SYMMETRIC CORRESPONDENCES ON QUADRICS

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ABSTRACT. We prove a result comparing the rationality of some *elementary* algebraic cycles introduced by Alexander Vishik, defined on orthogonal grassmannians, with the rationality of some algebraic cycles defined on fiber products of the corresponding quadric.

Keywords: Chow groups, quadratic forms, orthogonal flag varieties.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Let X be a smooth projective quadric of dimension n over a field F associated with a non-degenerate F-quadratic form q and let K/F be a splitting field extension of q. Let us denote $[n/2]$ as d. In his paper [4] dedicated to the Kaplansky's conjecture on the u-invariant of a field, Alexander Vishik introduced the so-called *Elementary Discrete Invariant*. This invariant encodes information about rationality of algebraic cycles on the $d+1$ orthogonal grassmannians associated with q, by means of certain *elementary classes* defined on these grassmannians over K: it is the collection of the codimensions of those elementary classes that are already defined at the level of the base field F (such an algebraic cycle is called *rational*).

In the current note, we relate the rationality of the *highest* elementary classes (highest in the sense that, for each grassmannian, the highest elementary class is the one with maximal codimension) with the rationality of certain algebraic cycles defined on some fiber products $X \times X \times \cdots \times X$.

More precisely, for any $I \subset \{0, \ldots, d\}$, we write $\mathcal{F}(I)$ for the partial orthogonal flag variety associated with q. So, for any $i \in \{0, \ldots, d\}$, the variety $\mathcal{F}(i)$ is the grassmannian of i-dimensional totally isotropic subspaces and we denote it by G_i. In particular G_0 is the quadric X. For $J \subset I$, we write π with subindex I with J underlined inside it for the

natural projection $\mathcal{F}(I) \to \mathcal{F}(J)$. In particular, for any $i \in \{0, \ldots, d\}$, one can consider

$$X \xleftarrow[\pi_{(\underline{0},i)}]{} \mathcal{F}(0,i) \xrightarrow[\pi_{(0,\underline{i})}]{} G_i,$$

and we set

$$Z_{n-i}^i := \pi_{(0,\underline{i})_*} \circ \pi_{(\underline{0},i)}^*(l_0) \in \mathrm{CH}^{n-i}(G_{iK}),$$

where $l_0 \in \mathrm{CH}_0(X_K)$ is the class of a closed point of X_K of degree 1 and CH stands for the Chow ring with $\mathbb{Z}$-coefficients. The cycle $z_{n-i}^i := Z_{n-i}^i \pmod 2 \in \mathrm{Ch}^{n-i}(G_{iK})$ is the highest elementary class for the grassmannian G_i (with Ch the Chow ring with $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$-coefficients). A. Vishik proved in [4, Proposition 2.5] that the rationality of z_{n-i}^i implies the rationality of z_{n-j}^j for any $j > i$.

We now introduce the other type of algebraic cycles coming into play in the main statement of the present paper (Theorem 1.1). For any $i \in \{0, \ldots, d\}$, let us denote by sym : $\mathrm{CH}^*(X^{i+1}) \to \mathrm{CH}^*(X^{i+1})$ the homomorphism $\Sigma_{s \in S_{i+1}} s_*$, where $s : X^{i+1} \to X^{i+1}$ is the isomorphism associated with a permutation s. We set

$$\rho_i := \mathrm{sym}\left((\times_{j=0}^{i-1} h^j) \times l_0\right) \in \mathrm{CH}^{n+i(i-1)/2}(X_K^{i+1}),$$

where $\times$ is the external product and h^j is the j-th power of the hyperplane section class $h \in \mathrm{CH}^1(X)$ (always rational). Note that ρ_1 is the *Rost correspondence* $1 \times l_0 + l_0 \times 1$ of X in the sense of [1, §80] (we refer to [1, §62] for an introduction to correspondences). Note that the rationality of ρ_i implies the rationality of ρ_j for any $j > i$. Note also that $\rho_0 = l_0 = Z_n^0$.

The main result of this paper is the following statement

Theorem 1.1 (Main Theorem). *Let $i \in \{0, \ldots, d\}$. The cycle z_{n-i}^i is rational if and only if the cycle $\rho_i \pmod 2$ is rational.*

The existence of an algebraic cycle on X^{i+1} satifying such an equivalence is predicted by the motivic decomposition [1, Corollary 91.8]. Theorem 1.1 reduces certain questions about rationality of algebraic cycles on orthogonal grassmannians to the sole level of quadrics. For example, it allows one to reformulate Vishik Conjecture [3, Conjecture 3.11] and this reformulation may help prove the conjecture.

The proofs in the present note mainly rely on computations of compositions of correspondences and the use of Chern classes of vector bundles over orthogonal grassmannians.

In section 2, we introduce some materials which will be required to prove Theorem 1.1 in sections 3 and 5. In section 4, we apply Theorem 1.1 (actually, only the direct implication is needed) to relate the first Witt index of the quadric with the rationality of the cycle z_{n-i}^i (Proposition 4.1).

2. Materials

In this section, we use notations introduced in the introduction.

2.1. **Rational cycles on powers of quadrics.** We refer to [1, §68] for an introduction to cycles on powers of quadrics. For any $i \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$, we set

$$\Delta_i := \mathrm{sym}\left((\times_{j=1}^{i-1} h^j) \times 1 \times l_0\right) + \sum_{k=i}^{d} \mathrm{sym}\left((\times_{j=1}^{i-1} h^j) \times h^k \times l_k\right) \in \mathrm{CH}^{n+i(i-1)/2}(X_K^{i+1}).$$

where l_k is the class in $\mathrm{CH}_k(X_K)$ of a k-dimensional totally isotropic subspace of $\mathbb{P}\left((V_q)_K\right)$ (with V_q the F-vector space associated with q). If $n = 2d$, we choose an orientation l_d of the quadric.

