ORIGINAL PAPER



Verlinde bundles of families of hypersurfaces and their jumping lines

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Received: 2 May 2018 / Accepted: 10 October 2018 / Published online: 17 October 2018 © The Author(s) 2018

Abstract

Verlinde bundles are vector bundles V_k arising as the direct image $\pi_*(\mathscr{L}^{\otimes k})$ of polarizations of a proper family of schemes $\pi:\mathfrak{X}\to S$. We study the splitting behavior of Verlinde bundles in the case where π is the universal family $\mathfrak{X}\to |\mathscr{O}(d)|$ of hypersurfaces of degree d in $|\mathscr{O}(d)|$ and calculate the cohomology class of the locus of jumping lines of the Verlinde bundles V_{d+1} in the cases n=2,3.

Keywords Verlinde bundles · Jumping lines · Cohomology class

Mathematics Subject Classification 14J60 · 14C15 · 14M15

1 Introduction

Let $\pi: \mathfrak{X} \to S$ be a proper family of schemes with a polarization \mathscr{L} . For $k \geq 1$, if the sheaf $\pi_*(\mathscr{L}^{\otimes k})$ is locally free, we call it the *k-th Verlinde bundle* of the family π .

For example (Iyer 2013), let $C \to T$ be a smooth projective family of curves of fixed genus. Consider the relative moduli space $\pi : \mathrm{SU}(r) \to T$ of semistable vector bundles of rank r and trivial determinant. This family is equipped with a polarization Θ , the determinant bundle. The Verlinde bundles $\pi_*(\Theta^k)$ of this family are projectively flat (Hitchin 1990; Axelrod et al. 1991), and their rank is given by the Verlinde formula.

In this article, we study the example of the universal family $\pi: \mathfrak{X} \to |\mathscr{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(d)|$ of hypersurfaces of degree d in the complex projective space \mathbb{P}^n , with n>1. This family comes equipped with the polarization \mathscr{L} given by the pullback of $\mathscr{O}(1)$ along the projection map $\mathfrak{X} \to \mathbb{P}^n$. For $k \geq 1$, the sheaf $\pi_* \mathscr{L}^{\otimes k}$ is locally free, as can be seen by considering the structure sequence of an arbitrary hypersurface of degree d in \mathbb{P}^n . For $k \geq 1$, we denote the k-th *Verlinde bundle* of the family π by V_k .

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To better understand V_k we study its splitting type when restricted to lines in $|\mathcal{O}(d)|$. Let $T \subseteq |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ be a line. On $T = \mathbb{P}^1$, we define the vector bundle $V_{k,T} \coloneqq V_k|_T$. The *splitting type* of $V_{k,T}$ is the unique non-increasing tuple $(b_1,\ldots,b_{r^{(k)}})$ of size $r^{(k)} \coloneqq \operatorname{rk} V_k$ such that $V_{k,T} \simeq \bigoplus_i \mathcal{O}(b_i)$.

Sequence (2.1) puts constraints on the b_i : they are all non-negative and they sum up to $d^{(k)} := \deg(V_k)$. The set of such tuples (b_i) can be ordered by defining the expression $(b'_i) \ge (b_i)$ to mean

$$\sum_{i=1}^{s} b_i' \ge \sum_{i=1}^{s} b_i \quad \text{for all} \quad s = 1, \dots, r.$$

With this definition, smaller types are more general: the vector bundle $\mathcal{O}(b_i)$ on \mathbb{P}^1 specializes to $\mathcal{O}(b_i')$ in the sense of Shatz (1976) if and only if $(b_i') \geq (b_i)$.

If $d^{(k)} \leq r^{(k)}$, then the most generic possible type has thus the form $(1, \ldots, 1, 0, \ldots, 0)$. We call this the *generic splitting type*. A computation shows that $d^{(k)} \leq r^{(k)}$ if $k \leq 2d$.

