ to $X(\Sigma_M)$ if and only if the matroid $M$ is realizable over $\mathbb{K}$.

**Proof.** This is a classical variant of the tropical characterization of the realizability of matroids in [KP11]. We write $r$ for the dimension of $\Sigma_M$ and $n$ for the dimension of $X(\Sigma_M)$. As before, the ground set of $M$ will be $E = \{0, 1, \ldots, n\}$.

The “if” direction follows from the construction of De Concini-Procesi wonderful models [DCP95]. Suppose that the loopless matroid $M$ is realized by a spanning set of nonzero vectors $R = \{f_0, f_1, \ldots, f_n\} \subseteq V/\mathbb{K}$.

The realization $R$ gives an injective linear map between two projective spaces

$$L_R : \mathbb{P}(V^\vee) \longrightarrow X(\Sigma_{\emptyset}), \quad L_R = [f_0 : f_1 : \cdots : f_n],$$

where $\Sigma_{\emptyset}$ is the complete fan in $\mathbb{N}_{E,\mathbb{R}}$ corresponding to the empty order filter of $\mathcal{P}(E)$. Note that the normal fan of the $n$-dimensional permutohedron $\Sigma_{\mathcal{P}(E)}$ can be obtained from the normal fan of the $n$-dimensional simplex $\Sigma_{\emptyset}$ by performing a sequence of stellar subdivisions. In other words, there is a morphism between toric varieties

$$\pi : X(\Sigma_{\mathcal{P}(E)}) \longrightarrow X(\Sigma_{\emptyset}),$$

which is the composition of blowups of torus-invariant subvarieties. To be explicit, consider a sequence of order filters of $\mathcal{P}(E)$ obtained by adding a single subset at a time:

$$\emptyset, \ldots, \mathcal{P}_-, \mathcal{P}_+, \ldots, \mathcal{P}(E) \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{P}_+ = \mathcal{P}_- \cup \{Z\}.$$

The corresponding sequence of $\Sigma$ interpolates between the collections $\Sigma_{\emptyset}$ and $\Sigma_{\mathcal{P}(E)}$:

$$\Sigma_{\emptyset} \leadsto \cdots \leadsto \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}_-} \leadsto \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}_+} \leadsto \cdots \leadsto \Sigma_{\mathcal{P}(E)}.$$ 

The modification in the middle replaces the cones of the form $\sigma_{Z<\mathcal{F}}$ with the sums of the form

$$\sigma_{\emptyset<\{Z\}} + \sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}},$$

where $I$ is any proper subset of $Z$. The wonderful model $Y_\mathcal{F}$ associated to $\mathcal{F}$ is by definition the strict transform of $\mathbb{P}(V^\vee)$ under the composition of toric blowups $\pi$. The torus-invariant prime divisors of $X(\Sigma_{\mathcal{P}(E)})$ correspond to nonempty proper subsets of $E$, and those divisors intersecting $Y_\mathcal{F}$ exactly
correspond to nonempty proper flats of $M$. Therefore the smooth projective variety $Y_{\mathcal{R}}$ is contained in the open subset

$$X(\Sigma_M) \subseteq X(\Sigma_{\mathcal{R}(E)}).$$

The inclusion $Y_{\mathcal{R}} \subseteq X(\Sigma_M)$ is a Chow equivalence [FY04, Cor. 2].

The “only if” direction follows from computations in $A^*(\Sigma_M)$ made in the previous subsection. Suppose that there is a Chow equivalence from a smooth projective variety

$$f : Y \longrightarrow X(\Sigma_M).$$

Propositions 5.5 and 5.10 show that

$$A^r(Y) \simeq A^r(\Sigma_M) \simeq \mathbb{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad A^k(Y) \simeq A^k(\Sigma_M) \simeq 0 \quad \text{for all } k \text{ larger than } r.$$ 

Since $Y$ is complete, the above implies that the dimension of $Y$ is $r$. Let $g$ be the composition

$$Y \xrightarrow{f} X(\Sigma_M) \xrightarrow{\pi_M} X(\Sigma_{\mathcal{R}}) \simeq \mathbb{P}^n,$$

where $\pi_M$ is the restriction of the composition of toric blowups $\pi$. We use Proposition 5.8 to compute the degree of the image $g(Y) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$.

For this we note that, for any element $i \in E$, we have

$$\pi^{-1}_M\{z_i = 0\} = \bigcup_{i \in F} D_F,$$

where $z_i$ is the homogeneous coordinate of $\mathbb{P}^n$ corresponding to $i$ and $D_F$ is the torus-invariant prime divisor of $X(\Sigma_M)$ corresponding to a nonempty proper flat $F$. All the components of $\pi^{-1}_M\{z_i = 0\}$ appear with multiplicity 1, and hence

$$\pi^*_M \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1) = \alpha_M \in A^1(\Sigma_M).$$

Hence, under the isomorphism $f^*$ between the Chow rings, the 0-dimensional cycle $(g^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1))^r$ is the image of the generator

$$(\pi^*_M \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1))^r = \alpha^r_M \in A^r(\Sigma_M) \simeq \mathbb{Z}.$$ 

By the projection formula, the above implies that the degree of the image of $Y$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$ is 1. In other words, $g(Y) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$ is an $r$-dimensional linear subspace defined over $\mathbb{K}$. We express the inclusion in the form

$$L_{\mathcal{R}} : \mathbb{P}(V^\vee) \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n, \quad L_{\mathcal{R}} = [f_0 : f_1 : \cdots : f_n].$$

Let $M'$ be the loopless matroid on $E$ defined by the set of nonzero vectors $\mathcal{R} \subseteq V/\mathbb{K}$. The image of $Y$ in $X(\Sigma_M)$ is the wonderful model $Y_{\mathcal{R}}$, and hence

$$X(\Sigma_{M'}) \subseteq X(\Sigma_M).$$

Observe that none of the torus-invariant prime divisors of $X(\Sigma_M)$ are rationally equivalent to zero. Since $f$ is a Chow equivalence, the observation implies that the torus-invariant prime divisors of $X(\Sigma_{M'})$ and $X(\Sigma_M)$ bijectively correspond
to each other. Since a matroid is determined by its set of nonempty proper flats, this shows that $M = M'$.

6. Poincaré duality for matroids

6.1. The principal result of this section is an analogue of Poincaré duality for $A^*(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}})$; see Theorem 6.19. We give an alternative description of the Chow ring suitable for this purpose.

Definition 6.1. Let $S_{E\cup\mathcal{P}}$ be the polynomial ring over $\mathbb{Z}$ with variables indexed by $E \cup \mathcal{P}$:

$$S_{E\cup\mathcal{P}} := \mathbb{Z}[x_i, x_F]_{i \in E, F \in \mathcal{P}}.$$  

The Chow ring of $(M, \mathcal{P})$ is the commutative graded algebra

$$A^*(M, \mathcal{P}) := S_{E\cup\mathcal{P}} / (I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4),$$

where $I_1, I_2, I_3, I_4$ are the ideals of $S_{E\cup\mathcal{P}}$ defined below.

(Incomparability relations). The ideal $I_1$ is generated by the quadratic monomials

$$x_{F_1} x_{F_2},$$

where $F_1$ and $F_2$ are two incomparable flats in the order filter $\mathcal{P}$.

(Complement relations). The ideal $I_2$ is generated by the quadratic monomials

$$x_i x_F,$$

where $F$ is a flat in the order filter $\mathcal{P}$ and $i$ is an element in the complement $E \setminus F$.

(Closure relations). The ideal $I_3$ is generated by the monomials

$$\prod_{i \in I} x_i,$$

where $I$ is an independent set of $M$ whose closure is in $\mathcal{P} \cup \{E\}$.

(Linear relations). The ideal $I_4$ is generated by the linear forms

$$\left(x_i + \sum_{i \in F} x_F\right) - \left(x_j + \sum_{j \in F} x_F\right),$$

where $i$ and $j$ are distinct elements of $E$ and the sums are over flats $F$ in $\mathcal{P}$.

When $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(M)$, we omit $\mathcal{P}$ from the notation and write the Chow ring by $A^*(M)$.

When $\mathcal{P}$ is empty, the relations in $I_4$ show that all $x_i$ are equal in the Chow ring, and hence

$$A^*(M, \emptyset) \simeq \mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^{r+1}).$$
When $\mathcal{P}$ is $\mathcal{P}(M)$, the relations in $I_3$ show that all $x_i$ are zero in the Chow ring, and hence
\[
A^*(M) \simeq A^*(\Sigma_M).
\]
In general, if $i$ is an element whose closure is in $\mathcal{P}$, then $x_i$ is zero in the Chow ring. The square-free monomial relations in the remaining set of variables correspond bijectively to the non-faces of the Bergman complex $\Delta_{M,\mathcal{P}}$, and hence
\[
A^*(M, \mathcal{P}) \simeq A^*(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}).
\]
More precisely, in the notation of Definitions 5.4 and 6.1, for $\Sigma = \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$, we have
\[
I_1 + I_2 + I_3 = I_\Sigma \quad \text{and} \quad I_4 = J_\Sigma.
\]
We show that the Chow ring of $(M, \mathcal{P})$ is also isomorphic to the Chow ring of the reduced Bergman fan $\tilde{\Sigma}_{M,\mathcal{P}}$.

**Proposition 6.2.** Let $I$ be a subset of $E$, and let $F$ be a flat in an order filter $\mathcal{P}$ of $\mathcal{P}(M)$.

1. If $I$ has cardinality at least the rank of $F$, then
   \[
   \left( \prod_{i \in I} x_i \right) x_F = 0 \in A^*(M, \mathcal{P}).
   \]
2. If $I$ has cardinality at least $r + 1$, then
   \[
   \prod_{i \in I} x_i = 0 \in A^*(M, \mathcal{P}).
   \]

In other words, the inclusion of the open subset $X(\tilde{\Sigma}_{M,\mathcal{P}}) \subseteq X(\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}})$ is a Chow equivalence. Since the reduced Bergman fan has dimension $r$, this implies that
\[
A^k(M, \mathcal{P}) = 0 \quad \text{for} \quad k > r.
\]

**Proof.** For the first assertion, we use complement relations in $I_2$ to reduce to the case when $I \subseteq F$. We prove by induction on the difference between the rank of $F$ and the rank of $I$.

When the difference is zero, $I$ contains a basis of $F$, and the desired vanishing follows from a closure relation in $I_3$. When the difference is positive, we choose a subset $J \subseteq F$ with
\[
\text{rk}(J) = \text{rk}(I) + 1, \quad I \setminus J = \{i\} \quad \text{and} \quad J \setminus I = \{j\}.
\]
From the linear relation in $I_4$ for $i$ and $j$, we deduce that
\[
x_i + \sum_{i \in G \atop j \notin G} x_G = x_j + \sum_{j \in G \atop i \notin G} x_G,
\]
where the sums are over flats $G$ in $\mathcal{P}$. Multiplying both sides by \((\prod_{i \in I \cap J} x_i) x_F,\)

we get

\[
(\prod_{i \in I} x_i) x_F = (\prod_{j \in J} x_j) x_F.
\]

Indeed, a term involving $x_G$ in the expansions of the products is zero in the Chow ring by

(1) an incomparability relation in $\mathcal{I}_1$, if $G \notin F$;
(2) a complement relation in $\mathcal{I}_2$, if $I \cap J \notin G$;
(3) the induction hypothesis for $I \cap J \subseteq G$, if otherwise.

The right-hand side of the equality is zero by the induction hypothesis for $J \subseteq F$.

The second assertion can be proved in the same way, by descending induction on the rank of $I$, using the first part of the proposition. \(\square\)

We record here that the isomorphism of Proposition 4.7 uniquely extends to an isomorphism between the corresponding Chow rings.

**Proposition 6.3.** The homomorphism $\pi_{PL}$ induces an isomorphism of graded rings

$$
\pi_{PL} : A^*(M, \mathcal{P}) \rightarrow A^*(\overline{M}, \mathcal{P}).
$$

The homomorphism $\iota_{PL}$ induces the inverse isomorphism of graded rings

$$
\iota_{PL} : A^*(\overline{M}, \mathcal{P}) \rightarrow A^*(M, \mathcal{P}).
$$

**Proof.** Consider the extensions of $\pi_{PL}$ and $\iota_{PL}$ to the polynomial rings

$$
S_{E \cup \mathcal{P}} \xrightarrow{\pi_{PL}} S_{\overline{E} \cup \mathcal{P}} \xleftarrow{\iota_{PL}} S_{E \cup \mathcal{P}}.
$$

The result follows from the observation that $\tilde{\pi}_{PL}$ and $\tilde{\iota}_{PL}$ preserve the monomial relations in $\mathcal{I}_1$, $\mathcal{I}_2$, and $\mathcal{I}_3$. \(\square\)

6.2. Let $\mathcal{P}_-$ be an order filter of $\mathcal{P}(M)$, and let $Z$ be a flat maximal in $\mathcal{P}(M) \setminus \mathcal{P}_-$. We set

$$
\mathcal{P}_+ := \mathcal{P}_- \cup \{Z\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(M).
$$

The collection $\mathcal{P}_+$ is an order filter of $\mathcal{P}(M)$.

**Definition 6.4.** The matroidal flip from $\mathcal{P}_-$ to $\mathcal{P}_+$ is the modification of fans $\Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_-} \rightarrow \Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_+}$.