The following observation is crucial for our matter (it will be used in Corollary 3.15 to obtain the first part Theorem 1.1).

Lemma 2.1. *For any* $i \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$, *the cycle* $\Delta_i \pmod 2 \in \mathrm{Ch}^{n+i(i-1)/2}(X_K^{i+1})$ *is rational.*

Proof. We use an induction on i. In $\mathrm{Ch}^n(X_K^2)$, the cycle $\Delta_1 \pmod 2$ or $\Delta_1 \pmod 2 + h^d \times h^d$, depending on whether $l_d^2 = 0$ or not, is the class of the diagonal. Hence, $\Delta_1 \pmod 2$ is rational. Assume $\Delta_{i-1} \pmod 2$ rational and let $\sigma \in S_{i+1}$ be a cyclic permutation ($i \geq 2$). Then the cycle

$$(2.2) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{i} \sigma_*^j(\Delta_{i-1} \times h^{i-1}) = \mathrm{sym}\left((\times_{j=1}^{i-1} h^j) \times 1 \times l_0\right) + \sum_{k=i-1}^{d} \mathrm{sym}\left((\times_{j=1}^{i-1} h^j) \times h^k \times l_k\right)$$

is congruent modulo 2 to a rational cycle. Moreover, the integral cycle

$$(2.3) \quad \mathrm{sym}\left((\times_{j=1}^{i-1} h^j) \times h^{i-1} \times l_{i-1}\right)$$

is always rational (and divisible by 2). Indeed, since h^{i-1} appears exactly two times in every summand of (2.3), each distinct summand appears exactly two times, therefore it can be rewritten as

$$2 \sum_{s \in A_{i+1}} s_*((\times_{j=1}^{i-1} h^j) \times h^{i-1} \times l_{i-1}),$$

and one has $2l_{i-1} = h^{n-i+1}$. Since Δ_i is the difference of (2.2) and (2.3), one get the conclusion. $\square$

2.2. **Cycles on orthogonal flag varieties.** For $0 \leq i \leq d$ and $n - i - d \leq j \leq n - i$, we set

$$Z_j^i := \pi_{(0,\underline{i})_*} \circ \pi_{(\underline{0},i)}^*(l_{n-i-j}) \in \mathrm{CH}^j(G_{iK})$$

and $z_j^i := Z_j^i \pmod 2 \in \mathrm{Ch}^j(G_{iK})$ (denoted respectively as $Z_j^{\boxed{i-d}}$ and $z_j^{\boxed{i-d}}$ in [4]). The cycles z_j^i are all the elementary classes defining the Elementary Discrete Invariant $EDI(X)$.

For any nonnegative integer j and $i > 0$ such that $j + i \leq d$, we set

$$W_j^i := \pi_{(0,\underline{i})_*} \circ \pi_{(\underline{0},i)}^*(h^{j+i}) \in \mathrm{CH}^j(G_i),$$

$W_j^0 := h^j$ and $w_j^i := W_j^i \pmod 2 \in \mathrm{Ch}^j(G_i)$ (denoted respectively as $W_j^{\boxed{i-d}}$ and $w_j^{\boxed{i-d}}$ in [4]).

The proofs in the next sections will use the following lemma, which can easily be deduced from [4, Propositon 2.1 and Lemma 2.6] and its proofs. For $0 \leq i \leq d$, let us denote by T_i the tautological vector bundle on G_i, i.e. T_i is given by the closed subvariety of the trivial bundle $V\mathbb{1} = V_q \times G_i$ consisting of pairs (u, U) such that $u \in U$. For a vector bundle E over a scheme, we write $c_i(E)$ for the i-th Chern class with value in CH.

Lemma 2.4 (Vishik). *One has*

(i) $\pi_{(0,\underline{i})_*} \circ \pi^*_{(\underline{0},i)}(h^i) = W_0^i = [G_i]$;

(ii)
$$\pi^*_{(\underline{i-1},i)}(Z_j^{i-1}) = c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \cdot \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{j-1}^i) + \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_j^i),$$

where $\mathcal{O}(1)$ is the standard sheaf on the projective bundle $\mathcal{F}(i-1,i) = \mathbb{P}_{G_{i-1}}(T_i^\vee)$, with $T_i^\vee$ the vector bundle dual to T_i;

(iii) *For $0 \leq j < d - i + 1$,*
$$\pi^*_{(\underline{i-1},i)}(W_j^{i-1}) = c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \cdot \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{j-1}^i) + \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_j^i);$$

(iv)
$$\pi^*_{(\underline{i-1},i)}(W_{d-i+1}^{i-1}) = c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \cdot \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{d-i}^i) + 2\pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{d-i+1}^i).$$

The following statement is a direct consequence of the previous lemma.

