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THE GROUP OF CREMONA TRANSFORMATIONS GENERATED BY LINEAR MAPS AND THE STANDARD INVOLUTION

by Jérémy BLANC & Isac HEDÉN (*)

ABSTRACT. — This article studies the group generated by automorphisms of the projective space of dimension n and by the standard birational involution of degree n . Every element of this group only contracts rational hypersurfaces, but in odd dimension, there are simple elements having this property which do not belong to the group. Geometric properties of the elements of the group are given, as well as a description of its intersection with monomial transformations.

RÉSUMÉ. — Cet article étudie le groupe engendré par les automorphismes de l'espace projectif de dimension n et par l'involution birationnelle standard de degré n . Tout élément de ce groupe ne contracte que des hypersurfaces rationnelles, mais en dimension impaire il existe des éléments simples qui ont cette propriété et n'appartiennent pas au groupe. Des propriétés géométriques du groupe sont données, de même qu'une description de son intersection avec le groupe des transformations monômiales.

1. Introduction

Let us fix a ground field \mathbf{k} . We will assume it to be arbitrary whenever we do not state otherwise. The Cremona group $\mathrm{Cr}_n(\mathbf{k}) = \mathrm{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is the group of birational transformations of the space of dimension n . This group contains $\mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) = \mathrm{PGL}(n+1, \mathbf{k})$ and the birational map given by

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_n : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] &\mapsto \left[\frac{1}{x_0} : \cdots : \frac{1}{x_n} \right] \\ &= [x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n : x_0 x_2 x_3 \cdots x_n : \cdots : x_0 x_1 \cdots x_{n-1}]. \end{aligned}$$

Keywords: Cremona transformation, standard involution, rational hypersurfaces, monomial transformations.

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For $n = 3$, this map is called a *tetrahedral transformation* and written T_{tet} in [14, p. 301, §14] or the standard *cubo-cubic transformation of space* [29, p. 179] or a *(3, 3)-transformation* [1, p. 2071-2072, 2108], as its degree and the degree of its inverse are three (but of course this map is not the only one having these properties). Nowadays, the usual terminology is to call σ_n , in any dimension n , *the standard Cremona transformation* (see for instance [12], [13], [21, p. 72], [8], [6]). The map σ_n restricts to an automorphism of the standard torus $T \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ and contracts the $n + 1$ coordinate hyperplanes, i.e. the complement of the torus.

The group $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^1)$ is equal to $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^1)$, so we will always assume $n \geq 2$ in the sequel. The classical Noether-Castelnuovo Theorem [4] (see also [28, Chapter V, §5, Theorem 2, p. 100]) asserts that $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2)$ is generated by $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2)$ and σ_2 when \mathbf{k} is algebraically closed. This is known to be false when $n \geq 3$ or when \mathbf{k} is not algebraically closed. The reason for these two cases is in fact similar: it follows from the description of σ_n that every element of the classical group

$$G_n(\mathbf{k}) = \langle \sigma_n, \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rangle \subset \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$$

(whose elements are called *regular* by A. Coble [5, p. 359, §4] and *punctual* by H. Hudson and P. Du Val [14, p. 318, §29], [9] and [10], see Section 8 for a discussion of the terminology) contracts only rational hypersurfaces (recall that a irreducible hypersurface is said to be contracted if its image has codimension ≥ 2). Moreover, if $n \geq 3$ or if \mathbf{k} is not algebraically closed, there are elements of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ which contract non-rational hypersurfaces (see Section 7). Hence $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is a proper subgroup of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ in general. Its elements have been studied in detail in many texts. See in particular [18], [5], [14], [31], [9], [10], [7], [12], [6].

To our knowledge, until now, there has been no other way of showing that elements of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ do not belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ than to look at non-rational hypersurfaces that are contracted. The natural question that arises is then whether the above reason is the only one which prevents elements from being in $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, i.e.: does $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ contain every element of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ that contracts only rational hypersurfaces?