The flat $Z$ will be called the center of the matroidal flip. The matroidal flip removes the cones

$$
\sigma_{I \prec \mathcal{F}} \text{ with } \text{cl}_M(I) = Z \text{ and } \min \mathcal{F} \neq Z
$$
and replaces them with the cones
\[ \sigma_{I^\subset \mathcal{F}} \text{ with } cl_M(I) \neq Z \text{ and } \min \mathcal{F} = Z. \]
The center \( Z \) is necessarily minimal in \( \mathcal{P}_+ \), and we have
\[
\begin{align*}
\star(\sigma_{Z^{\subset \varnothing}}, \Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}) &\simeq \Sigma_{M, Z}, \\
\star(\sigma_{\varnothing^{\subset \{Z\}}}, \Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_+}) &\simeq \Sigma_{M, Z} \times \Sigma_{M, Z}.
\end{align*}
\]

**Remark 6.5.** The matroidal flip preserves the homotopy type of the underlying simplicial complexes \( \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-} \) and \( \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_+} \). To see this, consider the inclusion
\[ \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_+} \subseteq \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^* := \text{the stellar subdivision of } \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-} \text{ relative to } \Delta_{Z^{\subset \varnothing}}. \]

We claim that the left-hand side is a deformation retract of the right-hand side. More precisely, there is a sequence of compositions of elementary collapses
\[
\begin{align*}
\Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_+}^* &= \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{1.1} \sim \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{1.2} \sim \cdots \sim \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{1,\crk(Z)-1} \\
\Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{1,\crk(Z)} &= \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{2.1} \sim \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{2.2} \sim \cdots \sim \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{2,\crk(Z)-1} \\
\Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{2,\crk(Z)} &= \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{3.1} \sim \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{3.2} \sim \cdots \sim \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{3,\crk(Z)-1} \sim \cdots \sim \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_+},
\end{align*}
\]
where \( \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{m,k+1} \) is the subcomplex of \( \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{m,k} \) obtained by collapsing all the faces \( \Delta_{I^{\subset \mathcal{F}}} \) with
\[ cl_M(I) = Z, \quad \min \mathcal{F} \neq Z, \quad |Z \setminus I| = m, \quad |\mathcal{F}| = \crk_M(Z) - k. \]
The faces \( \Delta_{I^{\subset \mathcal{F}}} \) satisfying the above conditions can be collapsed in \( \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{m,k} \) because
\[ \text{link}(\Delta_{I^{\subset \mathcal{F}}}, \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}^{m,k}) = \{e_Z\}. \]
It follows that the homotopy type of the Bergman complex \( \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-} \) is independent of \( \mathcal{P} \). For basics of elementary collapses of simplicial complexes, see [Koz08, Ch. 6]. The special case that \( \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_-} \) is homotopic to \( \Delta_{M, \mathcal{P}_+} \) is an elementary consequence of the nerve theorem and gives a homotopy version of the usual crosscut theorem [Koz08, Ch. 13].

We construct homomorphisms associated to the matroidal flip, the pullback homomorphism and the Gysin homomorphism.

**Proposition 6.6.** There is a graded ring homomorphism between the Chow rings
\[ \Phi_Z : A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \rightarrow A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \]
uniquely determined by the property
\[ x_F \mapsto x_F \quad \text{and} \quad x_i \mapsto \begin{cases} x_i + x_Z & \text{if } i \in Z, \\ x_i & \text{if } i \notin Z. \end{cases} \]
The map $\Phi_Z$ will be called the pullback homomorphism associated to the matroidal flip from $\mathcal{P}_-$ to $\mathcal{P}_+$. We will show that the pullback homomorphism is injective in Theorem 6.18.

**Proof.** Consider the homomorphism between the polynomial rings

$$\phi_Z : S_{E \cup \mathcal{P}_-} \rightarrow S_{E \cup \mathcal{P}_+}$$

defined by the same rule determining $\Phi_Z$. We claim that

$$\phi_Z(\mathcal{I}_1) \subseteq \mathcal{I}_1, \quad \phi_Z(\mathcal{I}_2) \subseteq \mathcal{I}_1 + \mathcal{I}_2, \quad \phi_Z(\mathcal{I}_3) \subseteq \mathcal{I}_2 + \mathcal{I}_3, \quad \phi_Z(\mathcal{I}_4) \subseteq \mathcal{I}_4.$$

The first and the last inclusions are straightforward to verify.

We check the second inclusion. For an element $i$ in $E \setminus F$, we have

$$\phi_Z(x_i x_F) = \begin{cases} x_i x_F + x_Z x_F & \text{if } i \in Z, \\ x_i x_F & \text{if } i \notin Z. \end{cases}$$

If $i$ is in $Z \setminus F$, then the monomial $x_Z x_F$ is in $\mathcal{I}_1$ because $Z$ is minimal in $\mathcal{P}_+$. We check the third inclusion. For an independent set $I$ whose closure is in $\mathcal{P}_- \cup \{ E \}$,

$$\phi_Z \left( \prod_{i \in I} x_i \right) = \prod_{i \in I \setminus Z} x_i \prod_{i \in I \cap Z} (x_i + x_Z).$$

The term $\prod_{i \in I} x_i$ in the expansion of the right-hand side is in $\mathcal{I}_3$. Since $Z$ is minimal in $\mathcal{P}_+$, there is an element in $I \setminus Z$, and hence all the remaining terms in the expansion are in $\mathcal{I}_2$. □

**Proposition 6.7.** The pullback homomorphism $\Phi_Z$ is an isomorphism when $\text{rk}_M(Z) = 1$.

**Proof.** Let $j_1$ and $j_2$ be distinct elements of $Z$. If $Z$ has rank 1, then a flat contains $j_1$ if and only if it contains $j_2$. It follows from the linear relation in $S_{E \cup \mathcal{P}_-}$ for $j_1$ and $j_2$ that

$$x_{j_1} = x_{j_2} \in A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_-).$$

We choose an element $j \in Z$ and construct the inverse $\Phi'_Z$ of $\Phi_Z$ by setting

$$x_Z \mapsto x_j, \quad x_F \mapsto x_F, \quad \text{and} \quad x_i \mapsto \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \in Z, \\ x_i & \text{if } i \notin Z. \end{cases}$$

It is straightforward to check that $\Phi'_Z$ is well defined and that $\Phi'_Z = \Phi_Z^{-1}$. □

As before, we identify the flats of $M_Z$ with the flats of $M$ containing $Z$, and we identify the flats of $M_Z$ with the flats of $M$ contained in $Z$.

**Proposition 6.8.** Let $p$ and $q$ be positive integers.
(1) There is a group homomorphism
\[ \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} : A^{q-p}(M_{Z}) \longrightarrow A^{q}(M, \mathcal{P}_{+}) \]
uniquely determined by the property \( x_{\mathcal{F}} \mapsto x_{Z}^{p} x_{\mathcal{F}} \).

(2) There is a group homomorphism
\[ \Gamma_{Z}^{p,q} : A^{q-p}(M^{Z}) \longrightarrow A^{q}(M) \]
uniquely determined by the property \( x_{\mathcal{F}} \mapsto x_{Z}^{p} x_{\mathcal{F}} \).

The map \( \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} \) will be called the Gysin homomorphism of type \( p, q \) associated to the matroidal flip from \( \mathcal{P}_{-} \) to \( \mathcal{P}_{+} \). We will show that the Gysin homomorphism is injective when \( p < \text{rk}_{M}(Z) \) in Theorem 6.18.

Proof. It is clear that the Gysin homomorphism \( \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} \) respects the incomparability relations. We check that \( \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} \) respects the linear relations.

Let \( i_{1} \) and \( i_{2} \) be elements in \( E \setminus Z \), and consider the linear relation in \( S_{E \cup \mathcal{P}_{+}} \) for \( i_{1} \) and \( i_{2} \):
\[
\left( x_{i_{1}} + \sum_{i_{1} \in F} x_{F} \right) - \left( x_{i_{1}} + \sum_{i_{2} \in F} x_{F} \right) \in \mathcal{I}_{4}.
\]
Since \( i_{1} \) and \( i_{2} \) are not in \( Z \), multiplying the linear relation with \( x_{Z}^{p} \) gives
\[
x_{Z}^{p} \left( \sum_{Z \cup \{i_{1}\} \subseteq F} x_{F} - \sum_{Z \cup \{i_{2}\} \subseteq F} x_{F} \right) \in \mathcal{I}_{1} + \mathcal{I}_{2} + \mathcal{I}_{4}.
\]

The second statement on \( \Gamma_{Z}^{p,q} \) can be proved in the same way, using \( i_{1} \) and \( i_{2} \) in \( Z \). \( \square \)

Let \( \mathcal{P} \) be any order filter of \( \mathcal{P}(M) \). We choose a sequence of order filters of the form
\[ \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{P}_{1}, \mathcal{P}_{2}, \ldots, \mathcal{P}, \ldots, \mathcal{P}(M), \]
where an order filter in the sequence is obtained from the preceding one by adding a single flat. The corresponding sequence of matroidal flips interpolates between \( \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{O}} \) and \( \Sigma_{M} \):
\[ \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{O}} \leadsto \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}_{1}} \leadsto \cdots \leadsto \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}} \leadsto \cdots \leadsto \Sigma_{M}. \]

Definition 6.9. We write \( \Phi_{\mathcal{P}} \) and \( \Phi_{\mathcal{P}_{c}} \) for the compositions of pullback homomorphisms
\[ \Phi_{\mathcal{P}} : A^{*}(M, \mathcal{O}) \longrightarrow A^{*}(M, \mathcal{P}) \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_{\mathcal{P}_{c}} : A^{*}(M, \mathcal{P}) \longrightarrow A^{*}(M). \]

Note that \( \Phi_{\mathcal{P}} \) and \( \Phi_{\mathcal{P}_{c}} \) depend only on \( \mathcal{P} \) and not on the chosen sequence of matroidal flips. The composition of all the pullback homomorphisms \( \Phi_{\mathcal{P}_{c}} \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{P}} \) is uniquely determined by its property
\[ \Phi_{\mathcal{P}_{c}} \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{P}} (x_{i}) = \alpha_{M}. \]
6.3. Let $\mathcal{P}_-$ and $\mathcal{P}_+$ be as before, and let $Z$ be the center of the matroidal flip from $\mathcal{P}_-$ to $\mathcal{P}_+$. For positive integers $p$ and $q$, we consider the pullback homomorphism in degree $q$
\[ \Phi_Z^q : A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \rightarrow A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \]
and the Gysin homomorphism of type $p, q$
\[ \Psi_Z^{p,q} : A^{q-p}(M_Z) \rightarrow A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \].

**Proposition 6.10.** For any positive integer $q$, the sum of the pullback homomorphism and Gysin homomorphisms
\[ \Phi_Z^q \oplus \bigoplus_{p=1}^{\text{rk}(Z)-1} \Psi_Z^{p,q} \]
is a surjective group homomorphism to $A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_+)$. 

The proof is given below Lemma 6.16. In Theorem 6.18, we will show that the sum is in fact an isomorphism.

**Corollary 6.11.** The pullback homomorphism $\Phi_Z$ is an isomorphism in degree $r$:
\[ \Phi_Z^r : A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \simeq A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \].

Repeated application of the corollary shows that, for any order filter $\mathcal{P}$, the homomorphisms $\Phi_{\mathcal{P}}$ and $\Phi_{\mathcal{P}^c}$ are isomorphisms in degree $r$:
\[ \Phi_{\mathcal{P}} : A^r(M, \emptyset) \simeq A^r(M, \mathcal{P}) \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_{\mathcal{P}^c} : A^r(M, \mathcal{P}) \simeq A^r(M) \].

**Proof of Corollary 6.11.** The contracted matroid $M_Z$ has rank $\text{crk}_M(Z)$, and hence
\[ \Psi_Z^{p,q} = 0 \quad \text{when} \quad p < \text{rk}_M(Z) \quad \text{and} \quad q = r. \]
Therefore Proposition 6.10 for $q = r$ says that the homomorphism $\Phi_Z$ is surjective in degree $r$.

Choose a sequence of matroidal flips
\[ \Sigma_{M, \emptyset} \leadsto \cdots \leadsto \Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_-} \leadsto \Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_+} \leadsto \cdots \leadsto \Sigma_M, \]
and consider the corresponding group homomorphisms
\[ A^r(M, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\Phi_{\mathcal{P}_-}} A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \xrightarrow{\Phi_{\mathcal{P}_Z}} A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \xrightarrow{\Phi_{\mathcal{P}^c}} A^r(M). \]
Proposition 6.10 applied to each matroidal flip in the sequence shows that all three homomorphisms are surjective. The first group is clearly isomorphic to $Z$, and by Proposition 5.10, the last group is also isomorphic to $Z$. It follows that all three homomorphisms are isomorphisms. \qed
Let $\beta_{M_Z}$ be the element $\beta$ in Definition 5.7 for the contracted matroid $M_Z$. The first part of Proposition 6.8 shows that the expression $x_Z \beta_{M_Z}$ defines an element in $A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_+)$.  

**Lemma 6.12.** For any element $i$ in $Z$, we have

\[ x_i x_Z + x_Z^2 + x_Z \beta_{M_Z} = 0 \in A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_+). \]

**Proof.** We choose an element $j$ in $E \setminus Z$ and consider the linear relation in $S_{E \cup \mathcal{P}_+}$ for $i$ and $j$:

\[
\left( x_i + \sum_{i \in F, j \notin F} x_F \right) - \left( x_j + \sum_{j \in F, i \notin F} x_F \right) \in \mathcal{I}_4.
\]

Since $i$ is in $Z$, and $Z$ is minimal in $\mathcal{P}_+$, multiplying the linear relation with $x_Z$ gives

\[ x_Z x_i + x_Z^2 + \left( \sum_{Z \subseteq F \subseteq F \cup \{j\}} x_Z x_F \right) \in \mathcal{I}_1 + \mathcal{I}_2 + \mathcal{I}_4. \]

The sum in the parenthesis is the image of $\beta_{M_Z}$ under the homomorphism $\Psi_{Z}^{1,2}$.

Let $\alpha_{M_Z}$ be the element $\alpha$ in Definition 5.7 for the restricted matroid $M_Z$. The second part of Proposition 6.8 shows that the expression $x_Z \alpha_{M_Z}$ defines an element in $A^*(M)$.  