Lemma 2.5. *For any $1 \leq i \leq d$, $i \leq k \leq d$ and $0 \leq m \leq k$, one has*

$$\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{k-i}^i \cdot Z_{n-i-m}^i) = \sum_{j=\max(i-m,0)}^{\min(k-m,i)} W_{k-m-j}^{i-1} \cdot \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{n-2i+j}^i).$$

Proof. We proceed by induction on k. The base of the induction $k = i$ is obvious. Let $i < k \leq d$ and $0 \leq m \leq k$. By Lemma 2.4(iii), one has

$$\pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{k-i}^i \cdot Z_{n-i-m}^i) = \left(\pi^*_{(\underline{i-1},i)}(W_{k-i}^{i-1}) - c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \cdot \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{k-i-1}^i) \right) \cdot \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{n-i-m}^i).$$

Hence, by the Projection Formula, the cycle $\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{k-i}^i \cdot Z_{n-i-m}^i)$ is equal to

$$W_{k-i}^{i-1} \cdot \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{n-i-m}^i) - \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \left(\pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{k-i-1}^i) \cdot c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \cdot \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{n-i-m}^i) \right).$$

For $m = 0$, one has $c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \cdot \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{n-i-m}^i) = \pi^*_{(\underline{i-1},i)}(Z_{n-i-m+1}^{i-1})$ by Lemma 2.4(ii). Therefore, it follows from the Projection Formula that $\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{k-i}^i \cdot Z_{n-i}^i)$ can be rewritten as

$$W_{k-i}^{i-1} \cdot \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{n-i}^i) - Z_{n-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{k-i-1}^i).$$

Moreover, the cycle $\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{k-i-1}^i)$ is trivial by dimensional reasons. Thus, for $m = 0$, one obtains the desired formula. Assume that $m > 0$. Then, by Lemma 2.4(ii), one has $c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \cdot \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{n-i-m}^i) = \pi^*_{(\underline{i-1},i)}(Z_{n-i-m+1}^{i-1}) - \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{n-i-m+1}^i)$. Therefore, it follows from the Projection Formula and the same dimensional considerations as in the case $m = 0$, that the cycle $\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{k-i}^i \cdot Z_{n-i-m}^i)$ can be rewritten as

$$W_{k-i}^{i-1} \cdot \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z_{n-i-m}^i) + \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W_{(k-1)-i}^i \cdot Z_{n-i-(m-1)}^i).$$

By the induction hypothesis, the second summand of the latter sum is equal to

$$\sum_{j=\max(i-m+1,0)}^{\min(k-m,i)} W_{k-m-j}^{i-1} \cdot \pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(Z_{n-2i+j}^i).$$

Since $\pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(Z_{n-i-m}^i) = 0$ if $m > i$ (by dimensional reasons), one obtains the desired formula for $\pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(W_{k-i}^i \cdot Z_{n-i-m}^i)$. $\qquad\square$

Finally, the following description of the Chern classes modulo 2 of the tautological vector bundles on orthogonal grassmannians will be needed.

Lemma 2.6. *For any $1 \leq i \leq d$ and $0 \leq j \leq i$, one has*

$$c_j(T_{i-1}) \;(\mathrm{mod}\; 2) = \pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(z_{n-2i+j}^i)$$

in $\mathrm{Ch}^j(G_{i-1K})$.

Proof. We use an induction on j. Since $Z_{n-2i}^i = \pi_{(0,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(0,i)}^*(l_i)$, the cycle $\pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(Z_{n-2i}^i)$ is the class in $\mathrm{CH}\,(\mathcal{F}(i-1,i)_K)$ of the closure of $\{(y, <y, x>)|x \in (y^\perp \backslash y) \cap L_i\}$ in $\mathcal{F}(i-1,i)_K$, with L_i a fixed i-dimensional totally isotropic subspace of $\mathbb{P}((V_q)_K)$. Consequently, one has $\pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(Z_{n-2i}^i) = 1$. Let $1 \leq j \leq i$. By [4, Proposition 2.1], for any $l > d-i+1$, the element $c_l(V\mathbb{1}/T_{i-1})$ is divisible by 2 in $\mathrm{CH}^l(G_{i-1K})$. Therefore, by Whitney Sum Formula ([1, Proposition 54.7]), the Chern class $c_j(T_{i-1})$ is congruent modulo 2 to

$$c_j(V\mathbb{1}/T_{i-1}) + \sum_{k=\max(1,j-d+i-1)}^{j-1} c_{j-k}(V\mathbb{1}/T_{i-1}) \cdot c_k(T_{i-1}).$$

By the induction hypothesis and [4, Proposition 2.1], the latter cycle is congruent modulo 2 to

$$(2.7) \qquad c_j(V\mathbb{1}/T_{i-1}) + \sum_{k=\max(1,j-d+i-1)}^{j-1} W_{j-k}^{i-1} \cdot \pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(Z_{n-2i+k}^i).$$

Moreover, by Lemma 2.5, one has

$$(2.8)\;\; \pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(W_{d-i}^i \cdot Z_{n-i-d+j}^i) = \sum_{k=\max(j-d+i,0)}^{j} W_{j-k}^{i-1} \cdot \pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(Z_{n-2i+k}^i).$$

If $j - d + i - 1 < 0$, combining (2.7), (2.8), [4, Proposition 2.1] and the base of the induction, one get that $c_j(T_{i-1})$ is congruent modulo 2 to

$$\pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(Z_{n-2i+j}^i) + \pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(W_{d-i}^i \cdot Z_{n-i-d+j}^i).$$

Furthermore, by applying Lemma 2.4(iv) after Lemma 2.4(ii) and using the Projection Formula combined with dimensional considerations (recall that $j > 0$, so $i < d$), one obtains

$$(2.9) \qquad \pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(w_{d-i}^i \cdot z_{n-i-d+j}^i) = w_{d-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot \pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(z_{n-i-d+j-1}^i).$$

Since $j - d + i - 1 < 0$, the cycle $\pi_{(i-1,i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,i)}^*(Z_{n-i-d+j-1}^i)$ is trivial by dimensional reasons.