The answer to this question is positive for $n = 2$ and any field \mathbf{k} ; this follows from an adaptation of the proof of the Noether-Castelnuovo Theorem (see Proposition 7.4 below). However, we show in this text that the answer is negative for any odd integer $n \geq 3$ and any field \mathbf{k} . For instance we prove that for $n \geq 2$, the birational monomial map

$$\xi_n : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]$$

does not belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ if n odd, but it does if n is even and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$. More generally, we give a way of deciding whether a monomial map belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ or not, at least when $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$. Recall that the group of monomial transformations of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ is naturally isomorphic to $(\mathbf{k}^*)^n \rtimes \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$. The element

$$\left((\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n), \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \right) \in (\mathbf{k}^*)^n \rtimes \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$$

corresponds to the birational map

$$[x_0 : \dots : x_n] \mapsto [1 : \alpha_1 \left(\frac{x_1}{x_0}\right)^{a_{11}} \dots \left(\frac{x_n}{x_0}\right)^{a_{1n}} : \dots : \alpha_n \left(\frac{x_1}{x_0}\right)^{a_{n1}} \dots \left(\frac{x_n}{x_0}\right)^{a_{nn}}].$$

With this natural isomorphism, we obtain the following result.

THEOREM 1.1. — *Let \mathbf{k} be any field and $n \geq 2$.*

- (1) *If n is even and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, every monomial transformation of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$.*
- (2) *If n is odd, there are monomial transformations of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ which do not belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$.*
- (3) *If n is odd and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, then the group of monomial transformations that belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is equal to*

$$(\mathbf{k}^*)^n \rtimes \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}},$$

where $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}$ is the subgroup of $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$ consisting of matrices such that each column has an odd number of odd entries (or an odd sum of entries).

Remark 1.2. — The group $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}$ is a maximal subgroup of $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$, and has index $2^n - 1$ (Lemma 4.9).

The key point in the proof of part (2) of Theorem 1.1 is to observe that in odd dimension, the discrepancy of hypersurfaces that are contracted by elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is even (see Section 3, and Proposition 3.5 in particular). This result gives strong geometric properties of elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, which we describe after giving the following definition.

DEFINITION 1.3. — *Let $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ and let $H, \Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ be two closed irreducible subsets. Denote by $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ the blow-up of Γ and by $E = \pi^{-1}(\Gamma)$ the exceptional divisor.*

We will say that φ sends H onto the exceptional divisor of Γ if the restriction of $\pi^{-1}\varphi$ induces a birational map $H \dashrightarrow E$ (this implies that H is a hypersurface).

THEOREM 1.4. — *Let \mathbf{k} be any field and $n \geq 2$. Then the following hold.*

- (1) *If n is odd and $H \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ is a irreducible hypersurface which is sent by an element $g \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ onto the exceptional divisor of an irreducible closed subset $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, then Γ has even dimension.*
- (2) *If $n > m \geq 0$, nm is even and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, then there exists an irreducible closed linear subset $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ of dimension m and an element $g \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ that sends a hyperplane onto the exceptional divisor of Γ .*

Part (1) of Theorem 1.4 gives the geometric explanation of the fact that $\xi_n \notin G_n(\mathbf{k})$ if n is odd (see Corollary 3.9). However, it follows from part (2) that there are elements of $G_4(\mathbf{k})$ which send hypersurfaces onto the exceptional divisors of points, lines or planes. For this reason, it could a priori be possible that $G_4(\mathbf{k})$ contains all elements of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^4)$ that contract only rational hypersurfaces. The same question remains open in any even dimension $n \geq 4$. It would also be interesting to know if the group generated by $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ and ξ_n contains all elements of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ that contract only rational hypersurfaces, or to describe $G_n(\mathbf{k}) \cap \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$ for $n \geq 3$ and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 2$.

The article is organised as follows.

The result on discrepancies can also be viewed algebraically, using Jacobians. We do this in Section 2, before giving the geometric description of discrepancies in Section 3.

Section 4 explains how one can change the discrepancies in higher dimension, and especially in even dimension. It contains the proofs of Theorems 1.1 and 1.4.

Section 5 describes when the canonical injections $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1})$ send $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ into $G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$. In Section 6, we show that many automorphisms of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ can be obtained as elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ if $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, namely all tame automorphisms and the Nagata automorphism. The case of characteristic zero is an easy observation, but the general case demands a little bit more work.