**Lemma 6.13.** If $Z$ is maximal among flats strictly contained in a proper flat $\bar{Z}$, then

\[ x_Z x_Z (x_Z + \alpha_{M_Z}) = 0 \in A^*(M). \]

If $Z$ is maximal among flats strictly contained in the flat $E$, then

\[ x_Z (x_Z + \alpha_{M_Z}) = 0 \in A^*(M). \]

**Proof.** We justify the first statement; the second statement can be proved in the same way.

Choose an element $i$ in $Z$ and an element $j$ in $\bar{Z} \setminus Z$. The linear relation for $i$ and $j$ shows that

\[
\sum_{i \in F} x_F = \sum_{j \in F} x_F \in A^*(M).
\]

Multiplying both sides by the monomial $x_Z x_{\bar{Z}}$, the incomparability relations give

\[ x_Z^2 x_{\bar{Z}} + \left( \sum_{i \in F \subseteq Z} x_F x_Z \right) x_{\bar{Z}} = 0 \in A^*(M). \]

The sum in the parenthesis is the image of $\alpha_{M_Z}$ under the homomorphism $\Gamma_{Z}^{1,2}$.

□
Lemma 6.14. The sum of the images of Gysin homomorphisms is the ideal generated by $x_Z$:

$$\sum_{p>0} \sum_{q>0} \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} = x_Z A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_+)$$

Proof. It is enough to prove that the right-hand side is contained in the left-hand side. Since $Z$ is minimal in $\mathcal{P}_+$, the incomparability relations in $\mathcal{I}_1$ and the complement relations in $\mathcal{I}_2$ show that any nonzero degree $q$ monomial in the ideal generated by $x_Z$ is of the form

$$x_Z^k \prod_{F \in \mathcal{F}} x_F^{k_F} \prod_{i \in I} x_i^{k_i}, \quad I \subseteq Z < \mathcal{P},$$

where the sum of the exponents is $q$. Since the exponent $k$ of $x_Z$ is positive, Lemma 6.12 shows that this monomial is in the sum $\text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{k,q} + \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{k+1,q} + \cdots + \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{q,q}$.

Lemma 6.15. For positive integers $p$ and $q$, we have

$$x_Z \text{ im } \Phi_{Z}^{q} \subseteq \text{ im } \Psi_{Z}^{1,q+1} \quad \text{and} \quad x_Z \text{ im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} \subseteq \text{ im } \Psi_{Z}^{p+1,q+1}.$$  

If $F$ is a proper flat strictly containing $Z$, then

$$x_F \text{ im } \Phi_{F}^{q} \subseteq \text{ im } \Phi_{Z}^{q+1} \quad \text{and} \quad x_F \text{ im } \Psi_{F}^{p,q} \subseteq \text{ im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q+1}.$$  

Proof. Only the first inclusion is nontrivial. Note that the left-hand side is generated by elements of the form

$$\xi = x_Z \prod_{F \in \mathcal{F}} x_F^{k_F} \prod_{i \in E \setminus Z} x_i^{k_i} \prod_{i \in I \cap Z} (x_i + x_Z)^{k_i},$$

where $I$ is a subset of $E$ and $\mathcal{F}$ is a flag in $\mathcal{P}_-$. When $I$ is contained in $Z$, Lemma 6.12 shows that

$$\xi = x_Z \prod_{F \in \mathcal{F}} x_F^{k_F} \prod_{i \in I \setminus Z} x_i^{k_i} \prod_{i \in I \cap Z} (\beta_{M_Z})^{k_i} \in \text{ im } \Psi_{Z}^{1,q+1}.$$  

When $I$ is not contained in $Z$, a complement relation in $S_{E \cup \mathcal{P}_+}$ shows that $\xi = 0$.

Lemma 6.16. For any integers $k \geq \text{rk}_M(Z)$ and $q \geq k$, we have

$$\text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{k,q} \subseteq \text{ im } \Phi_{Z}^{q} + \sum_{p=1}^{k-1} \text{ im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q}.$$  

Proof. By the second statement of Lemma 6.15, it is enough to prove the assertion when $q = k$: The general case can be deduced by multiplying both sides of the inclusion by $x_{\mathcal{F}}$ for $Z < \mathcal{P}$. 

By the first statement of Lemma 6.15, it is enough to justify the above
when \( k = \text{rk}_M(Z) \): The general case can be deduced by multiplying both
sides of the inclusion by powers of \( x_Z \).

We prove the assertion when \( k = q = \text{rk}_M(Z) \). For this we choose a basis
\( I \) of \( Z \) and expand the product
\[
\prod_{i \in I} (x_i + x_Z) \in \text{im } \Phi^k_Z.
\]
The closure relation for \( I \) shows that the term \( \prod_{i \in I} x_i \) in the expansion is zero,
and hence, by Lemma 6.12,
\[
\prod_{i \in I} (x_i + x_Z) = (-\beta_{M_Z})^k - (-x_Z - \beta_{M_Z})^k \in \text{im } \Phi^k_Z.
\]
Expanding the right-hand side, we see that
\[
x^k_Z \in \text{im } \Phi^k_Z + \sum_{p=1}^{k-1} \text{im } \Psi^{p,k}_Z.
\]
Since \( \text{im } \Psi^{k,k}_Z \) is generated by \( x^k_Z \), this implies the asserted inclusion. \( \square \)

**Proof of Proposition 6.10.** By Lemma 6.16, it is enough to show that the
sum \( \Phi^k_Z \oplus \bigoplus_{p=1}^{\text{rk}(Z)} \Psi^{p,k}_Z \) is surjective. By Lemma 6.14, the image of the second
summand is the degree \( q \) part of the ideal generated by \( x_Z \).

We show that any monomial is in the image of the pullback homomorphism
\( \Phi_Z \) modulo the ideal generated by \( x_Z \). Note that any degree \( q \) monomial not
in the ideal generated by \( x_Z \) is of the form
\[
\prod_{F \in \mathcal{F}} x_i^F \prod_{i \in I} x_i^{k_i}, \quad Z \notin \mathcal{F}.
\]
Modulo the ideal generated by \( x_Z \), this monomial is equal to
\[
\Phi_Z \left( \prod_{F \in \mathcal{F}} x_i^F \prod_{i \in I \setminus Z} x_i^{k_i} \prod_{i \in I \cap Z} (x_i + x_Z)^k_i \right) = \prod_{F \in \mathcal{F}} x_i^F \prod_{i \in I \setminus Z} x_i^{k_i} \prod_{i \in I \cap Z} x_i^{k_i}. \qquad \square
\]

We use Proposition 6.10 to show that the Gysin homomorphism between
top degrees is an isomorphism.

**Proposition 6.17.** The Gysin homomorphism \( \Psi^{p,q}_Z \) is an isomorphism
when \( p = \text{rk}(Z) \) and \( q = \text{r} \):
\[
\Psi^{p,q}_Z : A^{\text{crk}(Z)-1}(M_Z) \simeq A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_+).
\]

**Proof.** We consider the composition
\[
A^{\text{crk}(Z)-1}(M_Z) \xrightarrow{\psi^{p,q}_Z} A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \xrightarrow{\Phi^{p}_\mathcal{F}} A^r(M), \quad x \mathcal{F} \mapsto x^{\text{rk}(Z)} x. \text{ }^\mathcal{F}
\]
The second map is an isomorphism by Corollary 6.11, and therefore it is enough
to show that the composition is an isomorphism.
For this we choose two flags of nonempty proper flats of $M$:

$\mathcal{F}_1$ is a flag of flats strictly contained in $Z$ with $|\mathcal{F}_1| = \text{rk}(Z) - 1$,

$\mathcal{F}_2$ is a flag of flats strictly containing $Z$ with $|\mathcal{F}_2| = \text{crk}(Z) - 1$.

We claim that the composition maps a generator to a generator:

$$((-1)^{\text{rk}(Z) - 1}) x_Z^{\text{rk}(Z)} x_{\mathcal{F}_1} x_Z x_{\mathcal{F}_2} \in A^*(M).$$

Indeed, the map $\Gamma^1_{Z}$ applied to the second formula of Proposition 5.8 for $M^Z$ gives

$$x_{\mathcal{F}_1} x_Z x_{\mathcal{F}_2} = (\alpha_{M^Z})^{\text{rk}(Z) - 1} x_Z x_{\mathcal{F}_2} \in A^*(M)$$

and, by Lemma 6.13, the right-hand side of the above is equal to

$$((-1)^{\text{rk}(Z) - 1}) x_Z^{\text{rk}(Z)} x_{\mathcal{F}_2} \in A^*(M).$$

6.4. Let $\mathcal{P}_-$, $\mathcal{P}_+$, and $Z$ be as before, and let $\mathcal{P}$ be any order filter of $\mathcal{P}(M)$.

Theorem 6.18 (Decomposition). For any positive integer $q$, the sum of the pullback homomorphism and the Gysin homomorphisms

$$\Phi^q_{Z} \oplus \bigoplus_{p=1}^{\text{rk}(Z) - 1} \Psi^{p,q}_{Z}$$

is an isomorphism to $A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_+)$. 

Theorem 6.19 (Poincaré Duality). For any nonnegative integer $q \leq r$, the multiplication map

$$A^q(M, \mathcal{P}) \times A^{r-q}(M, \mathcal{P}) \rightarrow A^r(M, \mathcal{P})$$

defines an isomorphism between groups

$$A^{r-q}(M, \mathcal{P}) \simeq \text{Hom}_Z(A^q(M, \mathcal{P}), A^r(M, \mathcal{P})).$$

In particular, the groups $A^q(M, \mathcal{P})$ are torsion free. We simultaneously prove Theorem 6.18 (Decomposition) and Theorem 6.19 (Poincaré Duality) by lexicographic induction on the rank of matroids and the cardinality of the order filters. The proof is given below in Lemma 6.21.

Lemma 6.20. Let $q_1$ and $q_2$ be positive integers.

(1) For any positive integer $p$, we have

$$\text{im } \Psi^{p,q_1}_{Z} \cdot \text{im } \Phi^{p}_{Z} \subseteq \text{im } \Psi^{p,q_1+q_2}_{Z}.$$

(2) For any positive integers $p_1$ and $p_2$, we have

$$\text{im } \Psi^{p_1,q_1}_{Z} \cdot \text{im } \Psi^{p_2,q_2}_{Z} \subseteq \text{im } \Psi^{p_1+p_2,q_1+q_2}_{Z}.$$
The first inclusion shows that, when $q_1 + q_2 = r$ and $p$ is less than $\text{rk}(Z)$,
\[ \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q_1} \cdot \text{im } \Phi_{Z}^{q_2} = 0. \]
The second inclusion shows that, when $q_1 + q_2 = r$ and $p_1 + p_2$ is less than $\text{rk}(Z)$,
\[ \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p_1,q_1} \cdot \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p_2,q_2} = 0. \]

**Proof.** The assertions are direct consequences of Lemma 6.15. □

**Lemma 6.21.** Let $q$ be a positive integer, and let $p_1, p_2$ be distinct positive integers less than $\text{rk}(Z)$.

1. If Poincaré Duality holds for $A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_-)$, then
   \[ \ker \Phi_{Z}^{q} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{im } \Phi_{Z}^{q} \cap \sum_{p=1}^{\text{rk}(Z)-1} \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} = 0. \]
2. If Poincaré Duality holds for $A^*(M_Z)$, then
   \[ \ker \Psi_{Z}^{p_1,q} = \ker \Psi_{Z}^{p_2,q} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p_1,q} \cap \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p_2,q} = 0 \]

**Proof.** Let $\xi$ be a nonzero element in the domain of $\Phi_{Z}^{q}$. Since $\Phi_{Z}$ is an isomorphism between top degrees, Poincaré Duality for $(M, \mathcal{P}_-)$ implies that
\[ \Phi_{Z}^{q}(\xi) \cdot \text{im } \Phi_{Z}^{r-q} \neq 0. \]
This shows that $\Phi_{Z}^{q}$ is injective. On the other hand, Lemma 6.20 shows that
\[ \left( \sum_{p=1}^{\text{rk}(Z)-1} \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} \right) \cdot \text{im } \Phi_{Z}^{r-q} = 0. \]
This shows that the image of $\Phi_{Z}^{q}$ intersects the image of $\oplus_{p=1}^{\text{rk}(Z)-1} \Psi_{Z}^{p,q}$ trivially.

Let $\xi$ be a nonzero element in the domain of $\Psi_{Z}^{p,q}$, where $p = p_1$ or $p = p_2$. Since $\Psi_{Z}$ is an isomorphism between top degrees, Poincaré Duality for $M_Z$ implies that
\[ \Psi_{Z}^{p,q}(\xi) \cdot \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{r(q)-p,r-q} \neq 0. \]
This shows that $\Psi_{Z}^{p,q}$ is injective. For the assertion on the intersection, we assume that $p = p_1 > p_2$. Under this assumption Lemma 6.20 shows
\[ \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p_1,q} \cdot \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p_2,q} \cdot \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{r(q)-p,r-q} = 0. \]
This shows that the image of $\Psi_{Z}^{p_1,q}$ intersects the image of $\Psi_{Z}^{p_2,q}$ trivially. □

**Proofs of Theorems** 6.18 and 6.19. We simultaneously prove Decomposition and Poincaré Duality by lexicographic induction on the rank of $M$ and the cardinality of $\mathcal{P}_-$. Note that both statements are valid when $r = 1$, and
Poincaré Duality holds when $q = 0$ or $q = r$. Assuming that Poincaré Duality holds for $A^r(M_\emptyset)$, we show the implications

\[
\left( \text{Poincaré Duality holds for } A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \right) \implies \left( \text{Poincaré Duality holds for } A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \right)
\]

and Decomposition holds for $\mathcal{P}_- \subseteq \mathcal{P}_+$

\[
\implies \left( \text{Poincaré Duality holds for } A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \right).
\]

The base case of the induction is provided by the isomorphism

\[
A^r(M, \emptyset) \simeq \mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^{r+1}).
\]

The first implication follows from Proposition 6.10 and Lemma 6.21.