If $j - d + i - 1 = 0$, combining (2.7), (2.8) and [4, Proposition 2.1], one get that $c_{d-i+1}(T_{i-1})$ is congruent modulo 2 to

$$\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(Z^i_{n-3i+d+1}) + W^{i-1}_{d-i+1} + \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi^*_{(i-1,\underline{i})}(W^i_{d-i} \cdot Z^i_{n-2i+1})$$

and the two last summands of the previous cycle are equal modulo 2 by identity (2.9) (valid for any $1 \le j \le d$) and the base of the induction.

Otherwise – if $j - d + i - 1 > 0$ – one proceeds similarly combining (2.7) with (2.8) and using identity (2.9).

<div style="text-align:right">□</div>

3. Proof of the first part of Main Theorem

We use notations and materials introduced in sections 1 and 2. For any $i \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$, we denote by θ_i the class of the subvariety

$$\{(y, x_1, \ldots, x_{i+1}) \mid x_1, \ldots x_{i+1} \in y\} \subset G_i \times X^{i+1}$$

in $\text{CH}(G_i \times X^{i+1})$. Viewing the cycle θ_i as a correspondence $G_i \rightsquigarrow X^{i+1}$, we set

$$\alpha_i := (\theta_i)_*(Z^i_{n-i}) + \rho_i \in \text{CH}(X^{i+1}_K),$$

and we view α_i as a correspondence $X_K \rightsquigarrow X^i_K$.

The following computations are the key point in the proof of the first part of Theorem 1.1 (see Corollary 3.15).

Proposition 3.1. *For any $i \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$, one has*

$$(\alpha_i \ (\mathrm{mod}\ 2))_* (h^k) = \begin{cases} \text{sym}\left((\times^{i-1}_{j=1} h^j) \times 1\right) & \text{if } k = 0; \\ 0 & \text{if } 1 \le k \le i-1; \\ \text{sym}\left((\times^{i-1}_{j=1} h^j) \times h^k\right) & \text{if } i \le k \le d. \end{cases}$$

Proof. The following lemma provides an appropriate formula for $\left((\theta_i)_*(Z^i_{n-i})\right)_*$. We write p with underlined target for projections.

Lemma 3.2. *For any $x \in \text{CH}(X_K)$, one has*

$$\left((\theta_i)_*(Z^i_{n-i})\right)_* (x) = p_{G_i \times \underline{X^i}}{}_* \left(p^*_{\underline{G_i} \times X^i}\left(\pi_{(0,\underline{i})_*} \circ \pi^*_{(\underline{0},i)}(x) \cdot Z^i_{n-i}\right) \cdot \eta_i\right),$$

where η_i is the class in $\text{CH}(G_i \times X^i)$ of the subvariety $\{(y, x_1, \ldots, x_i) \mid x_1, \ldots, x_i \in y\} \subset G_i \times X^i$.

Proof. By definition, one has

$$(\theta_i)_*(Z^i_{n-i}) = p_{G_i \times \underline{X^{i+1}}}{}_* \left((Z^i_{n-i} \times [X^{i+1}]) \cdot \theta_i\right)$$

so

$$\left((\theta_i)_*(Z^i_{n-i})\right)_* (x) = p_{X \times \underline{X^i}}{}_* \left((x \times [X^i]) \cdot p_{G_i \times \underline{X^{i+1}}}{}_* \left((Z^i_{n-i} \times [X^{i+1}]) \cdot \theta_i\right)\right).$$

Therefore, using the Projection Formula (see [1, Proposition 56.9]) and the following fiber product diagram with respect to projections

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G_i \times X \times X^i & \longrightarrow & X \times X^i \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ G_i \times X^i & \longrightarrow & X^i \end{array} \, ,$$

one get that

$$\left((\theta_i)_* (Z^i_{n-i}) \right)_* (x) = p_{G_i \times \underline{X^i} \, *} \circ p_{\underline{G_i \times X \times X^i} \, *} \left((Z^i_{n-i} \times x \times [X^i]) \cdot \theta_i \right).$$

Moreover, the cycle θ_i can be rewritten as

$$\theta_i = p^*_{G_i \times X \times X^i} \left([\mathcal{F}(i, 0)] \right) \cdot p^*_{\underline{G_i \times X \times X^i}} (\eta_i),$$

where $[\mathcal{F}(i, 0)]$ is the class in $\mathrm{CH}(G_i \times X)$ of the subvariety $\mathcal{F}(i, 0) \subset G_i \times X$. Hence, using the Projection Formula twice, one get that

$$\left((\theta_i)_* (Z^i_{n-i}) \right)_* (x) = p_{G_i \times \underline{X^i} \, *} \left(\left(\left(p_{\underline{G_i \times X} \, *} \left((Z^i_{n-i} \times x) \cdot [\mathcal{F}(i, 0)] \right) \times [X^i] \right) \cdot \eta_i \right) \right)$$

$$= p_{G_i \times \underline{X^i} \, *} \left(\left(\left(p_{\underline{G_i \times X} \, *} \left(p^*_{G_i \times \underline{X}}(x) \cdot [\mathcal{F}(i, 0)] \right) \cdot Z^i_{n-i} \right) \times [X^i] \right) \cdot \eta_i \right).$$