Section 7 describes the relation between $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ and rational hypersurfaces which are contracted. Section 8, finally, explains the difference between the classical definitions of punctual maps that appear in the literature.

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2. The Jacobian

DEFINITION 2.1.

(a) Let $f_0, \dots, f_n \in \mathbf{k}(x_0, \dots, x_n)$ be rational functions. We define

$$\text{Jac}(f_0, \dots, f_n) = \det \left(\left(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \right)_{i,j=0}^n \right) \in \mathbf{k}(x_0, \dots, x_n).$$

(b) If $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is given by

$$[x_0 : \dots : x_n] \mapsto [f_0(x_0, \dots, x_n) : \dots : f_n(x_0, \dots, x_n)]$$

where the f_i are homogeneous polynomials of degree d without common factor, the Jacobian $\text{Jac}(\varphi)$ of φ is defined to be $\text{Jac}(f_0, \dots, f_n)$. It is defined up to multiplication with the $(n + 1)$ -th power of an element of \mathbf{k}^* , and has degree $(n + 1)(d - 1)$ (or can be zero, if $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) > 0$).

Remark 2.2. — If $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$, the Jacobian $\text{Jac}(\varphi)$ of $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is a polynomial which determines the hypersurfaces of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ where the map φ is not locally an isomorphism (this is false in positive characteristic, when the Jacobian is zero).

LEMMA 2.3. — Let \mathbf{k} be a field of characteristic zero, $h \in \mathbf{k}[x_0, \dots, x_n]_d$ a homogeneous polynomial of degree $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and $f_0, \dots, f_n \in \mathbf{k}(x_0, \dots, x_n)_e$ homogeneous rational functions of degree $e \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$. Then

$$\text{Jac}(hf_0, \dots, hf_n) = \left(1 + \frac{d}{e}\right) \text{Jac}(f_0, \dots, f_n)h^{n+1}.$$

Proof. — By assumption we have $f_i(tx_0, \dots, tx_n) = t^e f_i(x_0, \dots, x_n)$ for $i = 0, \dots, n$ and for all $t \in \mathbf{k}^*$. Taking the derivative of both sides with respect to t gives

$$\sum_{j=0}^n \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}(tx_0, \dots, tx_n)x_j = et^{e-1} f_i(x_0, \dots, x_n),$$

and evaluating at $t = 1$ we see that the f_i satisfy $f_i = \frac{1}{e} \sum_{j=0}^n x_j \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$.

We first show that the result holds when $h = x_0$. Using linearity of det with respect to the first column, the fact that $f_i = \frac{1}{e} \sum_{j=0}^n x_j \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$, and the

fact that det is alternating, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Jac}(hf_0, \dots, hf_n) &= \det \begin{pmatrix} f_0 + x_0 \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_0} & x_0 \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_1} & \dots & x_0 \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ f_n + x_0 \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_0} & x_0 \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1} & \dots & x_0 \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_n} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (x_0)^{n+1} \text{Jac}(f_0, \dots, f_n) \\ &\quad + (x_0)^n \frac{1}{e} \sum_{j=0}^n x_j \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_j} & \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_j} & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_n} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= h^{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{e}\right) \text{Jac}(f_0, \dots, f_n), \end{aligned}$$

so the result holds for $h = x_0$. Analogously it holds for $h = x_j$, $j = 1 \dots, n$ and it also holds for $h = \lambda \in \mathbf{k}$. Applying it repeatedly, we obtain the case when h is a monomial.

Since the Jacobian is a derivation in each of its arguments and zero whenever two of the arguments are equal, we may use the product rule repeatedly and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Jac}(hf_0, \dots, hf_n) &= h^{n+1} \text{Jac}(f_0, \dots, f_n) \\ &\quad + h^n \sum_{i=0}^n f_i \cdot \text{Jac}(f_0, \dots, f_{i-1}, h, f_{i+1}, \dots, f_n). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the result is equivalent to the following equality:

$$e \sum_{i=0}^n f_i \cdot \text{Jac}(f_0, \dots, f_{i-1}, h, f_{i+1}, \dots, f_n) = dh \cdot \text{Jac}(f_0, \dots, f_n),$$

which is linear with respect to h , so the general case follows from the case of monomials. \square