We have the following result on the cohomology class of the set of jumping lines

$$Z := \{ T \in \mathbb{G}r(1, |\mathcal{O}(d)|) \mid V_{d+1,T} \text{ has non-generic type} \}$$

in the Grassmannian of lines in $|\mathcal{O}(d)|$:

Theorem 1 Let $n \leq 3$, let Z be set of jumping lines of V_{d+1} , and let [Z] be the class of Z in the Chow ring $CH(\mathbb{Gr}(1, |\mathcal{O}(d)|))$. We have

$$\dim Z = n + 1 + \binom{d - 1 + n}{n}.$$

Furthermore, let b range over the integers with the property $0 \le b < \frac{\dim Z}{2}$ and define $a = \dim Z - b$, $a' = a + \frac{\operatorname{codim} Z - \dim Z}{2}$, $b' = b + \frac{\operatorname{codim} Z - \dim Z}{2}$.

1. If dim Z is odd or n = 2, we have

$$[Z] = \sum_{a,b} \left(\binom{a+1}{n} \binom{b+1}{n} - \binom{a+2}{n} \binom{b}{n} \right) \sigma_{a',b'}. \tag{1.1}$$

2. If dim Z is even and n = 3, we have

$$\begin{split} [Z] \; &= \sum_{a,b} \left(\binom{a+1}{n} \binom{b+1}{n} - \binom{a+2}{n} \binom{b}{n} \right) \sigma_{a',b'} \\ &\quad + \binom{\dim Z}{2} + 2 \choose n} \left(\frac{\dim Z}{n} \right) \sigma_{\dim Z} \cdot \frac{\dim Z}{2} \,. \end{split}$$

The computation is carried out by the method of undetermined coefficients, leading into various calculations in the Chow ring of the Grassmannian. The assumption $n \le 3$ is needed for a certain dimension estimation.



2 Attained splitting types

There exists a short exact sequence of vector bundles on $|\mathcal{O}(d)|$

$$0 \to \mathcal{O}(-1) \otimes H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(k-d)) \xrightarrow{M} \mathcal{O} \otimes H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(k)) \to V_k \to 0, \quad (2.1)$$

as can be seen by taking the pushforward of a twist of the structure sequence of \mathfrak{X} on $\mathbb{P}^n \times |\mathcal{O}(d)|$. The map M is given by multiplication by the section

$$\sum_{I}\alpha_{I}\otimes x^{I}\in H^{0}(\left|\mathcal{O}(d)\right|,\mathcal{O}(1))\otimes H^{0}(\mathbb{P}^{n},\mathcal{O}(d)).$$

In particular, we have $r^{(k)} = {k+n \choose n} - {k+n-d \choose n}$ and $d^{(k)} = {k+n-d \choose n}$.

Lemma 1 Let \mathscr{E} be a free $\mathscr{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}$ -module of finite rank, and let

$$0 \to \mathcal{E}' \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathcal{E}'' \to 0$$

be a short exact sequence of $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}$ -modules. Given a splitting $\mathcal{E}'' = \mathcal{E}_1'' \oplus \mathcal{O}$, we may construct a splitting $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_1 \oplus \mathcal{O}$ such that the image of φ is contained in \mathcal{E}_1 .

Proof Define $\mathscr{E}_1 := \ker(\operatorname{pr}_2 \circ \psi)$, which is a locally free sheaf on \mathbb{P}^1 . By comparing determinants in the short exact sequence $0 \to \mathscr{E}_1 \to \mathscr{E} \to \mathscr{O} \to 0$ we see that \mathscr{E}_1 is free, hence by an Ext^1 computation the sequence splits. The property $\operatorname{im}(\varphi) \subseteq \mathscr{E}_1$ follows from the definition.

Proposition 1 Let $f_1, f_2 \in |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ span the line $T \subseteq |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ and let p be the number of zero entries in the splitting type of $V_{k,T}$. We have

$$p = \dim H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(k)) - \dim(f_1 U + f_2 U).$$

Proof Note that the map $M|_T$ sends a local section $\xi \otimes \theta$ to $s\xi \otimes f_1\theta + t\xi \otimes f_2\theta$. In particular, the image of $\mathscr{O}(-1) \otimes U$ is contained in $\mathscr{O} \otimes (f_1U + f_2U)$. It follows that $p \geq \dim H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathscr{O}(k)) - \dim(f_1U + f_2U)$.