We prove the second implication. Decomposition for $\mathcal{P}_- \subseteq \mathcal{P}_+$ shows that, for any positive integer $q < r$, we have

\[
A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_+) = \text{im } \phi^q_Z \oplus \text{im } \psi_1^q_Z \oplus \cdots \oplus \text{im } \psi_{r+k(Z)-1}^q_Z,
\]

and

\[
A^{r-q}(M, \mathcal{P}_+) = \text{im } \phi^{r-q}_Z \oplus \text{im } \psi_{r+k(Z)-1,r-q}^1_Z \oplus \cdots \oplus \text{im } \psi_{r}^1_Z.
\]

By Poincaré Duality for $(M, \mathcal{P}_-)$ and Poincaré Duality for $M_\emptyset$, all the summands above are torsion free. We construct bases of the sums by choosing bases of their summands.

We use Corollary 6.11 and Proposition 6.17 to obtain isomorphisms

\[
A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \simeq A^r(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \simeq A^{r+k(Z)-1}(M_\emptyset) \simeq \mathbb{Z}.
\]

For a positive integer $q < r$, consider the matrices of multiplications

\[
\mathcal{M}_+ := \left( A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \times A^{r-q}(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \right),
\]

\[
\mathcal{M}_- := \left( A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \times A^{r-q}(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \right)
\]

and, for positive integers $p < \text{rk}(Z)$,

\[
\mathcal{M}_p := \left( A^{q-p}(M_\emptyset) \times A^{r-q-rk(Z)+p}(M_\emptyset) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \right).
\]

By Lemma 6.20, under the chosen bases ordered as shown above, $\mathcal{M}_+$ is a block upper triangular matrix with block diagonals $\mathcal{M}_-$ and $\mathcal{M}_p$, up to signs. It follows from Poincaré Duality for $(M, \mathcal{P}_-)$ and Poincaré Duality for $M_\emptyset$ that

\[
\det \mathcal{M}_+ = \pm \det \mathcal{M}_- \times \prod_{p=1}^{\text{rk}(Z)-1} \det \mathcal{M}_p = \pm 1.
\]

This proves the second implication, completing the lexicographic induction. \square
7. Hard Lefschetz property and Hodge-Riemann relations

7.1. Let \( r \) be a nonnegative integer. We record basic algebraic facts concerning Poincaré duality, the hard Lefschetz property, and the Hodge-Riemann relations.

**Definition 7.1.** A graded Artinian ring \( R^* \) satisfies Poincaré duality of dimension \( r \) if

1. there are isomorphisms \( R^0 \cong \mathbb{R} \) and \( R^r \cong \mathbb{R} \),
2. for every integer \( q > r \), we have \( R^q \cong 0 \), and
3. for every integer \( q \leq r \), the multiplication defines an isomorphism 

\[
R^{r-q} \to \text{Hom}_R(R^q, R^r).
\]

In this case, we say that \( R^* \) is a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension \( r \).

In the remainder of this subsection, we suppose that \( R^* \) is a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension \( r \). We fix an isomorphism, called the degree map for \( R^* \),

\[
\text{deg : } R^r \to \mathbb{R}, \quad a + \text{ann}(x) \mapsto \text{deg}(x \cdot a).
\]

**Proposition 7.2.** For any nonzero element \( x \) in \( R^d \), the quotient ring \( R^*/\text{ann}(x) \), where \( \text{ann}(x) := \{ a \in R^* \mid x \cdot a = 0 \} \), is a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension \( r - d \).

By definition, the degree map for \( R^*/\text{ann}(x) \) induced by \( x \) is the homomorphism

\[
\text{deg}(x \cdot -) : R^{r-d}/\text{ann}(x) \to \mathbb{R}, \quad a + \text{ann}(x) \mapsto \text{deg}(x \cdot a).
\]

The Poincaré duality for \( R^* \) shows that the degree map for \( R^*/\text{ann}(x) \) is an isomorphism.

**Proof.** This is straightforward to check; see, for example, [MS05a, Cor. I.2.3]. \( \square \)

**Definition 7.3.** Let \( \ell \) be an element of \( R^1 \), and let \( q \) be a nonnegative integer \( \leq \frac{r}{2} \).

1. The Lefschetz operator on \( R^q \) associated to \( \ell \) is the linear map

\[
L^q_\ell : R^q \to R^{r-q}, \quad a \mapsto \ell^{r-2q} a.
\]

2. The Hodge-Riemann form on \( R^q \) associated to \( \ell \) is the symmetric bilinear form

\[
Q^q_\ell : R^q \times R^q \to \mathbb{R}, \quad (a_1, a_2) \mapsto (-1)^q \text{deg} (a_1 \cdot L^q_\ell(a_2)).
\]
(3) The primitive subspace of $R^q$ associated to $\ell$ is the subspace

$$P^q_\ell := \{ a \in R^q \mid \ell \cdot L^q_\ell(a) = 0 \} \subseteq R^q.$$ 

Definition 7.4 (Hard Lefschetz property and Hodge-Riemann relations).

We say that

1. $R^*$ satisfies $\text{HL}(\ell)$ if the Lefschetz operator $L^q_\ell$ is an isomorphism on $R^q$ for all $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$, and
2. $R^*$ satisfies $\text{HR}(\ell)$ if the Hodge-Riemann form $Q^q_\ell$ is positive definite on $P^q_\ell$ for all $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$.

If the Lefschetz operator $L^q_\ell$ is an isomorphism, then there is a decomposition

$$R^{q+1} = P^{q+1}_\ell \oplus \ell R^q.$$ 

Consequently, when $R^*$ satisfies $\text{HL}(\ell)$, we have the Lefschetz decomposition of $R^q$ for $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$:

$$R^q = P^q_\ell \oplus \ell P^{q-1}_\ell \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell^q P^0_\ell.$$ 

An important basic fact is that the Lefschetz decomposition of $R^q$ is orthogonal with respect to the Hodge-Riemann form $Q^q_\ell$: For nonnegative integers $q_1 < q_2 \leq q$, we have

$$Q^q_\ell(\ell^{q_1}a_1, \ell^{q_2}a_2) = (-1)^{q_1 \deg (\ell^{q_2-q_1}(\ell^{r-2(q-q_1)}a_1)a_2)} = 0, \quad a_1 \in P^{q-q_1}_\ell, \ a_2 \in P^{q-q_2}_\ell.$$

Proposition 7.5. The following conditions are equivalent for $\ell \in R^1$:

1. $R^*$ satisfies $\text{HL}(\ell)$.
2. The Hodge-Riemann form $Q^q_\ell$ on $R^q$ is nondegenerate for all $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$.

Proof. The Hodge-Riemann form $Q^q_\ell$ on $R^q$ is nondegenerate if and only if the composition

$$R^q \xrightarrow{L^q_\ell} R^{r-q} \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}_\mathbb{R}(R^q, R^r)}$$

is an isomorphism, where the second map is given by the multiplication in $R^*$. Since $R^*$ satisfies Poincaré duality, the composition is an isomorphism if and only if $L^q_\ell$ is an isomorphism.

If $L^q_\ell(a) = 0$, then $Q^q_\ell(a, a) = 0$ and $a \in P^q_\ell$. Thus the property $\text{HR}(\ell)$ implies the property $\text{HL}(\ell)$. 

Proposition 7.6. The following conditions are equivalent for $\ell \in R^1$:

1. $R^*$ satisfies $\text{HR}(\ell)$. 

The Hodge-Riemann form \( Q^q_\ell \) on \( R^q \) is nondegenerate and has signature
\[
\sum_{p=0}^{q} (-1)^q (-p \left( \dim_R R^p - \dim_R R^{p-1} \right)) \quad \text{for all } q \leq \frac{r}{2}.
\]

Here, the signature of a symmetric bilinear form is \( n_+ - n_- \), where \( n_+ \) and \( n_- \) are the number of positive and negative eigenvalues of any matrix representation the bilinear form [Jac85, §6.3].

**Proof.** If \( R^* \) satisfies \( HR(\ell) \), then \( R^* \) satisfies \( HL(\ell) \), and therefore we have the Lefschetz decomposition
\[
R^q = P^q_\ell \oplus \ell P^{q-1}_\ell \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell P^0_\ell.
\]
Recall that the Lefschetz decomposition of \( R^q \) is orthogonal with respect to \( Q^q_\ell \), and note that there is an isometry
\[
(P^p_\ell, Q^p_\ell) \simeq (\ell^{q-p} P^p_\ell, (-1)^q (-p \dim_R R^p - \dim_R R^{p-1})) \quad \text{for every nonnegative integer } p \leq q.
\]
Therefore the condition \( HR(\ell) \) implies that
\[
\left( \text{signature of } Q^q_\ell \text{ on } R^q \right) = \sum_{p=0}^{q} (-1)^q (-p \left( \dim_R R^p - \dim_R R^{p-1} \right)) = \sum_{p=0}^{q} (-1)^q (-p \left( \dim_R R^p - \dim_R R^{p-1} \right)).
\]

Conversely, suppose that the Hodge-Riemann forms \( Q^q_\ell \) are nondegenerate and their signatures are given by the stated formula. Proposition 7.5 shows that \( R^* \) satisfies \( HL(\ell) \), and hence
\[
R^q = P^q_\ell \oplus \ell P^{q-1}_\ell \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell P^0_\ell.
\]
The Lefschetz decomposition of \( R^q \) is orthogonal with respect to \( Q^q_\ell \), and therefore
\[
\left( \text{signature of } Q^q_\ell \text{ on } P^q_\ell \right) = \left( \text{signature of } Q^q_{\ell} \text{ on } R^q \right) - \left( \text{signature of } Q^{q-1}_{\ell} \text{ on } R^{q-1} \right).
\]
The assumptions on the signatures of \( Q^q_\ell \) and \( Q^{q-1}_{\ell} \) show that the right-hand side is
\[
\dim_R R^q - \dim_R R^{q-1} = \dim_R P^q_\ell.
\]
Since \( Q^q_\ell \) is nondegenerate on \( P^q_\ell \), this means that \( Q^q_\ell \) is positive definite on \( P^q_\ell \). \( \square \)
7.2. In this subsection, we show that the properties HL and HR are preserved under the tensor product of Poincaré duality algebras.

Let $R_1^*$ and $R_2^*$ be Poincaré duality algebras of dimensions $r_1$ and $r_2$ respectively. We choose degree maps for $R_1^*$ and for $R_2^*$, denoted $\deg_1 : R_1^* \to \mathbb{R}$, $\deg_2 : R_2^* \to \mathbb{R}$.

We note that $R_1 \otimes \mathbb{R} R_2$ is a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension $r_1 + r_2$: For any two graded components of the tensor product with complementary degrees
\[
(R_p \otimes \mathbb{R} R_0) \oplus (R_{p-1} \otimes \mathbb{R} R_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus (R_0 \otimes \mathbb{R} R_{r_2}),
\]
the multiplication of the two can be represented by a block diagonal matrix with diagonals
\[
(R_p^{r-k} \otimes \mathbb{R} R_2^k) \times (R_{p-r+2+k} \otimes \mathbb{R} R_2^{r_2-k}) \to R_1^{r_1} \otimes \mathbb{R} R_2^{r_2}.
\]

By definition, the induced degree map for the tensor product is the isomorphism $\deg_1 \otimes \mathbb{R} \deg_2 : R_1^* \otimes \mathbb{R} R_2^* \to \mathbb{R}$.

We use the induced degree map whenever we discuss the property HR for tensor products.

**Proposition 7.7.** Let $\ell_1$ be an element of $R_1^*$, and let $\ell_2$ be an element of $R_2^*$.

(1) If $R_1^*$ satisfies HL($\ell_1$) and $R_2^*$ satisfies HL($\ell_2$), then $R_1^* \otimes \mathbb{R} R_2^*$ satisfies HL($\ell_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \ell_2$).

(2) If $R_1^*$ satisfies HR($\ell_1$) and $R_2^*$ satisfies HR($\ell_2$), then $R_1^* \otimes \mathbb{R} R_2^*$ satisfies HR($\ell_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \ell_2$).

We begin the proof with the following special case.

**Lemma 7.8.** Let $r_1 \leq r_2$ be nonnegative integers, and consider the Poincaré duality algebras
\[
R_1^* = \mathbb{R}[x_1]/(x_1^{r_1+1}) \quad \text{and} \quad R_2^* = \mathbb{R}[x_2]/(x_2^{r_2+1})
\]
equipped with the degree maps
\[
\deg_1 : R_1^* \to \mathbb{R}, \quad x_1^{r_1} \mapsto 1, \\
\deg_2 : R_2^* \to \mathbb{R}, \quad x_2^{r_2} \mapsto 1.
\]

Then $R_1^*$ satisfies HR($x_1$), $R_2^*$ satisfies HR($x_2$), and $R_1^* \otimes \mathbb{R} R_2^*$ satisfies HR($x_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes x_2$).
The first two assertions are easy to check, and the third assertion follows from the Hodge-Riemann relations for the cohomology of the compact Kähler manifold $\mathbb{C}P^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}P^{r_2}$. Below we sketch a combinatorial proof using the Lindström-Gessel-Viennot lemma (cf. [McD11, proof of Lemma 2.2]).

**Proof.** For the third assertion, we identify the tensor product with $R^* := \mathbb{R}[x_1, x_2]/(x_1^{r_1+1}, x_2^{r_2+1})$ and set $\ell := x_1 + x_2$.

The induced degree map for the tensor product will be written $\deg : R^{r_1+r_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $x_1^{r_1}, x_2^{r_2} \mapsto 1$.

**Claim.** For some (equivalently any) choice of basis of $R^q$, we have $(-1)^{\frac{q(q+1)}{2}} \det (Q^q) > 0$ for all nonnegative integers $q \leq r_1$.