Remark 2.4. — The Jacobian is an ancient tool, much used and studied in classical works. In [25, p. 261], one can see the identity

$$\text{Jac}(fx_0, \dots, fx_n) = f^n \left(f + x_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_0} + \dots + x_n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \right)$$

for an arbitrary function f (not necessarily homogeneous) and it is written “the proof is hardly needed”. If f is homogeneous of degree m , then $x_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_0} + \dots + x_n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} = mf$ and the right hand side of the identity becomes $(1 + m)f^{n+1}$, which is a special case of Lemma 2.3 (corresponding to the identity map).

For other relations and properties related to the Jacobian, see also [24, p. 220] and [27, p. 228–229].

COROLLARY 2.5. — *If $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$, then $\text{Jac}(\sigma_n) = n(-1)^n \prod_{i=0}^n (x_i)^{n-1}$.*

Proof. — Since $\sigma_n = [\frac{h}{x_0} : \dots : \frac{h}{x_n}]$ with $h = \prod_{i=0}^n x_i$, it follows by Lemma 2.3 that

$$\text{Jac}(\sigma_n) = \left(1 + \frac{n+1}{-1}\right) \text{Jac}(x_0^{-1}, \dots, x_n^{-1})h^{n+1} = n(-1)^n \prod_{i=0}^n (x_i)^{n-1}.$$

□

Remark 2.6. — One can check by hand that Corollary 2.5 also holds if $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) > 0$, even if Lemma 2.3 does not hold, but this will not be used in the sequel.

PROPOSITION 2.7. — *Suppose that $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$ and let $n, k \geq 2$ be some integers such that k divides $n + 1$.*

(1) *The set*

$$H_{n,k} = \{f \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}^n) \mid \text{Jac}(f) = \lambda h^k \text{ for some } h \in \mathbf{k}[x_0, \dots, x_n], \lambda \in \mathbf{k}^*\}$$

is a subgroup of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}^n)$ that contains $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^n)$.

(2) *The group $H_{n,k}$ contains σ_n if and only if $k = 2$ and n is odd.*

(3) *For each irreducible hypersurface $S \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ of degree d prime to $n + 1$, the group $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^n \setminus S)$ is contained in $H_{n,n+1}$, but $\sigma_n \notin H_{n,n+1}$.*

(4) *In particular, taking S to be a line in \mathbb{P}^2 , we have*

$$\langle \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^2), \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus S) \rangle = \langle \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^2), \text{Aut}(\mathbb{A}^2) \rangle \subset H_{2,3} \subsetneq \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}^2)$$

(the same for $n \geq 3$ being obvious because of hypersurfaces contracted).

Proof. — Since the Jacobian of every element of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^n)$ is an element of \mathbf{k}^* , we have $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^n) \subset H_{n,k}$.

Let $f, g \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}^n)$ be two birational maps of degree d_1, d_2 , that we write as

$$f : [x_0 : \dots : x_n] \mapsto [f_0(x_0, \dots, x_n) : \dots : f_n(x_0, \dots, x_n)],$$

$$g : [x_0 : \dots : x_n] \mapsto [g_0(x_0, \dots, x_n) : \dots : g_n(x_0, \dots, x_n)],$$

with polynomials $f_i, g_i \in \mathbf{k}[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ such that both the f_i and the g_i are relatively prime. Supposing that the composition $fg \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ has degree $d_1 d_2$, the chain rule states that

$$\text{Jac}(fg) = g^*(\text{Jac}(f)) \cdot \text{Jac}(g),$$

where $g^*(\text{Jac}(f))$ is obtained by replacing each x_i with g_i in $\text{Jac}(f)$. If the degree of fg is $d_1 d_2 - m$, for $m > 0$, there is a homogeneous polynomial h of

degree m that divides the formal composition of f and g . Using Lemma 2.3 this implies that

$$\text{Jac}(fg) = \left(\frac{d_1 d_2 - m}{d_1 d_2} \right) g^*(\text{Jac}(f)) \cdot \text{Jac}(g)/h^{n+1}.$$

Since $n + 1$ is a multiple of k , we see that $f, g \in H_{n,k} \Rightarrow fg \in H_{n,k}$. Moreover, taking $g = f^{-1}$ we obtain that $f \in H_{n,k} \Leftrightarrow f^{-1} \in H_{n,k}$. This concludes the proof of Assertion (1).