Furthermore, by denoting the closed embedding $\mathcal{F}(i, 0) \hookrightarrow G_i \times X$ as in, one has $in_*(1) = [\mathcal{F}(i, 0)]$. It follows again from the Projection Formula that $p^*_{G_i \times \underline{X}}(x) \cdot [\mathcal{F}(i, 0)] = in_* \circ in^* \left(p^*_{G_i \times \underline{X}}(x) \right)$. Consequently, one has

$$p_{\underline{G_i} \times X \, *} \left(p^*_{G_i \times \underline{X}}(x) \cdot [\mathcal{F}(i, 0)] \right) = \pi_{(0, \underline{i}) \, *} \circ \pi^*_{(\underline{0}, i)}(x)$$

and the lemma is proven. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

For any $x \in \mathrm{CH}^k(X_K)$ with $k \leq i-1$, the cycle $\pi_{(0, \underline{i}) \, *} \circ \pi^*_{(\underline{0}, i)}(x)$ is trivial by dimensional reasons. Thus, by Lemma 3.2, the cycle $\left((\theta_i)_* (Z^i_{n-i}) \right)_* (x)$ is also trivial. Therefore, since $(\rho_i)_*(h^k) = \mathrm{sym} \left((\times^{i-1}_{j=1} h^j) \times 1 \right)$ for $k = 0$ and is trivial for $0 < k \leq d$, one get the conclusion of Proposition 3.1 for the cases $k \leq i-1$.

Note that for $i \leq k \leq d$, Lemma 3.2 provides the following identity

(3.3) $$(\alpha_i \ (\mathrm{mod} \ 2))_* (h^k) = p_{G_i \times \underline{X^i} \, *} \left(w^i_{k-i} \cdot z^i_{n-i} \cdot \eta_i \right) \ \text{in } \mathrm{Ch}(X^i_K),$$

where we abuse notation and write η_i for $\eta_i \ (\mathrm{mod} \ 2)$.

We prove the cases $i \leq k \leq d$ of Proposition 3.1 by backward induction on i.

For any $1 \leq i \leq d$, by the very definition, one has

(3.4) $$\eta_i = \prod_{j=1}^{i} \left(\mathrm{Id}_{G_i} \times p_{X^i_j} \right)^* \left([\mathcal{F}(i, 0)] \right) \ \text{in } \mathrm{CH}(G_i \times X^i),$$

with $p_{X^i_j}$ the projection from X^i to the j-th coordinate. Since X_K is cellular, the cycle $[\mathcal{F}(i, 0)]$ decomposes as

(3.5) $$[\mathcal{F}(i, 0)] = \sum_{m=0}^{d} z^i_{n-i-m} \times h^m + \sum_{m=i}^{d} w^i_{m-i} \times l_m \ \text{in } \mathrm{Ch}(G_{iK} \times X_K),$$

where l_d has to be replaced by the other class l'_d of maximal totally isotropic subspaces if $n = 2d$ and l_d^2 is not zero (i.e. if 4 divides n).

The base of the backward induction $i = d$ (so $i = k = d$) is obtained by combining the identities (3.3), (3.4) and (3.5) for $i = d$ (recall also that $w_0^i = 1$ for any $0 \leq i \leq d$ by Lemma 2.4(i)) with the fact that, for any integers $0 \leq a_0 \leq a_1 \leq \cdots \leq a_e \leq d$, with $e \leq d$, one has

$$\deg\left(\prod_{j=0}^{e} z_{n-d-a_j}^d\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \{a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_e\} = \{0, 1, \ldots, d\} \text{ ;} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where $\deg : \mathrm{Ch}(G_{dK}) \to \mathrm{Ch}(\mathrm{Spec}(K)) = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ is the homomorphism associated with the push-forward of the structure morphism, see [1, Lemma 87.6].

The backward induction step will follow from Lemma 3.10, which make use of the following statement.

Lemma 3.6. *For any* $2 \leq i \leq d$, *one has*

$$z_{n-i}^i \cdot \eta_i = \left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})} \times \mathrm{Id}_{X^i}\right)_* \left(\left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})} \times p_{X_{\overline{i}}^i}\right)^* ([\mathcal{F}(i,0)]) \cdot \left(\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)} \times p_{X_{\overline{i}}^i}\right)^* (z_{n-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot \eta_{i-1})\right).$$

Proof. It follows from the identity (3.5) and Lemma 2.4(ii), (iii) and (iv) that
(3.7)
$$\left(\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)} \times \mathrm{Id}_X\right)^* ([\mathcal{F}(i-1,0)]) = (c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \times 1 + 1 \times h) \cdot \left(\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)} \times \mathrm{Id}_X\right)^* ([\mathcal{F}(i,0)])$$
in $\mathrm{Ch}(\mathcal{F}(i-1,i)_K \times X_K)$.

Moreover, by (3.4), one has

$$(3.8) \quad \left(\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)} \times p_{X_{\overline{i}}^i}\right)^* (z_{n-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot \eta_{i-1}) = \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)}^* (z_{n-i+1}^{i-1}) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} \left(\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)} \times p_{X_j^i}\right)^* ([\mathcal{F}(i-1,0)])$$

with $p_{X_{\overline{i}}^i}$ the projection from X^i to the $i-1$ first coordinates. By (3.7), the right member of the previous equation can be rewritten as

$$\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)}^* (z_{n-i+1}^{i-1}) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} \left(c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \times [X^i] + 1 \times p_{X_j^i}^*(h)\right) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} \left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})} \times p_{X_j^i}\right)^* ([\mathcal{F}(i,0)]).$$