We show that it is enough to prove the claim. The inequality of the claim implies that $Q^q$ is nondegenerate for $q \leq r_1$, and hence $L^q$ is an isomorphism for $q \leq r_1$. The Hilbert function of $R^*$ forces the dimensions of the primitive subspaces to satisfy

$$\dim_\mathbb{R} P^q_\ell = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } q \leq r_1, \\ 0 & \text{for } q > r_1 \end{cases}$$

and that there is a decomposition

$$R^q = P^q_\ell \oplus \ell P^{q-1}_\ell \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell P^0_\ell$$

for $q \leq r_1$.

Every summand of the above decomposition is 1-dimensional, and hence

$$\left(\text{signature of } Q^q_\ell \text{ on } R^q\right) = \pm 1 - \left(\text{signature of } Q^{q-1}_\ell \text{ on } R^{q-1}\right).$$

The claim on the determinant of $Q^q_\ell$ determines the sign of $\pm 1$ in the above equality:

$$\left(\text{signature of } Q^q_\ell\right) = 1 - \left(\text{signature of } Q^{q-1}_\ell\right).$$

It follows that the signature of $Q^q_\ell$ on $P^q_\ell$ is 1 for $q \leq r_1$, and thus $R$ satisfies $\text{HR}(\ell)$.

To prove the claim, we consider the monomial basis

$$\{x_1^i x_2^{q-i} | i = 0, 1, \ldots, q\} \subseteq R^q.$$

The matrix $[a_{ij}]$ that represents $(-1)^q Q^q_\ell$ has binomial coefficients as its entries:

$$[a_{ij}] := \deg((x_1 + x_2)^{r_1+r_2-2q} x_1^{i+j} x_2^{q-i-q-j}) = \binom{r_1 + r_2 - 2q}{r_1 - i - j}.$$  

The sign of the determinant of $[a_{ij}]$ can be determined using the Lindström-Gessel-Viennot lemma:

$$(-1)^{\frac{q(q+1)}{2}} \det [a_{ij}] > 0.$$  

See [Aig07, §5.4] for an exposition and similar examples. \qed
Now we reduce Proposition 7.7 to the case of Lemma 7.8. We first introduce some useful notions to be used in the remaining part of the proof.

Let $R^*$ be a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension $r$, and let $\ell$ be an element of $R^1$.

**Definition 7.9.** Let $V^*$ be a graded subspace of $R^*$. We say that

1. $V^*$ satisfies $\text{HL}(\ell)$ if $Q^q_\ell$ restricted to $V^q$ is nondegenerate for all nonnegative $q \leq r^2$.
2. $V^*$ satisfies $\text{HR}(\ell)$ if $Q^q_\ell$ restricted to $V^q$ is nondegenerate and has signature

$$\sum_{p=0}^{q}(-1)^{q-p} \left( \dim_R V^p - \dim_R V^{p-1} \right)$$

for all nonnegative $q \leq r^2$.

Propositions 7.5 and 7.6 show that this agrees with the previous definition when $V^* = R^*$.

**Definition 7.10.** Let $V^*_1$ and $V^*_2$ be graded subspaces of $R^*$. We write

$$V^*_1 \perp_{PD} V^*_2$$

to mean that $V^*_1 \cap V^*_2 = 0$ and $V^{r-q}_1 V^q_2 = 0$ for all nonnegative integers $q \leq r$, and we write

$$V^*_1 \perp_{Q_\ell^*} V^*_2$$

to mean that $V^*_1 \cap V^*_2 = 0$ and $Q^q_\ell(V^q_1,V^q_2) = 0$ for all nonnegative integers $q \leq r^2$.

Here we record basic properties of the two notions of orthogonality. Let $S^*$ be another Poincaré duality algebra of dimension $s$.

**Lemma 7.11.** Let $V^*_1, V^*_2 \subseteq R^*$ and $W^*_1, W^*_2 \subseteq S^*$ be graded subspaces.

1. If $V^*_1 \perp_{Q_\ell^*} V^*_2$ and if both $V^*_1, V^*_2$ satisfy $\text{HL}(\ell)$, then $V^*_1 \oplus V^*_2$ satisfy $\text{HL}(\ell)$.
2. If $V^*_1 \perp_{Q_\ell^*} V^*_2$ and if both $V^*_1, V^*_2$ satisfy $\text{HR}(\ell)$, then $V^*_1 \oplus V^*_2$ satisfy $\text{HR}(\ell)$.
3. If $V^*_1 \perp_{PD} V^*_2$ and if $\ell V^*_1 \subseteq V^*_1$, then $V^*_1 \perp_{Q_\ell^*} V^*_2$.
4. If $V^*_1 \perp_{PD} V^*_2$, then $(V^*_1 \otimes_R W^*_1) \perp_{PD} (V^*_2 \otimes_R W^*_2)$.

**Proof.** The first two assertions are straightforward. We justify the third assertion: For any nonnegative integer $q \leq r^2$, the assumption on $V^*_1$ implies $L^q_\ell V^q_1 \subseteq V^{r-q}_1$, and hence

$$Q^q_\ell(V^q_1,V^q_2) \subseteq \deg(V^{r-q}_1 V^q_2) = 0.$$

For the fourth assertion, we check that for any nonnegative integers $p_1, p_2, q_1, q_2$ whose sum is $r+s$,

$$V^{p_1}_1 V^{p_2}_2 \otimes_R W^{q_1}_1 W^{q_2}_2 = 0.$$
The assumption on $V_1^*$ and $V_2^*$ shows that the first factor is trivial if $p_1 + p_2 \geq r$, and the second factor is trivial if otherwise. □

Proof of Proposition 7.7. Suppose that $R_1^*$ satisfies HR($\ell_1$) and that $R_2^*$ satisfies HR($\ell_2$). We set

$$R^* := R_1^* \otimes R_2^*, \quad \ell := \ell_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \ell_2.$$

We show that $R^*$ satisfy HR($\ell$). The assertion on HL can be proved in the same way.

For every $p \leq r_1$, choose an orthogonal basis of $P_{\ell_1}^p \subseteq R_{\ell_1}^p$ with respect to $Q_{\ell_1}^p$:

$$\{v_{1}^{p}, v_{2}^{p}, \ldots, v_{m(p)}^{p}\} \subseteq P_{\ell_1}^p.$$

Similarly, for every $q \leq r_2$, choose an orthogonal basis of $P_{\ell_2}^q \subseteq R_{\ell_2}^q$ with respect to $Q_{\ell_2}^q$:

$$\{w_{1}^{q}, w_{2}^{q}, \ldots, w_{n(q)}^{q}\} \subseteq P_{\ell_2}^q.$$

Here we use the upper indices to indicate the degrees of basis elements. To each pair of $v_{p,i}^p$ and $w_{q,j}^q$, we associate a graded subspace of $R^*$:

$$B^*(v_{p,i}^p, w_{q,j}^q) := B^*(v_{p,i}^p) \otimes R B^*(w_{q,j}^q),$$

where

$$B^*(v_{p,i}^p) := \langle v_{p,i}^p \rangle \oplus 1_1 \langle v_{p,i}^p \rangle \oplus \cdots \oplus 1_q \langle v_{p,i}^q \rangle \subseteq R_1^*,$$

$$B^*(w_{q,j}^q) := \langle w_{q,j}^q \rangle \oplus 1_1 \langle w_{q,j}^q \rangle \oplus \cdots \oplus 1_q \langle w_{q,j}^q \rangle \subseteq R_2^*,$$

Let us compare the tensor product $B^*(v_{p,i}^p, w_{q,j}^q)$ with the truncated polynomial ring

$$S^*_{p,q} := \mathbb{R}[x_1, x_2]/(x_1^{r_1-2p+1}, x_2^{r_2-2q+1}).$$

The properties HR($\ell_1$) and HR($\ell_2$) show that, for every nonnegative integer $k \leq \frac{r_1 + r_2 - 2p - 2q}{2}$, there is an isometry

$$\left( B^{k+p+q}(v_{p,i}^p, w_{q,j}^q), Q_{\ell}^{k+p+q} \right) \simeq \left( S^k_{p,q}, (-1)^{p+q} Q^k_{x_1+x_2} \right).$$

Therefore, by Lemma 7.8, the graded subspace $B^*(v_{p,i}^p, w_{q,j}^q) \subseteq R^*$ satisfies HR($\ell$).

The properties HL($\ell_1$) and HL($\ell_2$) imply that there is a direct sum decomposition

$$R^* = \bigoplus_{p,q,i,j} B^*(v_{p,i}^p, w_{q,j}^q).$$

It is enough to prove that the above decomposition is orthogonal with respect to $Q_{\ell}^*$:

**Claim.** Any two distinct summands of $R^*$ satisfy $B^*(v, w) \perp_{Q_{\ell}} B^*(v', w')$. 
For the proof of the claim, we may suppose that $w \neq w'$. The orthogonality of the Lefschetz decomposition for $R_2^*$ with respect to $Q_2^*$ shows that

$$B(w) \perp_{PD} B(w').$$

By the fourth assertion of Lemma 7.11, the above implies

$$B^*(v, w) \perp_{PD} B^*(v', w').$$

By the third assertion of Lemma 7.11, this gives the claimed statement. ∎

7.3. Let $\Sigma$ be a unimodular fan, or more generally a simplicial fan in $\mathbb{N}_\mathbb{R}$. The purpose of this subsection is to state and prove Propositions 7.15 and 7.16, which together support the inductive structure of the proof of Main Theorem 8.8.

**Definition 7.12.** We say that $\Sigma$ satisfies Poincaré duality of dimension $r$ if $A^*(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}$ is a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension $r$.

In the remainder of this subsection, we suppose that $\Sigma$ satisfies Poincaré duality of dimension $r$. We fix an isomorphism, called the degree map for $\Sigma$,

$$\deg : A^r(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}} \to \mathbb{R}.$$

As before, we write $V_\Sigma$ for the set of primitive ray generators of $\Sigma$.

Note that for any nonnegative integer $q$ and $e \in V_\Sigma$, there is a commutative diagram

$$
\begin{array}{c}
A^q(\Sigma) \\
\downarrow \quad \downarrow \\
A^q(\text{star}(e, \Sigma)) \\
\downarrow x_e \\
A^{q+1}(\Sigma),
\end{array}
$$

where $p_e$ is the pullback homomorphism $p_{e \in \Sigma}$ and $x_e \cdot -$ are the multiplications by $x_e$. It follows that there is a surjective graded ring homomorphism

$$\pi_e : A^*(\text{star}(e, \Sigma)) \to A^*(\Sigma)/\text{ann}(x_e).$$

**Proposition 7.13.** The star of $e$ in $\Sigma$ satisfies Poincaré duality of dimension $r - 1$ if and only if $\pi_e$ is an isomorphism:

$$A^*(\text{star}(e, \Sigma)) \simeq A^*(\Sigma)/\text{ann}(x_e).$$

**Proof.** The “if” direction follows from Proposition 7.2: The quotient of $A^*(\Sigma)$ by the annihilator of $x_e$ is a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension $r - 1$.

The “only if” direction follows from the observation that any surjective graded ring homomorphism between Poincaré duality algebras of the same dimension is an isomorphism. ∎
Definition 7.14. Let $\Sigma$ be a fan that satisfies Poincaré duality of dimension $r$. We say that

1. $\Sigma$ satisfies the hard Lefschetz property if $A^*(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}$ satisfies $HL(\ell)$ for all $\ell \in \mathcal{K}_\Sigma$;
2. $\Sigma$ satisfies the Hodge-Riemann relations if $A^*(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}$ satisfies $HR(\ell)$ for all $\ell \in \mathcal{K}_\Sigma$; and
3. $\Sigma$ satisfies the local Hodge-Riemann relations if the Poincaré duality algebra $A^*(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}/\text{ann}(x_e)$ satisfies $HR(\ell_e)$ with respect to the degree map induced by $x_e$ for all $\ell \in \mathcal{K}_\Sigma$ and $e \in V_\Sigma$.

Hereafter we write $\ell_e$ for the image of $\ell$ in the quotient $A^*(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}/\text{ann}(x_e)$.

Proposition 7.15. If $\Sigma$ satisfies the local Hodge-Riemann relations, then $\Sigma$ satisfies the hard Lefschetz property.

Proof. By definition, for $\ell \in \mathcal{K}_\Sigma$ there are positive real numbers $c_e$ such that

\[ \ell = \sum_{e \in V_\Sigma} c_e x_e \in A^1(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}. \]

We need to show that the Lefschetz operator $L^q_\ell$ on $A^q(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}$ is injective for all $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$. Nothing is claimed when $r = 2q$, so we may assume that $r - 2q$ is positive.

Let $f$ be an element in the kernel of $L^q_\ell$, and write $f_e$ for the image of $f$ in the quotient $A^q(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}/\text{ann}(x_e)$. Note that the element $f$ has the following properties:

1. for all $e \in V_\Sigma$, the image $f_e$ belongs to the primitive subspace $P^q_{\ell_e}$; and
2. for the positive real numbers $c_e$ as above, we have

\[ \sum_{e \in V_\Sigma} c_e Q^q_{\ell_e}(f_e, f_e) = Q^q_\ell(f, f) = 0. \]

By the local Hodge-Riemann relations, the two properties above show that all the $f_e$ are zero:

\[ x_e \cdot f = 0 \in A^*(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}} \text{ for all } e \in V_\Sigma. \]

Since the elements $x_e$ generate the Poincaré duality algebra $A^*(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}$, this implies that $f = 0$. \( \square \)

Proposition 7.16. If $\Sigma$ satisfies the hard Lefschetz property, then the following are equivalent:

1. $A^*(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}$ satisfies $HR(\ell)$ for some $\ell \in \mathcal{K}_\Sigma$;
2. $A^*(\Sigma)_{\mathbb{R}}$ satisfies $HR(\ell)$ for all $\ell \in \mathcal{K}_\Sigma$. 