To prove the other inequality, consider the induced sequence

$$0 \to \mathscr{O}(-1) \otimes U \xrightarrow{M|_T} \mathscr{O} \otimes (f_1U + f_2U) \to \mathscr{E}'' \to 0$$

and assume for a contradiction that $\mathscr{E}'' \simeq \mathscr{E}_1'' \oplus \mathscr{O}$. By Lemma 1, we have a splitting $\mathscr{O} \otimes (f_1U + f_2U) \simeq \mathscr{E}_1 \oplus \mathscr{O}$ such that $\operatorname{im}(M|_T) \subseteq \mathscr{E}_1$.

Consider the map $\widetilde{M}|_T$: $(\mathscr{O} \otimes U) \oplus (\mathscr{O} \otimes U) \to \mathscr{O} \otimes (f_1U + f_2U)$ defined by

$$\widetilde{M}|_T(a \otimes \theta_1, b \otimes \theta_2) = a \otimes f_1\theta_1 + b \otimes f_2\theta_2.$$

We obtain the matrix description of $\widetilde{M}|_T$ from the matrix description of $M|_T$ as follows. If $M|_T$ is represented by the matrix A with coefficients $A_{i,j} = \lambda_{i,j} s + \mu_{i,j} t$, then $\widetilde{M}|_T$ is represented by a block matrix

$$B = (A'|A'')$$

with $A'_{i,j} = \lambda_{i,j}$ and $A''_{i,j} = \mu_{i,j}$.

The property $\operatorname{im}(M|_T) \subseteq \mathscr{E}_1$ implies that after some row operations, the matrix A has a zero row. By the construction of $\widetilde{M}|_T$, the same row operations lead to the matrix B having a zero row, but this is a contradiction, since the map $\widetilde{M}|_T$ is surjective. \square

Corollary 1 Let $T \subseteq |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ be a line spanned by the polynomials f_1 , f_2 . Assume that $d^{(k)} \leq r^{(k)}$. Let θ range over a monomial basis of $H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(k-d))$. The bundle $V_{k,T}$ has the generic splitting type if and only if $\langle f_1\theta, f_2\theta \mid \theta \rangle$ is a linearly independent set in $H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(k))$.

Corollary 2 Let $T \subseteq |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ be a line spanned by the polynomials f_1 , f_2 , and let $d^{(k)} \le r^{(k)}$. The bundle $V_{k,T}$ has not the generic type if and only if $\deg(\gcd(f_1, f_2)) \ge 2d - k$. In particular, if $d^{(k)} \le r^{(k)}$ but k > 2d then the generic type never occurs.

Proof By Corollary 1, the bundle $V_{k,t}$ has non-generic type if and only if there exist linearly independent $g_1, g_2 \in H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(k-d))$ such that $g_1f_1 + g_2f_2 = 0$. Let $h := \gcd(f_1, f_2)$ and $d' := \deg h$.

If $d' \ge 2d - k$ then $\deg(f_i/h) \le k - d$ and we may take g_1, g_2 to be multiples of f_1/h and f_2/h , respectively.

On the other hand, given such g_1 and g_2 , we have $f_1 \mid g_2 f_2$, which implies $f_1/h \mid g_2$, hence $d - d' \le k - d$.

Proposition 2 Let k = d + 1. No types of V_k other than (1, ..., 1, 0, ..., 0) and (2, 1, ..., 1, 0, ..., 0) occur.

Proof Assume that the type of V_k at some line (f_1, f_2) is other than the two above. Then the type has at least two more zero entries than the general type. By Proposition 1, we have $\dim \langle f_1\theta, f_2\theta \mid \theta \rangle \leq 2d^{(k)} - 2$, so we find $g_1, g_2, g_1', g_2' \in H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(1))$ and two linearly independent equations

$$g_1 f_1 + g_2 f_2 = 0$$

 $g'_1 f_1 + g'_2 f_2 = 0$,

with both sets (g_1, g_2) , (g'_1, g'_2) linearly independent. From the first equation it follows that $f_1 = g_2 h$ and $f_2 = -g_1 h$, for some common factor h. Applying this to the second equation, we find $g'_1 g_2 = g'_2 g_1$, hence $g'_1 = \alpha g_1$ and $g'_2 = \alpha g_2$ for some scalar α , a contradiction.