Hence, by multiplying the equation (3.8) by $\left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})} \times p_{X_{\overline{i}}^i}\right)^* ([\mathcal{F}(i,0)])$ and using Lemma 2.4(ii), one get

$$(3.9) \quad \left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})} \times p_{X_{\overline{i}}^i}\right)^* ([\mathcal{F}(i,0)]) \cdot \left(\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)} \times p_{X_{\overline{i}}^i}\right)^* (z_{n-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot \eta_{i-1}) =$$

$$\left(c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \times [X^i]\right) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} \left(c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \times [X^i] + 1 \times p_{X_j^i}^*(h)\right) \cdot \left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})} \times \mathrm{Id}_{X^i}\right)^* (z_{n-i}^i \cdot \eta_i).$$

Furthermore, it follows from the Projective Bundle Theorem (see [1, Theorem 53.10]) applied to $\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})} : \mathcal{F}(i-1,i) \to G_i$ that $\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})*}(c_1(\mathcal{O}(1))^i) = 1$. Since $\dim \mathcal{F}(i-1,i) - \dim G_i = i$, one obtains the conclusion of the lemma by composing the equation (3.9) by $\left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})} \times \mathrm{Id}_{X^i}\right)_*$ and using the Projection Formula.

$\square$

Lemma 3.10. *For any $2 \leq i \leq d$ and $i \leq k \leq d$, the cycle in identity (3.3) can be rewritten as*

$$\sum_{m=0}^{k} \sum_{j=\max(i-m,0)}^{\min(k-m,i)} p_{G_{i-1} \times \underline{X}^{i-1}} {}_* \left(w_{k-m-j}^{i-1} \cdot \sigma_{i-1}^{j} \cdot z_{n-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot \eta_{i-1} \right) \times h^m,$$

with $\sigma_{i-1}^{j} = \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})}^{*}(z_{n-2i+j}^{i}) \in \mathrm{Ch}^j(G_{i-1K})$.

Proof. It follows from Lemma 3.6 and the Projection Formula that the cycle in identity (3.3) can be rewritten as

$$p_{G_{i-1} \times \underline{X}^{i}} {}_* \left(\left(\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)} \times \mathrm{Id}_{X^i} \right)_* \circ \left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})} \times p_{X_i^i} \right)^* \left(w_{k-i}^{i} \cdot [\mathcal{F}(i,0)] \right) \cdot z_{n-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot (\eta_{i-1} \times 1) \right).$$

If $k < d$ then, by decomposition (3.5) and dimensional considerations, the latter cycle is equal to

$$\sum_{m=0}^{k} p_{G_{i-1} \times \underline{X}^{i-1}} {}_* \left(\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})}^{*}(w_{k-i}^{i} \cdot z_{n-i-m}^{i}) \cdot z_{n-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot \eta_{i-1} \right) \times h^m$$

and, if $k = d$, one also has to consider the extra term

$$p_{G_{i-1} \times \underline{X}^{i-1}} {}_* \left(\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})}^{*}(w_{d-i}^{i} \cdot w_{d-i}^{i}) \cdot z_{n-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot \eta_{i-1} \right) \times l_d$$

(or l_d'), which is trivial since $\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})}^{*}(w_{d-i}^{i} \cdot w_{d-i}^{i}) = 0$. Indeed, by Lemma 2.4(iii), the Projection Formula and dimensional reasons, $\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \circ \pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})}^{*}(w_{d-i}^{i} \cdot w_{d-i}^{i})$ is equal to

$$\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})}^{*}(w_{d-i-1}^{i}) \cdot c_1(\mathcal{O}(1)) \cdot \pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})}^{*}(w_{d-i}^{i}) \right),$$

which can be rewritten as $\pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)_*} \left(\pi_{(i-1,\underline{i})}^{*}(w_{d-i-1}^{i}) \cdot \pi_{(\underline{i-1},i)}^{*}(w_{d-i+1}^{i-1}) \right)$ (Lemma 2.4(iv)) and therefore is zero by the Projection Formula and dimensional reasons. Lemma 2.5 completes the proof. $\square$

Let $2 \leq i \leq d$. On the one hand, by identity (3.3) and backward induction hypothesis, for any $i \leq k \leq d$, one has

$$(3.11) \qquad p_{G_i \times \underline{X}^i} {}_* \left(w_{k-i}^{i} \cdot z_{n-i}^{i} \cdot \eta_i \right) = \mathrm{sym} \left((\times_{j=1}^{i-1} h^j) \times h^k \right).$$

Therefore, in particular, the coordinate of (3.11) on top right h^{i-1}, i.e.,

$$p_{\underline{X}^{i-1} \times X} {}_* \left(\left(p_{G_i \times \underline{X}^i} {}_* \left(w_{k-i}^{i} \cdot z_{n-i}^{i} \cdot \eta_i \right) \right) \cdot [X^{i-1}] \times l_{i-1} \right)$$

is equal to

$$(3.12) \qquad \mathrm{sym} \left((\times_{j=1}^{i-2} h^j) \times h^k \right).$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 3.10, this coordinate is also equal to

$$(3.13) \qquad \sum_{j=1}^{\min(k-i+1,i)} p_{G_{i-1} \times \underline{X}^{i-1}} {}_* \left(w_{k-i+1-j}^{i-1} \cdot \sigma_{i-1}^{j} \cdot z_{n-i+1}^{i-1} \cdot \eta_{i-1} \right).$$

Since $W^{i-1}_{k-i+1-j} = c_{k-i+1-j}(V\mathbb{1}/T_{i-1})$ (see [4, Proposition 2.1]) and $\sigma^j_{i-1} = c_j(T_{i-1}) \pmod 2$ (see Lemma 2.6), by Whitney Sum Formula, one has