Proof. Let \( \ell_0 \) and \( \ell_1 \) be elements of \( \mathcal{K}_\Sigma \), and suppose that \( A^*(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R} \) satisfies \( HR(\ell_0) \). Consider the parametrized family

\[
\ell_t := (1 - t) \ell_0 + t \ell_1, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1.
\]

Since \( \mathcal{K}_\Sigma \) is convex, the elements \( \ell_t \) are ample for all \( t \).

Note that \( Q^q_{\ell_t} \) are nondegenerate on \( A^q(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R} \) for all \( t \) and \( q \leq \frac{r}{2} \) because \( \Sigma \) satisfies the hard Lefschetz property. It follows that the signatures of \( Q^q_{\ell_t} \) should be independent of \( t \) for all \( q \leq \frac{r}{2} \). Since \( A^*(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R} \) satisfies \( HR(\ell_0) \), the common signature should be

\[
\sum_{p=0}^{q} (-1)^{q-p} \left( \dim_{\mathbb{R}} A^p(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R} - \dim_{\mathbb{R}} A^{p-1}(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R} \right).
\]

We conclude by Proposition 7.6 that \( A^*(\Sigma)_\mathbb{R} \) satisfies \( HR(\ell_1) \). \( \square \)

8. Proof of the main theorem

8.1. As a final preparation for the proof of the main theorem, we show that the property \( HR \) is preserved by a matroidal flip for particular choices of ample classes.

Let \( M \) be as before, and consider the matroidal flip from \( \mathcal{P}_- \) to \( \mathcal{P}_+ \) with center \( Z \). We will use the following homomorphisms:

1. the pullback homomorphism \( \Phi_Z: A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \to A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \);
2. the Gysin homomorphisms \( \Psi^{p,q}_Z: A^q(M_Z) \to A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \);
3. the pullback homomorphism \( p_Z: A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \to A^*(M_Z) \).

The homomorphism \( p_Z \) is obtained from the graded ring homomorphism \( p_{\sigma \in \Sigma, \sigma = \sigma_Z < F} \), making use of the identification \( \text{star}(\sigma, \Sigma) \simeq \Sigma_{M_Z} \).

In the remainder of this section, we fix a strictly convex piecewise linear function \( \ell_- \) on \( \Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_-} \). For nonnegative real numbers \( t \), we set

\[
\ell_+(t) := \Phi_Z(\ell_-) - tx_Z \in A^1(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}.
\]

We write \( \ell_Z \) for the pullback of \( \ell_- \) to the star of the cone \( \sigma_Z < \emptyset \) in the Bergman fan \( \Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_-} \):

\[
\ell_Z := p_Z(\ell_-) \in A^1(M_Z) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}.
\]

Proposition 4.4 shows that \( \ell_Z \) is the class of a strictly convex piecewise linear function on \( \Sigma_{M_Z} \).

Lemma 8.1. \( \ell_+(t) \) is strictly convex for all sufficiently small positive \( t \).

Proof. It is enough to show that \( \ell_+(t) \) is strictly convex around a given cone \( \sigma_I < F \) in \( \Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_+} \).
When $Z \notin \mathcal{F}$, the cone $\sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}}$ is in the fan $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}}$, and hence we may suppose that $\ell_-$ is zero on $\sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}}$ and positive on the link of $\sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}}$ in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}}$. It is straightforward to deduce from the above that if

$$0 < t < \sum_{i \in Z \setminus I} \ell_-(e_i),$$

then $\ell_+(t)$ is zero on $\sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}}$ and positive on the link of $\sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}}$ in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}}$. Note that $Z \setminus I$ is nonempty and each of the summands in the right-hand side of the above inequality is positive.

When $Z \in \mathcal{F}$, the cone $\sigma_{Z<\mathcal{F}\{Z\}}$ is in the fan $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}}$, and hence we may suppose that $\ell_-$ is zero on $\sigma_{Z<\mathcal{F}\{Z\}}$ and positive on the link of $\sigma_{Z<\mathcal{F}\{Z\}}$ in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}}$. Let $J$ be the flat min $\mathcal{F} \setminus \{Z\}$, and let $m(t)$ be the linear function on $\mathbb{N}_E$ defined by setting

$$e_i \mapsto \begin{cases} \frac{t}{\left| Z \setminus I \right|} & \text{if } i \in Z \setminus I, \\ \frac{t}{\left| J \setminus Z \right|} & \text{if } i \in J \setminus Z, \\ 0 & \text{if otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It is straightforward to deduce from the above that, for all sufficiently small positive $t$,

$$\ell_+(t) + m(t)$$

is zero on $\sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}}$ and positive on the link of $\sigma_{I<\mathcal{F}}$ in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}}$. More precisely, the latter statement is valid for all $t$ that satisfy the inequalities

$$0 < t < \min \left\{ \ell_-(e_F), e_F \text{ is in the link of } \sigma_{Z<\mathcal{F}\{Z\}} \text{ in } \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}} \right\}.$$ 

Here the minimum of the empty set is defined to be $\infty$. □

We write “deg” for the degree map of $M$ and of $M_Z$, and we fix the degree maps

$$\deg_+: A^*(M, \mathcal{F}_+) \to \mathbb{Z}, \quad a \mapsto \deg(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}_+}(a)),$n$$

$$\deg_-: A^*(M, \mathcal{F}_-) \to \mathbb{Z}, \quad a \mapsto \deg(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}_-}(a));$$

see Definition 6.9. We omit the subscripts $+$ and $-$ from the notation when there is no danger of confusion. The goal of this subsection is to prove the following:

**Proposition 8.2.** Let $\ell_-$, $\ell_Z$, and $\ell_+(t)$ be as above, and suppose that

1. the Chow ring of $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}}$ satisfies $\text{HR}(\ell_-)$, and
2. the Chow ring of $\Sigma_{M_Z}$ satisfies $\text{HR}(\ell_Z)$.

Then the Chow ring of $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{F}}$ satisfies $\text{HR}(\ell_+(t))$ for all sufficiently small positive $t$. 
Hereafter we suppose $HR(\ell_-)$ and $HR(\ell_Z)$. We introduce the main characters appearing in the proof of Proposition 8.2:

1. a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension $r$:
   $$ A^*_+ := \bigoplus_{q=0}^r A^q_+, \quad A^q_+ := A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_+) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R}; $$

2. a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension $r$:
   $$ A^*_+ := \bigoplus_{q=0}^r A^q, \quad A^q := \left( \text{im } \Phi^q_+ \right) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R}; $$

3. a Poincaré duality algebra of dimension $r - 2$:
   $$ T^*_Z := \bigoplus_{q=0}^{r-2} T^q_Z, \quad T^q_Z := \left( \mathbb{Z}[x_Z]/(x_Z^{\text{rk}(Z)-1}) \otimes \mathbb{Z} A^*(M_Z) \right)^q \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R}; $$

4. a graded subspace of $A^*_+$, the sum of the images of the Gysin homomorphisms:
   $$ G^*_Z := \bigoplus_{q=1}^{r-1} G^q_Z, \quad G^q_Z := \bigoplus_{p=1}^{\text{rk}(Z)-1} \left( \text{im } \Psi^{p,q}_Z \right) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R}. $$

The truncated polynomial ring in the definition of $T^*_Z$ is given the degree map
$$ (-x_Z)^{\text{rk}(Z)-2} \mapsto 1, $$
so that the truncated polynomial ring satisfies $HR(-x_Z)$. The tensor product $T^*_Z$ is given the induced degree map
$$ (-x_Z)^{\text{rk}(Z)-2} x_Z \mapsto 1, $$
where $\mathcal{F}$ is any maximal flag of nonempty proper flats of $M_Z$. It follows from Proposition 7.7 that the tensor product satisfies $HR(1 \otimes \ell_Z - x_Z \otimes 1)$.

**Definition 8.3.** For nonnegative $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$, we write the Poincaré duality pairings for $A^*_+$ and $T^*_Z$ by
$$ \langle -, - \rangle^q_{A^*_-} : A^q_- \times A^{r-q}_- \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, $$
$$ \langle -, - \rangle^q_{T^*_Z} : T^{q-1}_Z \times T^{r-q-1}_Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}. $$

We omit the superscripts $q$ and $q-1$ from the notation when there is no danger of confusion.

Theorem 6.18 shows that $\Phi_Z$ defines an isomorphism between the graded rings
$$ A^*(M, \mathcal{P}_-) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R} \simeq A^*_+ $$
and that there is a decomposition into a direct sum
$$ A^*_+ = A^*_+ \oplus G^*_Z. $$
In addition, it shows that $x_Z \cdot -$ is an isomorphism between the graded vector spaces

$$T^*_Z \simeq G^*_Z.$$

The inverse of the isomorphism $x_Z \cdot -$ will be denoted $x^{-1}_Z \cdot -.$

We equip the above graded vector spaces with the following symmetric bilinear forms:

**Definition 8.4.** Let $q$ be a nonnegative integer $\leq \frac{r}{2}.$

1. $(A^q_+, Q^q_+ \oplus Q^q_Z)$: $Q^q_+$ and $Q^q_Z$ are the bilinear forms on $A^q_-$ and $G^q_Z$ defined below.
2. $(A^q_-, Q^q_-)$: $Q^q_-$ is the restriction of the Hodge-Riemann form $Q^q_{\ell^+(0)}$ to $A^q_-.$
3. $(T^q_Z, Q^q_T)$: $Q^q_T$ is the Hodge-Riemann form associated to $T := (1 \otimes \ell_Z - x_Z \otimes 1) \in T^1_Z.$
4. $(G^q_Z, Q^q_Z)$: $Q^q_Z$ is the bilinear form defined by saying that $x_Z \cdot -$ gives an isometry

$$\left( T^q_Z, Q^q_{\mathcal{T}} \right) \simeq \left( G^q_Z, Q^q_Z \right).$$

We observe that $Q^q_+ \oplus Q^q_Z$ satisfies the following version of Hodge-Riemann relations:

**Proposition 8.5.** The bilinear form $Q^q_+ \oplus Q^q_Z$ is nondegenerate on $A^q_+$ and has signature

$$\sum_{p=0}^{q} (-1)^{q-p} \left( \dim_R A^p_+ - \dim_R A^{p-1}_+ \right)$$

for all nonnegative $q \leq \frac{r}{2}.$

**Proof.** Theorem 6.18 shows that $\Phi^Z \otimes_Z \mathbb{R}$ defines an isometry

$$\left( A^q(M, \mathcal{P}_-)_R, Q^q_{\mathcal{P}_-} \right) \simeq \left( A^q_-, Q^q_- \right).$$

It follows from the assumption on $\Sigma_{M, \mathcal{P}_-}$ that $Q^q_-$ is nondegenerate on $A^q_-$ and has signature

$$\sum_{p=0}^{q} (-1)^{q-p} \left( \dim_R A^p_- - \dim_R A^{p-1}_- \right).$$

It follows from the assumption on $\Sigma_{M^Z}$ that $Q^q_Z$ is nondegenerate on $G^q_Z$ and has signature

$$\sum_{p=0}^{q-1} (-1)^{q-p-1} \left( \dim_R T^p_Z - \dim_R T^{p-1}_Z \right) = \sum_{p=0}^{q-1} (-1)^{q-p-1} \left( \dim_R G^p_{Z_+} - \dim_R G^{p-1}_{Z_+} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{p=0}^{q} (-1)^{q-p} \left( \dim_R G^p_Z - \dim_R G^{p-1}_Z \right).$$
The assertion is deduced from the fact that the signature of the sum is the sum of the signatures.

We now construct a continuous family of symmetric bilinear forms $Q_t^q$ on $A_+^q$ parametrized by positive real numbers $t$. This family $Q_t^q$ will be shown to have the following properties:

1. For every positive real number $t$, there is an isometry
   $$\left( A_+^q, Q_t^q \right) \simeq \left( A_+^q, Q_{\ell+}(t) \right).$$

2. The sequence $Q_t^q$ as $t$ goes to zero converges to the sum of $Q_-^q$ and $Q_Z^q$:
   $$\lim_{t \to 0} Q_t^q = Q_-^q \oplus Q_Z^q.$$

For positive real numbers $t$, we define a graded linear transformation $S_t : A_+^q \to A_+^q$ to be the sum of the identity on $A_+^q$ and the linear transformations
   $$\left( \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} \right) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R} \to \left( \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} \right) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R}, \quad a \mapsto t^{-\frac{\ell k(Z)}{2} + p} a.$$

The inverse transformation $S_t^{-1}$ is the sum of the identity on $A_+^q$ and the linear transformations
   $$\left( \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} \right) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R} \to \left( \text{im } \Psi_{Z}^{p,q} \right) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R}, \quad a \mapsto t^{\frac{\ell k(Z)}{2} - p} a.$$

**Definition 8.6.** The symmetric bilinear form $Q_t^q$ is defined so that $S_t$ defines an isometry
   $$\left( A_+^q, Q_t^q \right) \simeq \left( A_+^q, Q_{\ell+}(t) \right)$$
   for all nonnegative integers $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$.

In other words, for any elements $a_1, a_2 \in A_+^q$, we set
   $$Q_t^q(a_1, a_2) := (-1)^q \deg(S_t(a_1) \cdot \ell_+(t)^{r-2q} \cdot S_t(a_2)).$$

The first property of $Q_t^q$ mentioned above is built into the definition. We verify the assertion on the limit of $Q_t^q$ as $t$ goes to zero.