Corollary 3 Let k = d + 1, let $T \subset |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ be a line spanned by f_1, f_2 . The type $(2, 1, \ldots, 1, 0, \ldots, 0)$ occurs if and only if $\deg(\gcd(f_1, f_2) \ge d - 1$.



3 The cohomology class of the set of jumping lines

Definition 1 Let $k \ge 1$ and (b_i) be a splitting type for V_k . We define the set $Z_{(b_i)}$ of all points $t \in \mathbb{G}r(1, |\mathcal{O}(d)|)$ such that $V_{k,t}$ has splitting type (b_i) . For the set of points t where $V_{k,t}$ has generic splitting type, we also write Z_{gen} , and define the *set of jumping lines* $Z := \mathbb{G}r(1, |\mathcal{O}(d)|) \setminus Z_{\text{gen}}$.

Now let k = d + 1. By Corollary 3, Z is the subvariety given as the image of the finite, generically injective multiplication map

$$\varphi \colon \mathbb{G}\mathrm{r}(1, |\mathcal{O}(1)|) \times |\mathcal{O}(d-1)| \to \mathbb{G}\mathrm{r}(1, |\mathcal{O}(d)|)$$

sending the tuple $((sg_1 + tg_2)_{(s:t) \in \mathbb{P}^1}, h)$ to the line $(shg_1 + thg_2)_{(s:t) \in \mathbb{P}^1}$.

To perform calculations in the Chow ring A of $\mathbb{G}r(1, |\mathcal{O}(d)|)$, we follow the conventions found in Eisenbud and Harris (2016). We assume $\operatorname{char}(k) = 0$ for simplicity. Let $N := \dim H^0(\mathcal{O}(d)) = \binom{n+d}{n}$. For $N-2 \ge a \ge b$, we have the Schubert cycle

$$\Sigma_{a,b} := \{ T \in \mathbb{G}r(1, |\mathcal{O}(d)|) : T \cap H \neq \emptyset, T \subseteq H' \},$$

where $(H \subset H')$ is a general flag of linear subspaces of dimension N-a-2 resp. N-b-1 in the projective space $|\mathcal{O}(d)|$. The ring A is generated by the Schubert classes $\sigma_{a,b}$ of the cycles $\Sigma_{a,b}$. The class $\Sigma_{a,b}$ has codimension a+b, and we use the convention $\sigma_a := \sigma_{a,0}$.

Proof (of Theorem 1) We have dim $Z = n + 1 + {d-1+n \choose n}$ since Z is the image of the generically injective map φ .

Let $Q \subset |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ be the image of the multiplication map

$$f: |\mathcal{O}(1)| \times |\mathcal{O}(d-1)| \to |\mathcal{O}(d)|$$
.

The map f is birational on its image, since a general point of Q has the form gh with h irreducible. The Chow group $A^{\operatorname{codim} Z}$ is generated by the classes $\sigma_{a',b'}$ with $N-2 \geq a' \geq b' \geq \lfloor \frac{\operatorname{codim} Z}{2} \rfloor$ and $a'+b' = \operatorname{codim} Z$, while the complementary group $A^{\dim Z}$ is generated by the classes $\sigma_{\dim Z-b,b}$ with $b \in 0,\ldots,\lfloor \frac{\dim Z}{2} \rfloor$. Write

$$[Z] = \sum_{a',b'} \alpha_{a',b'} \sigma_{a',b'}.$$

We have $\sigma_{a',b'}\sigma_{a,b}=1$ if $b'-b=\lfloor\frac{\operatorname{codim} Z}{2}\rfloor$ and 0 else. Hence, multiplying the above equation with the complementary classes $\sigma_{a,b}$ and taking degrees gives

$$\alpha_{a'b'} = \deg([Z] \cdot \sigma_{ab}).$$

Using Giambelli's formula $\sigma_{a,b} = \sigma_a \sigma_b - \sigma_{a+1} \sigma_{b-1}$ (Eisenbud and Harris 2016, Prop. 4.16), we reduce to computing $\deg([Z] \cdot \sigma_a \sigma_b)$ for $0 \le b \le \lfloor \frac{\dim Z}{2} \rfloor$. By Kleiman transversality, we have



$$\deg([Z] \cdot \sigma_a \sigma_b) = |\{T \in Z : T \cap H \neq \emptyset, T \cap H' \neq \emptyset\}|,$$

where H and H' are general linear subspaces of $|\mathcal{O}(d)|$ of dimension N-a-2 and N-b-2, respectively.