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\min(k-i+1,i)} w^{i-1}_{k-i+1-j} \cdot \sigma^j_{i-1} = \sum_{j=0}^{\min(k-i+1,i)} c_{k-i+1-j}(V\mathbb{1}/T_{i-1}) \cdot c_j(T_{i-1}) = c_{k-i+1}(V\mathbb{1}) = 0.$$

Consequently, in view of (3.12) and (3.13), one get

$$(3.14) \qquad p_{G_{i-1} \times \underline{X^{i-1}}\,*} \left(w^{i-1}_{k-i+1} \cdot z^{i-1}_{n-i+1} \cdot \eta_{i-1} \right) = \mathrm{sym}\left((\times^{i-2}_{j=1} h^j) \times h^k \right).$$

Note that, by identities (3.3) and (3.14), it only remains to prove that

$$p_{G_{i-1} \times \underline{X^{i-1}}\,*} \left(z^{i-1}_{n-i+1} \cdot \eta_{i-1} \right) = \mathrm{sym}\left(\times^{i-1}_{j=1} h^j \right)$$

to complete the backward induction step. On the one hand, by backward induction hypothesis, the coordinate of (3.11) on top right h^k is

$$\mathrm{sym}\left(\times^{i-1}_{j=1} h^j \right)$$

and on the other hand, by Lemma 3.10, it is also equal to

$$p_{G_{i-1} \times \underline{X^{i-1}}\,*} \left(z^{i-1}_{n-i+1} \cdot \eta_{i-1} \right).$$

Proposition 3.1 is proven.

$\square$

We are now able to prove the first part of the main result of this note (Theorem 1.1), which we restate below.

Corollary 3.15. *Let $i \in \{0, \ldots, d\}$. If z^i_{n-i} is rational then $\rho_i \pmod 2$ is also rational.*

Proof. Since the conclusion is obvious for $i = 0$, we assume that $i \geq 1$. In view of the ring structure of $\mathrm{CH}(X^{i+1}_K)$ (see [1, §68]), and knowing that the cycle α_i is symmetric, one deduces from Proposition 3.1 that

$$\alpha_i \pmod 2 = \Delta_i \pmod 2 + \beta$$

with β a sum of nonessential elements (a nonessential element is an external product of powers of the hyperplane class, it is always rational). Since $\alpha_i = (\theta_i)_*(Z^i_{n-i}) + \rho_i$ and $\Delta_i \pmod 2$ is rational (Lemma 2.1), the corollary is proved. $\square$

The following statement is a consequence of Proposition 3.1 and its proof.

Proposition 3.16. *Let $1 \leq i \leq d-1$, $i+1 \leq k \leq d$ and $1 \leq m \leq i$. For any integers $0 \leq a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_i \leq d$, the integer*

$$\deg\left(\left(Z^i_{n-i} \cdot \prod_{l=1}^{i} Z^i_{n-i-a_l} \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{j=0}^{i-m} W^i_{k-m-j} \cdot c_j(T_i) \right) \right)$$

is congruent to $1 \pmod 2$ if $\{a_1, \ldots, a_i\} = \{k\} \cup (\{1, 2, \ldots, i\} \setminus \{m\})$ and to $0 \pmod 2$ otherwise.

Proof. Proposition 3.1 and Lemma 3.10 provide two descriptions of the coordinate of the cycle (3.3) on top right h^m (note that one can decompose the cycle $\eta_i \in \mathrm{Ch}(G_{i_K} \times X_K^i)$ appearing in Lemma 3.10 as a sum of external products by combining equations (3.4) and (3.5)). The conclusion is obtained by comparing these two descriptions and applying the Whitney Sum Formula to that given by Lemma 3.10. □

Remark 3.17. We also retrieve [4, Statement 2.15] by proceeding the same way as in the previous proof but considering the coordinate on top right h^k instead of top right h^m. Proposition 3.16 is completed for $i = d$ by [1, Lemma 87.6].

4. Elementary Discrete Invariant and first Witt index

In this section, we continue to use notations and materials introduced in the previous sections. Corollary 3.15 implies the following condition on the first Witt index i_1 of the quadric X.

Proposition 4.1. *Assume X anisotropic and let $i \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$. If z_{n-i}^i is rational then $i_1 \leq i$.*

Proof. In view of Corollary 3.15, the statement follows from the next lemma.

Lemma 4.2. *Assume X anisotropic and let $i \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$. If $\rho_i \pmod 2$ is rational then $i_1 \leq i$.*

Proof. Let $i \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$. Suppose that $\rho_i \pmod 2$ is rational and that $i_1 > i$. We claim that this implies that $\rho_{i-1} \pmod 2$ is also rational.

Indeed, let us denote by $\pi \in \mathrm{Ch}^{n-i_1+1}(X_K^2)$ the 1-*primordial cycle* (see [1, Definition 73.16] and paragraph right after [1, Theorem 73.26], it is a rational cycle). Even if it means adding a rational cycle to π, one can assume that π decomposes as

$$\pi = 1 \times l_{i_1-1} + l_{i_1-1} \times 1 + \sum_{j=i_1}^{d-i_1+1} a_j \left(h^j \times l_{j+i_1-1} + l_{j+i_1-1} \times h^j \right)$$

for some $a_j \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ (the fact that one can choose to make the previous sum start from $j = i_1$ is due to [1, Proposition 73.27]). Since $i_1 > i$, the computation of the composition of rational correspondences $(\rho_i \pmod 2)_K \circ ((1 \times h^{i_1-i}) \cdot \pi)$ gives the identity

$$(\rho_i \pmod 2)_K \circ \left((1 \times h^{i_1-i}) \cdot \pi \right) = 1 \times (\rho_{i-1} \pmod 2)_K.$$

Therefore, pulling back the latter algebraic cycle with respect to the diagonal morphism
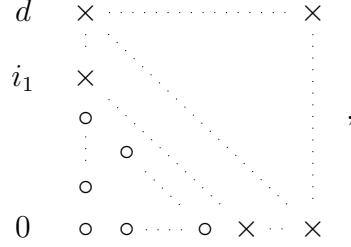
$$\begin{array}{ccc} X^i & \longrightarrow & X^{i+1} \\ (x_1, x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_i) & \longmapsto & (x_1, x_1, x_2, x_3 \ldots, x_i) \end{array}$$

(for example), one get that $\rho_{i-1} \pmod 2$ is also a rational cycle.