**Proposition 8.7.** For all nonnegative integers $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$, we have
   $$\lim_{t \to 0} Q_t^q = Q_-^q \oplus Q_Z^q.$$

**Proof.** We first construct a deformation of the Poincaré duality pairing $A_+^q \times A_+^{r-q} \to \mathbb{R}$:
   $$\langle a_1, a_2 \rangle^q := \deg(S_t(a_1), S_t(a_2)), \quad t > 0.$$

We omit the upper index $q$ when there is no danger of confusion.
Claim (1). For any $b_1, b_2 \in A_+^* \text{ and } c_1, c_2 \in G_2^*$ and $a_1 = b_1 + c_1, a_2 = b_2 + c_2 \in A_+^*$,
\[
\langle a_1, a_2 \rangle_0 := \lim_{t \to 0} \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle_t = \langle b_1, b_2 \rangle_{A_+^*} - \langle x^{-1}_Z c_1, x^{-1}_Z c_2 \rangle_{T_Z}.
\]

We write $z := \text{rk}(Z)$ and choose bases of $A_+^q$ and $A_+^{r-q}$ that respect the decompositions
\[
A_+^q = A_+^q \oplus \left( \text{im } \Psi^1_Z \oplus \text{im } \Psi^2_Z \oplus \cdots \oplus \text{im } \Psi^{z-1}_Z \right) \otimes \mathbb{R} \text{ and }
A_+^{r-q} = A_+^{r-q} \oplus \left( \text{im } \Psi^{z-1}_Z \oplus \text{im } \Psi^{z-2}_Z \oplus \cdots \oplus \text{im } \Psi^{1}_Z \right) \otimes \mathbb{R}.
\]

Let $\mathcal{M}_-$ be the matrix of the Poincaré duality pairing between $A_+^q$ and $A_+^{r-q}$. Let $\mathcal{M}_{p_1, p_2}$ be the matrix of the Poincaré duality pairing between $\text{im } \Psi^{p_1}_Z \otimes \mathbb{R}$ and $\text{im } \Psi^{p_2}_Z \otimes \mathbb{R}$. Lemma 6.20 shows that the matrix of the deformed Poincaré pairing on $A_+^*$ is
\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\mathcal{M}_- & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & \mathcal{M}_{1,1} & \mathcal{M}_{1,2} & \mathcal{M}_{1,3} & \cdots & \mathcal{M}_{1,z-1} \\
0 & 0 & \mathcal{M}_{2,2} & \mathcal{M}_{2,3} & \cdots & \mathcal{M}_{2,z-2} \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \mathcal{M}_{3,3} & \cdots & \mathcal{M}_{3,z-3} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \mathcal{M}_{z-1,1} \\
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

The claim on the limit of the deformed Poincaré duality pairing follows. The minus sign on the right-hand side of the claim comes from the following computation made in Proposition 6.17:
\[
\text{deg}(x^{\text{rk}(Z)}_Z x^y) = (-1)^{\text{rk}(Z) - 1}.
\]

We use the deformed Poincaré duality pairing to understand the limit of the bilinear form $Q^q_t$. For an element $a$ of $A_+^*$, we write the multiplication with $a$ by
\[
M^a : A_+^* \to A_+^{*+1}, \quad x \mapsto a \cdot x,
\]
and we define its deformation $M_t^a := S_t^{-1} \circ M^a \circ S_t$. In terms of the operator $M_t^t$, the bilinear form $Q^q_t$ can be written
\[
Q^q_t(a_1, a_2) = (-1)^q \text{deg} \left( S_t(a_1) \cdot M_t^{t(t)} \circ \cdots \circ M_t^{t(t)} \circ S_t \ (a_2) \right)
= (-1)^q \text{deg} \left( S_t(a_1) \cdot S_t \circ M_t^{t(t)} \circ \cdots \circ M_t^{t(t)} \ (a_2) \right)
= (-1)^q \left( a_1, M_t^{t(t)} \circ \cdots \circ M_t^{t(t)} \ (a_2) \right)_t.
\]
Define linear operators $M^{1 \otimes \ell_Z}$, $M^{x_Z \otimes 1}$, and $M^\mathcal{T}$ on $G^*_Z$ by the isomorphisms
\[
\left( G^*_Z, M^{1 \otimes \ell_Z} \right) \simeq \left( T^{*1}, 1 \otimes \ell_Z \cdot \right), \\
\left( G^*_Z, M^{x_Z \otimes 1} \right) \simeq \left( T^{*1}, x_Z \otimes 1 \cdot \right), \\
\left( G^*_Z, M^\mathcal{T} \right) \simeq \left( T^{*1}, \mathcal{T} \cdot \right).
\]
Note that the linear operator $M^\mathcal{T}$ is the difference $M^{1 \otimes \ell_Z} - M^{x_Z \otimes 1}$.

Claim (2). The limit of the operator $M^{t_{i+1}(t)}$ as $t$ goes to zero decomposes into the sum
\[
\left( A^*_+, \lim_{t \to 0} M^{t_{i+1}(t)} \right) = \left( A^*_+ \oplus G^*_Z, M^{t_{i+1}(0)} \oplus M^\mathcal{T} \right).
\]
Assuming the second claim, we finish the proof as follows: We have
\[
\lim_{t \to 0} Q^t_i(a_1, a_2) = (-1)^q \lim_{t \to 0} \left\langle a_1, M^{t_{i+1}(t)} \circ \cdots \circ M^{t_{i+1}(0)} (a_2) \right\rangle_t,
\]
and from the first and the second claim, we see that the right-hand side is
\[
(-1)^q \left\langle a_1, (M^{t_{i+1}(0)} \oplus M^\mathcal{T}) \circ \cdots \circ (M^{t_{i+1}(0)} \oplus M^\mathcal{T}) (a_2) \right\rangle_0 = Q^t_i(b_1, b_2) + Q^t_i(c_1, c_2),
\]
where $a_i = b_i + c_i$ for $b_i \in A^*_-$ and $c_i \in G^*_Z$. Notice that the minus sign in the first claim cancels with $(-1)^{q-1}$ in the Hodge-Riemann form
\[
\left( T^{q-1}_Z, Q^{q-1}_Z \right) \simeq \left( G^*_Z, Q^*_Z \right).
\]
We now prove the second claim made above. Write $M^{t_{i+1}(t)}$ as the difference
\[
M^{t_{i+1}(t)} = S^{-1}_t \circ M^{t_{i+1}(t)} \circ S_t = S^{-1}_t \circ \left( M^{t_{i+1}(0)} - M^{t_{xZ}} \right) \circ S_t = M^{t_{i+1}(0)} - M^{t_{xZ}}.
\]
By Lemma 6.20, the operators $M^{t_{i+1}(0)}$ and $S_t$ commute, and hence
\[
\left( A^*_+, M^{t_{i+1}(0)} \right) = \left( A^*_+, M^{t_{i+1}(0)} \right) = \left( A^*_+ \oplus G^*_Z, M^{t_{i+1}(0)} \oplus M^{1 \otimes \ell_Z} \right).
\]
Lemma 6.20 shows that the matrix of $M^{x_Z}$ in the chosen bases of $A^*_+$ and $A^*_+$ is of the form
\[
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & B_0 \\
C & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & B_1 \\
0 & \text{Id} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & B_2 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & \text{Id} & 0 & B_{z-2} \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \text{Id} & B_{z-1}
\end{bmatrix}
\]
where “Id” are the identity matrices representing
\[
A^{q-p}(M_Z) \cong \im \Psi^{p,q}_Z \longrightarrow \im \Psi^{p+1,q+1}_Z \sim A^{q-p}(M_Z).
\]
Note that the matrix of the deformed operator \( M^{tx} \) can be written
\[
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & t^{\frac{k(Z)}{2}} B_0 \\
 t^{\frac{k(Z)}{2}} C & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & t^{k(Z)-1} B_1 \\
 0 & \text{Id} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & t^{k(Z)-2} B_2 \\
 \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
 0 & 0 & \cdots & \text{Id} & 0 & t^2 B_{z-2} \\
 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \text{Id} & tB_{z-1}
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

At the limit \( t = 0 \), the matrix represents the sum \( 0 \oplus M^{xz} \otimes 1 \), and therefore
\[
\left( A^*+ \lim_{t \to 0} M^{t^\ell(t)} \right) = \left( A^*+ G^*_Z, M^{\ell^\ell(0)} + M^{1 \otimes tx} \right) - \left( A^-+ G^*_Z, 0 \oplus M^{xz} \otimes 1 \right)
\]
\[
= \left( A^-+ G^*_Z, M^{\ell^\ell(0)} + M^\mathcal{P} \right).
\]
This completes the proof of the second claim. \( \square \)

**Proof of Proposition 8.2.** By Propositions 8.5 and 8.7, we know \( \lim_{t \to 0} Q^q_t \) is nondegenerate on \( A^q_+ \) and has signature
\[
\sum_{p=0}^q (-1)^{q-p} \left( \dim_{\mathbb{R}} A^p_+ - \dim_{\mathbb{R}} A^{p-1}_+ \right)
\]
for all nonnegative \( q \leq \frac{r}{2} \).

Therefore the same must be true for \( Q^q_t \) for all sufficiently small positive \( t \). By construction, there is an isometry
\[
\left( A^q_+, Q^q_t \right) \simeq \left( A^q_+, Q^q_{\ell^\ell(t)} \right),
\]
and thus \( A^q_+ \) satisfies HR(\( \ell^\ell(t) \)) for all sufficiently small positive \( t \). \( \square \)

8.2. We are now ready to prove the main theorem. We write “deg” for the degree map of \( M \) and, for an order filter \( \mathcal{P} \) of \( \mathcal{P}_M \), we fix an isomorphism
\[
A^*(M, \mathcal{P}) \to \mathbb{Z}, \quad a \mapsto \deg \left( \Phi_{\mathcal{P}}(a) \right).
\]

**Theorem 8.8 (Main Theorem).** Let \( M \) be a loopless matroid, and let \( \mathcal{P} \) be an order filter of \( \mathcal{P}_M \).

1. The Bergman fan \( \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}} \) satisfies the hard Lefschetz property.
2. The Bergman fan \( \Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}} \) satisfies the Hodge-Riemann relations.

When \( \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_M \), the above implies Theorem 1.4 in the introduction because any strictly submodular function defines a strictly convex piecewise linear function on \( \Sigma_M \).

**Proof.** We prove by lexicographic induction on the rank of \( M \) and the cardinality of \( \mathcal{P} \). The base case of the induction is when \( \mathcal{P} \) is empty, where we have
\[
A^*(M, \emptyset)_{\mathbb{R}} \simeq \mathbb{R}[x]/(x^{r+1}), \quad x_i \mapsto x.
\]
Under the above identification, the ample cone is the set of positive multiples of $x$, and the degree $x^r$ is 1. It is straightforward to check in this case that the Bergman fan satisfies the hard Lefschetz property and the Hodge-Riemann relations.

For the general case, we set $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_+$ and consider the matroidal flip from $\mathcal{P}_-$ to $\mathcal{P}_+$ with center $Z$. By Propositions 4.7 and 4.8, we may replace $M$ by the associated combinatorial geometry $\overline{M}$ in this case. Proposition 3.5 shows that the star of every ray in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ is a product of at most two Bergman fans of matroids (one of which may not be a combinatorial geometry) to which the induction hypothesis on the rank of matroid applies. We use Propositions 7.7 and 4.4 to deduce that the star of every ray in $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ satisfies the Hodge-Riemann relations; that is, $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ satisfies the local Hodge-Riemann relations.

By Proposition 7.15, this implies that $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ satisfies the hard Lefschetz property.

Next we show that $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ satisfies the Hodge-Riemann relations. Since $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ satisfies the hard Lefschetz property, Proposition 7.16 shows that it is enough to prove that the Chow ring of $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ satisfies $HR(\ell)$ for some $\ell \in \mathcal{K}_{M,\mathcal{P}}$. Since the induction hypothesis on the size of order filter applies to both $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ and $\Sigma_{M,Z}$, this follows from Proposition 8.2.

We remark that the same inductive approach can be used to prove the following stronger statement. (See [Cat08] for an overview of the analogous facts in the context of convex polytopes and compact Kähler manifolds.) We leave details to the interested reader.

**Theorem 8.9.** Let $M$ be a loopless matroid on $E$, and let $\mathcal{P}$ be an order filter of $\mathcal{P}_M$.

1. The Bergman fan $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ satisfies the mixed hard Lefschetz theorem: For any multiset $\mathcal{L} := \{\ell_1, \ell_2, \ldots, \ell_{r-2q}\} \subseteq \mathcal{K}_{M,\mathcal{P}}$, the linear map given by the multiplication

   $$L^q_{\mathcal{P}} : A^q(M, \mathcal{P})_\mathbb{R} \to A^{r-q}(M, \mathcal{P})_\mathbb{R}, \quad a \mapsto (\ell_1\ell_2 \cdots \ell_{r-2q}) \cdot a$$

   is an isomorphism for all nonnegative integers $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$.

2. The Bergman fan $\Sigma_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ satisfies the mixed Hodge-Riemann Relations: For any multiset $\mathcal{L} := \{\ell_1, \ell_2, \ldots, \ell_{r-2q}\} \subseteq \mathcal{K}_{M,\mathcal{P}}$ and any $\ell \in \mathcal{K}_{M,\mathcal{P}}$,

   the symmetric bilinear form given by the multiplication

   $$Q^q_{\mathcal{P}} : A^q(M, \mathcal{P})_\mathbb{R} \times A^q(M, \mathcal{P})_\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}, \quad (a_1, a_2) \mapsto (-1)^q \deg(a_1 \cdot L^q_{\mathcal{P}}(a_2))$$

   is positive definite on the kernel of $\ell \cdot L^q_{\mathcal{P}}$ for all nonnegative integers $q \leq \frac{r}{2}$. 
9. Log-concavity conjectures

9.1. Let $M$ be a loopless matroid of rank $r + 1$ on the ground set $E = \{0, 1, \ldots, n\}$. The characteristic polynomial of $M$ is defined to be

$$\chi_M(\lambda) = \sum_{I \subseteq E} (-1)^{|I|} \lambda^{\text{crk}(I)},$$

where the sum is over all subsets $I \subseteq E$ and $\text{crk}(I)$ is the corank of $I$ in $M$. Equivalently,

$$\chi_M(\lambda) = \sum_{F \subseteq E} \mu_M(\emptyset, F) \lambda^{\text{crk}(F)},$$

where the sum is over all flats $F \subseteq E$ and $\mu_M$ is the Möbius function of the lattice of flats of $M$. Any one of the two descriptions clearly shows that

1. the degree of the characteristic polynomial is $r + 1$,
2. the leading coefficient of the characteristic polynomial is 1, and
3. the characteristic polynomial satisfies $\chi_M(1) = 0$.