To a point $p = g_p h_p \in Q$ with $g_p \in |\mathcal{O}(1)|$ and $h_p \in |\mathcal{O}(d-1)|$, associate a closed reduced subscheme $\Lambda_p \subset Q$ containing p as follows. If h_p is irreducible, let Λ_p be the image of the linear embedding $|\mathcal{O}(1)| \times \{h_p\} \to |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ given by $g \mapsto g h_p$.

If h_p is reducible, define the subscheme Λ_p as the union $\bigcup_h \operatorname{im}(|\mathcal{O}(1)| \times \{h\} \to |\mathcal{O}(d)|)$, where h ranges over the (up to multiplication by units) finitely many divisors of p of degree d-1.

Note that for all points p, the spaces $\operatorname{im}(|\mathscr{O}(1)| \times \{h\} \to |\mathscr{O}(d)|)$ meet exactly at p.

By the definition of Z, all lines $T \in Z$ lie in Q. Furthermore, if T meets the point p, then $T \subseteq \Lambda_p$. For $H \subseteq |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ a linear subspace of dimension N-a-2, define $Q' := H \cap Q$. For general H, the subscheme Q' is a smooth subvariety of dimension b-n+1 such that for a general point p=gh of Q' with $h \in |\mathcal{O}(d)|$, the polynomial h is irreducible.

Next, we consider the case n = 2 or dim Z odd.

Claim For genereal H, for each point $p \in Q'$ we have $\Lambda_p \cap H = \{p\}$.

Proof (of Claim) Let \mathcal{H} denote the Grassmannian $Gr(\dim H + 1, N)$. Define the closed subset $X \subseteq Q \times \mathcal{H}$ by

$$X := \{(p, H) : \dim(H \cap \Lambda_p) \ge 1\}.$$

The fibers of the induced map $X \to \mathcal{H}$ have dimension at least one. Hence, to prove that the desired condition on H is an open condition, it suffices to prove $\dim(X) \le \dim(\mathcal{H})$.

The fiber of the map $X \to Q$ over a point p consists of the union of finitely many closed subsets of the form $X_p' = \{H \in \mathcal{H} : \dim(H \cap \Lambda_p') \ge 1\}$, where $\Lambda_p' \simeq \mathbb{P}^n \subseteq |\mathcal{O}(d)|$ is one of the components of Λ_p . The space X_p' is a Schubert cycle

$$\Sigma_{\dim Q-b,\dim Q-b} = \{ H \in \operatorname{Gr}(\dim H + 1, N) : \dim(H \cap H_{n+1}) \ge 2 \},$$

with H_{n+1} an (n+1)-dimensional subspace of $H^0(\mathcal{O}(d))$. The codimension of the cycle is $2(\dim Q - b)$, hence also $\operatorname{codim}(X_p) = 2(\dim Q - b)$. Finally, we have $\dim(\mathcal{H}) - \dim(X) = \operatorname{codim}(X_p) - \dim(Q) = \dim Q - 2b$.

If dim Z is odd, then dim $Q - 2b \ge \dim Q - \dim Z + 1 = 3 - n \ge 0$. If n = 2, we instead estimate dim $Q - 2b \ge \dim Q - \dim Z = 2 - n \ge 0$.

Next, let

$$\varLambda := \bigcup_{p \in Q'} \varLambda_p = f(|\mathcal{O}(1)| \times \operatorname{pr}_2 f^{-1}(Q'))$$



and

$$\Lambda'' := |\mathcal{O}(1)| \times \operatorname{pr}_2 f^{-1}(Q').$$

By the choice of H, the map $f^{-1}(Q') \to Q'$ is birational and the map $f^{-1}(Q') \to \operatorname{pr}_2 f^{-1}(Q')$ is even bijective. It follows that Λ'' and hence Λ have dimension b+1.