It follows from the claim that $\rho_1 \pmod 2$ is rational. By [1, Remark 80.9], this implies that $i_1 = 1$. □

The proposition is proved. □

Remark 4.3. Combining Proposition 4.1 with [4, Propositon 2.5], one get that, representing the *Elementary Discrete Invariant* $EDI(X)$ of the quadric X as a $(d+1)\times(d+1)$ coordinate square (see [4, Definition 2.3 and the paragraph right after]), there is no marked integral node below the i_1-th diagonal of this square. That is to say, the invariant $EDI(X)$ looks as

$$
\begin{array}{c}
d \quad \times \cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots \times \\
i_1 \quad \times \\
\circ \\
\circ \\
\circ \\
0 \quad \circ \ \circ \cdots\cdot \circ \ \times \cdot\cdot \times
\end{array}
\quad,
$$

where $\circ$ means that the node is unmarked.

We recall that each row is associated with an orthogonal grassmannian, starting with the quadric at the bottom row, and that each integral node corresponds to an *elementary classes* as defined by A. Vishik in [4], with codimension decreasing from left to right (the cycles $z^i_{n-i} \in \mathrm{Ch}^{n-i}(G_{iK})$ correspond to the first column on the left).

5. Proof of the second part of Main Theorem

We use notations and materials introduced in previous sections. The fact that if ρ_1 is rational then Z^1_{n-1} is also rational has been shown by A. Vishik in the first part of the proof of [2, Theorem 4.4].

Proposition 5.1. *Let $i \in \{0,\ldots,d\}$. If $\rho_i \pmod 2$ is rational then z^i_{n-i} is also rational.*

Proof. Since the conclusion is obvious for $i = 0$, we assume that $i \geq 1$. Consider the rational cycle

$$
\theta'_i := p^*_{\underline{X}\times X\times\underline{\mathcal{F}(0,i)}} \circ \big(\mathrm{Id}_X \times \pi_{(\underline{0},i)}\big)^* (\Delta_1 \pmod 2) \cdot p^*_{X\times\underline{X}\times\underline{\mathcal{F}(0,i)}} \circ \big(\mathrm{Id}_X \times \pi_{(0,\underline{i})}\big)^* ([\mathcal{F}(0,i)]_K)
$$

in $\mathrm{Ch}^{2n-i}(X^2_K \times \mathcal{F}(0,i)_K)$, with $\Delta_1 \in \mathrm{CH}^n(X^2_K)$ the cycle introduced in §2.1. We view θ'_i as a correspondence $X^2_K \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{F}(0,i)_K$. Using decomposition (3.5), one get that for any $(\alpha,\beta) \in \{1, h,\ldots, h^{i-1}, l_0\}^2$, with $\alpha \neq \beta$, one has

$$
\theta'_{i*}(\alpha \times \beta) = \begin{cases} \pi^*_{(\underline{0},i)}(h^k) \cdot \pi^*_{(0,\underline{i})}(z^i_{n-i}) & \text{if } \alpha \times \beta = h^k \times l_0 \ ; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}
$$

Consequently, since $\rho_i \pmod 2$ is assumed to be rational, one obtains that the cycle

$$
(\mathrm{Id}_{X^{i-1}} \times \theta'_i)_* (\rho_i \pmod 2) = \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \mathrm{sym}\left(\times^{i-1}_{\substack{j=0 \\ j\neq k}} h^j \right) \times \big(\pi^*_{(\underline{0},i)}(h^k) \cdot \pi^*_{(0,\underline{i})}(z^i_{n-i}) \big)
$$

is rational. By multiplying the previous cycle by $[X^{i-1}] \times \pi^*_{(\underline{0},i)}(h)$ and then composing by $\big(\mathrm{Id}_{X^{i-1}} \times \pi_{(0,\underline{i})}\big)_*$, one get, using the Projection Formula and Lemma 2.4(i), that the cycle

$$
\mathrm{sym}\left(\times^{i-2}_{j=0} h^j \right) \times z^i_{n-i}
$$

is rational. Therefore, it suffices to prove that, for any $2 \leq k \leq i - 1$, the rationality of $\mathrm{sym}\left(\times_{j=0}^{i-k}h^j\right) \times z_{n-i}^i$ implies the rationality of $\mathrm{sym}\left(\times_{j=0}^{i-k-1}h^j\right) \times z_{n-i}^i$ to conclude. This follows from the next formula (which uses decomposition (3.5))

$$p_{\underline{X^{i-k}} \times X \times \underline{G_i}_*}\left([X^{i-k}] \times (h^k \times [G_i] \cdot [\mathcal{F}(0,i)]_K) \cdot \mathrm{sym}\left(\times_{j=0}^{i-k}h^j\right) \times z_{n-i}^i\right) =$$
$$\mathrm{sym}\left(\times_{j=0}^{i-k-1}h^j\right) \times z_{n-i}^i \ .$$

$\square$

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