See [Zas87], [Aig87] for basic properties of the characteristic polynomial and its coefficients.

**Definition 9.1.** The reduced characteristic polynomial $\bar{\chi}_M(\lambda)$ is

$$\bar{\chi}_M(\lambda) := \chi_M(\lambda)/(\lambda - 1).$$

We define a sequence of integers $\mu^0(M), \mu^1(M), \ldots, \mu^r(M)$ by the equality

$$\bar{\chi}_M(\lambda) = \sum_{k=0}^{r} (-1)^k \mu^k(M) \lambda^{r-k}.$$

The first number in the sequence is 1, and the last number in the sequence is the absolute value of the Möbius number $\mu_M(\emptyset, E)$. In general, $\mu^k(M)$ is the alternating sum of the absolute values of the coefficients of the characteristic polynomial

$$\mu^k(M) = w_k(M) - w_{k-1}(M) + \cdots + (-1)^k w_0(M).$$

We will show that the Hodge-Riemann relations for $A^*(M)_R$ imply the log-concavity

$$\mu^{k+1}(M) \mu^{k}(M) \leq \mu^{k}(M)^2 \quad \text{for} \quad 0 < k < r.$$

Because the convolution of two log-concave sequences is log-concave, the above implies the log-concavity of the sequence $w_k(M)$.

**Definition 9.2.** Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F_1 \subset F_2 \subset \cdots \subset F_k\}$ be a $k$-step flag of nonempty proper flats of $M$.

1. The flag $\mathcal{F}$ is said to be *initial* if $r(F_m) = m$ for all indices $m$.
2. The flag $\mathcal{F}$ is said to be *descending* if $\min(F_1) > \min(F_2) > \cdots > \min(F_k) > 0$. 
We write $D_k(M)$ for the set of initial descending $k$-step flags of nonempty proper flats of $M$.

Here, the usual ordering of the ground set $E = \{0, 1, \ldots, n\}$ is used to define $\min(F)$.

For inductive purposes it will be useful to consider the truncation of $M$, denoted $\text{tr}(M)$. This is the matroid on $E$ whose rank function is defined by
\[
\text{rk}_{\text{tr}(M)}(I) := \min(\text{rk}_M(I), r).
\]
The lattice of flats of $\text{tr}(M)$ is obtained from the lattice of flats of $M$ by removing all the flats of rank $r$. It follows that, for any nonnegative integer $k < r$, there is a bijection
\[
D_k(M) \simeq D_k(\text{tr}(M))
\]
and an equality between the coefficients of the reduced characteristic polynomials
\[
\mu^k(M) = \mu^k(\text{tr}(M)).
\]
The second equality shows that all the integers $\mu^k(M)$ are positive; see [Zas87, Th. 7.1.8].

Lemma 9.3. For every positive integer $k \leq r$, we have
\[
\mu^k(M) = |D_k(M)|.
\]

Proof. The assertion for $k = r$ is the known fact that $\mu^r(M)$ is the number of facets of $\Delta_M$ that are glued along their entire boundaries in its lexicographic shelling; see [Bjö92, Prop. 7.6.4]. The general case is obtained from the same equality applied to repeated truncations of $M$. See [HK12, Prop. 2.4] for an alternative approach using Weisner’s theorem. □

We now show that $\mu^k(M)$ is the degree of the product $\alpha^r_{M} - k \beta^k_{M}$. See Definition 5.7 for the elements $\alpha_M, \beta_M \in A^1(M)$, and Definition 5.9 for the degree map of $M$.

Lemma 9.4. For every positive integer $k \leq r$, we have
\[
\beta^k_M = \sum_{x,F} x.F \in A^*(M),
\]
where the sum is over all descending $k$-step flags of nonempty proper flats of $M$.

Proof. We prove by induction on the positive integer $k$. When $k = 1$, the assertion is precisely that $\beta_{M,0}$ represents $\beta_M$ in the Chow ring of $M$:
\[
\beta_M = \beta_{M,0} = \sum_{0 \notin F} x_F \in A^*(M).
\]
In the general case, we use the induction hypothesis for $k$ to write

$$\beta_{M}^{k+1} = \sum_{\mathcal{F}} \beta_{M} x_{\mathcal{F}},$$

where the sum is over all descending $k$-step flags of nonempty proper flats of $M$. For each of the summands $\beta_{M} x_{\mathcal{F}}$, we write

$$\mathcal{F} = \{ F_1 \subset F_2 \subset \cdots \subset F_k \},$$

and set $i_{\mathcal{F}} := \min(F_1)$.

By considering the representative of $\beta_{M}$ corresponding to the element $i_{\mathcal{F}}$, we see that

$$\beta_{M} x_{\mathcal{F}} = \left( \sum_{i_{\mathcal{F}} \notin F} x_F \right) x_{\mathcal{F}} = \sum_{\mathcal{G}} x_{\mathcal{G}},$$

where the second sum is over all descending flags of nonempty proper flats of $M$ of the form

$$\mathcal{G} = \{ F \subset F_1 \subset \cdots \subset F_k \}.$$

This completes the induction.

Combining Lemmas 9.3, 9.4, and Proposition 5.8, we see that the coefficients of the reduced characteristic polynomial of $M$ are given by the degrees of the products $\alpha_{M}^{r-k} \beta_{M}^{k}$:

**Proposition 9.5.** For every nonnegative integer $k \leq r$, we have

$$\mu^k(M) = \deg(\alpha_{M}^{r-k} \beta_{M}^{k}).$$

We illustrate the proof of the above formula for the rank 3 uniform matroid $U$ on $\{0,1,2,3\}$ with flats

$\emptyset$, \{0\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{0,1\}, \{0,2\}, \{0,3\}, \{1,2\}, \{1,3\}, \{2,3\}, \{0,1,2,3\}.$

The constant term $\mu^2(U)$ of the reduced characteristic polynomial of $U$ is 3, which is the size of the set of initial descending 2-step flags of nonempty proper flats,

$$D_2(U) = \{ \{2\} \subseteq \{1,2\}, \{3\} \subseteq \{1,3\}, \{3\} \subseteq \{2,3\} \}.$$

In the Chow ring of $U$, we have $\beta_{U,1} = \beta_{U,2} = \beta_{U,3}$ by the linear relations, and hence

$$\beta_{U}^{2} = \beta_{U}(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_{12} + x_{13} + x_{23})$$

$$= \beta_{U,1}(x_1 + x_{12} + x_{13}) + \beta_{U,2}(x_2 + x_{23}) + \beta_{U,3}(x_3)$$

$$= (x_0 + x_2 + x_3 + x_{02} + x_{03} + x_{23})(x_1 + x_{12} + x_{13})$$

$$+ (x_0 + x_1 + x_3 + x_{01} + x_{03} + x_{13})(x_2 + x_{23})$$

$$+ (x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_{01} + x_{02} + x_{12})(x_3).$$
Using the incomparability relations, we see that there are only three nonvanishing terms in the expansion of the last expression, each corresponding to one of the three initial descending flag of flats:

$$\beta^2 = x_2 x_{12} + x_3 x_{13} + x_3 x_{23}.$$ 

9.2. Now we explain why the Hodge-Riemann relations imply the log-concavity of the reduced characteristic polynomial. We first state a lemma involving inequalities among degrees of products:

**Lemma 9.6.** Let $\ell_1$ and $\ell_2$ be elements of $A^1(M)_\mathbb{R}$. If $\ell_2$ is nef, then

$$\deg(\ell_1 \ell_1 \ell_2^{r-2}) \deg(\ell_2 \ell_2 \ell_2^{r-2}) \leq \deg(\ell_1 \ell_2 \ell_2^{r-2})^2.$$ 

**Proof.** We first prove the statement when $\ell_2$ is ample. Let $Q_{\ell_2}^1 : A^1(M)_\mathbb{R} \times A^1(M)_\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, $(a_1, a_2) \mapsto -\deg(a_1 \ell_2^{r-2} a_2)$.

Theorem 8.8 for $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_M$ shows that the Chow ring $A^*(M)$ satisfies HL($\ell_2$) and HR($\ell_2$). The property HL($\ell_2$) gives the Lefschetz decomposition $A^1(M)_\mathbb{R} = \langle \ell_2 \rangle \oplus P_{\ell_2}^1(M)$, which is orthogonal with respect to the Hodge-Riemann form $Q_{\ell_2}^1$. The property HR($\ell_2$) says that $Q_{\ell_2}^1$ is negative definite on $\langle \ell_2 \rangle$ and positive definite on its orthogonal complement $P_{\ell_2}^1(M)$.

Consider the restriction of $Q_{\ell_2}^1$ to the subspace $\langle \ell_1, \ell_2 \rangle \subseteq A^1(M)_\mathbb{R}$. Either $\ell_1$ is a multiple of $\ell_2$ or the restriction of $Q_{\ell_2}^1$ is indefinite, and hence

$$\deg(\ell_1 \ell_1 \ell_2^{r-2}) \deg(\ell_2 \ell_2 \ell_2^{r-2}) \leq \deg(\ell_1 \ell_2 \ell_2^{r-2})^2.$$ 

Next we prove the statement when $\ell_2$ is nef. The discussion below Proposition 4.4 shows that the ample cone $\mathcal{K}_M$ is nonempty. Choose any ample class $\ell$, and use the assumption that $\ell_2$ is nef to deduce that

$$\ell_2(t) := \ell_2 + t \ell$$

is ample for all positive real numbers $t$.

Using the first part of the proof, we get, for any positive real number $t$,

$$\deg(\ell_1 \ell_1 \ell_2(t)^{r-2}) \deg(\ell_2(t) \ell_2(t) \ell_2(t)^{r-2}) \leq \deg(\ell_1 \ell_2(t) \ell_2(t)^{r-2})^2.$$ 

By taking the limit $t \to 0$, we obtain the desired inequality. \qed

**Lemma 9.7.** Let $M$ be a loopless matroid.

1. The element $\alpha_M$ is the class of a convex piecewise linear function on $\Sigma_M$.
2. The element $\beta_M$ is the class of a convex piecewise linear function on $\Sigma_M$.

In other words, $\alpha_M$ and $\beta_M$ are nef.
Proof. For the first assertion, it is enough to show that $\alpha_M$ is the class of a nonnegative piecewise linear function that is zero on a given cone $\sigma_{\emptyset \subset \mathcal{F}}$ in $\Sigma_M$. For this we choose an element $i$ not in any of the flats in $\mathcal{F}$. The representative $\alpha_{M,i}$ of $\alpha_M$ has the desired property.

Similarly, for the second assertion, it is enough to show that $\beta_M$ is the class of a nonnegative piecewise linear function that is zero on a given cone $\sigma_{\emptyset \subset \mathcal{F}}$ in $\Sigma_M$. For this we choose an element $i$ in the flat $\min \mathcal{F}$. The representative $\beta_{M,i}$ of $\beta_M$ has the desired property. □

Proposition 9.8. For every positive integer $k < r$, we have

$$\mu^{k-1}(M)\mu^{k+1}(M) \leq \mu^k(M)^2.$$  

Proof. We prove by induction on the rank of $M$. When $k$ is less than $r - 1$, the induction hypothesis applies to the truncation of $M$. When $k$ is $r - 1$, Proposition 9.5 shows that the assertion is equivalent to the inequality

$$\deg(\alpha^2_M \beta^{r-2}_M) \deg(\beta^2_M \beta^{r-2}_M) \leq \deg(\alpha^1_M \beta^{r-1}_M)^2.$$  

This follows from Lemma 9.6 applied to $\alpha_M$ and $\beta_M$, because $\beta_M$ is nef by Lemma 9.7. □

We conclude with the proof of the announced log-concavity results.

Theorem 9.9. Let $M$ be a matroid, and let $G$ be a graph.

(1) The coefficients of the reduced characteristic polynomial of $M$ form a log-concave sequence.

(2) The coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of $M$ form a log-concave sequence.

(3) The number of independent subsets of size $i$ of $M$ form a log-concave sequence in $i$.

(4) The coefficients of the chromatic polynomial of $G$ form a log-concave sequence.

The second item proves the aforementioned conjecture of Heron [Her72], Rota [Rot71], and Welsh [Wel76]. The third item proves the conjecture of Mason [Mas72] and Welsh [Wel71]. The last item proves the conjecture of Read [Rea68] and Hoggar [Hog74].

Proof. It follows from Proposition 9.8 that the coefficients of the reduced characteristic polynomial of $M$ form a log-concave sequence. Since the convolution of two log-concave sequences is a log-concave sequence, the coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of $M$ also form a log-concave sequence.

To justify the third assertion, we use the result of Brylawski [Bry77], [Len13] that the number of independent subsets of size $k$ of $M$ is the absolute value of the coefficient of $\lambda^{n-k}$ of the reduced characteristic polynomial of
another matroid. It follows that the number of independent subsets of size \( k \) of \( M \) form a log-concave sequence in \( k \).

For the last assertion, we recall that the chromatic polynomial of a graph is given by the characteristic polynomial of the associated graphic matroid [Wel76]. More precisely, we have

\[
\chi_G(\lambda) = \lambda^{n_G} \cdot \chi_{M_G}(\lambda),
\]

where \( n_G \) is the number of connected components of \( G \). It follows that the coefficients of the chromatic polynomial of \( G \) form a log-concave sequence. □

References