The intersection of Λ with a general linear subspace H' of dimension N-b-2 is a finite set of points. For each point $p \in Q'$, the linear subspace H' intersects each component Λ'_p of Λ_p in at most one point. For each point $p' \in H' \cap \Lambda$ there exists a unique p such that $p' \in \Lambda_p$.

The only line $T \in Z$ meeting both p and H' is the one through p and p'. If the intersection $H' \cap \Lambda_p$ is empty, then there will be no line meeting p and H'. Hence, $\deg([Z] \cdot \sigma_a \sigma_b)$ is the number of intersection points of Λ with a general H'.

Finally, the pre-image $f^{-1}(Q') = f^{-1}(H)$ is smooth for a general H by Bertini's Theorem. If ζ is the class of a hyperplane section of $|\mathcal{O}(d)|$ we have $f^*(\zeta) = \alpha + \beta$, where α and β are classes of hyperplane sections of $|\mathcal{O}(1)|$ and $|\mathcal{O}(d)|$, respectively. Since pr₂ and f have degree one, we compute

$$[\Lambda''] = [\operatorname{pr}_2^{-1} \operatorname{pr}_2 f^{-1}(H)] = \operatorname{pr}_2^* \operatorname{pr}_{2,*} f^*[H] = \binom{\operatorname{codim} H}{n} \beta^{\operatorname{codim} H - n}.$$

Hence, by the push–pull formula:

$$\begin{split} \deg([\Lambda] \cdot H') &= \deg([\Lambda''] \cdot (\alpha + \beta)^{\operatorname{codim} H'}) \\ &= \binom{\operatorname{codim} H}{n} \binom{\operatorname{codim} H'}{n} = \binom{a+1}{n} \binom{b+1}{n}. \end{split}$$

We then use Giambelli's formula to obtain Eq. 1.1.

In case n=3 and dim Z even, we show that for $b=\dim Z/2$ we have $\deg([Z]\cdot\sigma_{b,b})=0$. In this case, the hyperplanes H and H' have the same dimension N-b-2. For $p\in Q$, the set Λ_p is defined as before.

Claim for general H of dimension N-b-2, we have $\dim(\Lambda_p \cap H) = 1$.

Proof (of Claim) Define as before the closed subset $X \subseteq Q \times \mathcal{H}$ by

$$X := \{(p, H) : \dim(H \cap \Lambda_p) \ge 1\}.$$

The generic fiber of the projection map $\varphi \colon X \to \mathscr{H}$ is one-dimensional, hence we have $\dim \varphi(X) = \dim(X) - 1 = \dim \mathscr{H}$. The last equation holds with n = 3 and $2b = \dim Z$. Hence for all $H \in \mathscr{H}$ we have $\dim(\Lambda_p \cap H) \geq 1$.

On the other hand, the equality $\dim(\Lambda_p \cap H) = 1$ is attained by some, and hence by a general, H. Indeed, Define the closed subset $X \subseteq Q \times \mathcal{H}$ by

$$X := \{(p, H) : \dim(H \cap \Lambda_p) \ge 1\}.$$



By a similar argument as before, one needs to show that $\dim(\mathcal{H}) - \dim(X) + 1 \ge 0$. The fiber X_p is a Schubert cycle of codimension $3(\dim Q - b + 1)$. Lastly, a computation shows $\dim(\mathcal{H}) - \dim(\widetilde{X}) + 1 = \operatorname{codim}(\widetilde{X}_p) - \dim(Q) + 1 = \frac{1}{2}(2\dim Q + 18 - 5n) \ge 0$.

Now, define Λ'' as above. We have dim $\Lambda'' = \dim |\mathscr{O}(1)| + \dim \operatorname{pr}_2 f^{-1}(Q') = b$. Since f is generically of degree one, we still have dim $\Lambda'' = \Lambda$, hence dim $\Lambda + \dim H' = N - 2 < \dim |\mathscr{O}(d)|$. It follows that a generic H' does not meet any of the lines $T \subset Z$, hence $\sigma_b \sigma_b \cdot [Z] = 0$.

Acknowledgements Open access funding provided by Max Planck Society. This work is a condensed version of my Master's thesis, supervised by Daniel Huybrechts. I would like to take the opportunity to thank him for his mentorship during the writing of the thesis, as well as for his help during the preparation of this article.

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