Assertion (2) directly follows from Corollary 2.5.

In order to prove (3), denote by $h \in \mathbf{k}[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ the irreducible homogenous polynomial defining S (which is unique up to multiple by an element of \mathbf{k}^*). For each $f \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^n \setminus S)$, the Jacobian of f only vanishes on S , hence $\text{Jac}(f) = \lambda h^m$ for some integer $m \geq 0$ and some $\lambda \in \mathbf{k}^*$. We obtain then

$$m \deg(h) = \deg(\text{Jac}(f)) = (n + 1)(\deg(f) - 1)$$

(see Definition 2.1). By assumption, $\deg(h)$ and $n + 1$ are coprime, so $n + 1$ divides m . This implies that $f \in H_{n,n+1}$. Assertion (4) corresponds to the special case where $n = 2$ and $\deg(h) = 1$. □

COROLLARY 2.8. — *If n is odd and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$, the Jacobian of each element of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is equal to λp^2 , for some $\lambda \in \mathbf{k}$ and some homogeneous polynomial $p \in \mathbf{k}[x_0, \dots, x_n]$.*

Proof. — Using the notation of Proposition 2.7, this corresponds to saying that $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is contained in the group $H_{n,2}$. This is because $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^n) \subset H_{n,2}$ and $\sigma_n \in H_{n,2}$, as observed in the proposition (or in Corollary 2.5). □

COROLLARY 2.9. — *If n is odd and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$, the quadratic birational involution of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by*

$$[x_0 : \dots : x_n] \mapsto \left[\frac{x_1 x_2}{x_0} : x_1 : x_2 : \dots : x_n \right] = [x_1 x_2 : x_0 x_1 : \dots : x_0 x_n]$$

does not belong to G_n .

Proof. — The Jacobian of this map is $-2x_0^{n-1}x_1x_2$. The result follows then from Corollary 2.8. □

Example 2.10. — We will see in Example 4.1 that the map

$$\theta_n : [x_0 : \dots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 x_1 : (x_0)^2 : x_1 x_2 : \dots : x_1 x_n]$$

belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$. It satisfies $\text{Jac}(\theta_n) = -2(x_0)^2 \cdot (x_1)^{n-1}$ and this shows in particular that Corollary 2.8 cannot be generalised to even dimension.

Note that Corollary 2.9 can be easily generalised to the following:

COROLLARY 2.11. — *Let $P_1, P_2 \in \mathbf{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n] \setminus \{0\}$ be homogeneous of degree 1 and 2 respectively, such that P_2 defines a reduced quadric of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$. If $n \geq 3$ is odd and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$, the quadratic birational transformation of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^3$ given by*

$$\begin{aligned}
 [x_0 : \dots : x_n] &\mapsto \left[\frac{x_0 P_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) + P_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{x_0} : x_1 : x_2 : \dots : x_n \right] \\
 &= [x_0 P_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) + P_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) : x_0 x_1 : \dots : x_0 x_n]
 \end{aligned}$$

does not belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

Proof. — Since

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Jac} \left(\frac{x_0 P_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) + P_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{x_0}, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \right) \\
 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} \left(\frac{P_2}{x_0} \right) = -\frac{P_2}{(x_0)^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Jac}(x_0 P_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) + P_2(x_1, \dots, x_n), x_0 x_1, x_0 x_2, \dots, x_0 x_n) \\
 = -2P_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) \cdot (x_0)^{n-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 2.3. The result follows then from Corollary 2.8. □

Remark 2.12. — Corollaries 2.9 and 2.11 also hold in positive characteristic (even in characteristic 2). This can be observed geometrically, with the tools developed in Section 3, but also by computing the *affine Jacobian*: To a birational map

$$f : [x_0 : \dots : x_n] \mapsto [f_0(x_0, \dots, x_n) : \dots : f_n(x_0, \dots, x_n)]$$

we can associate its *affine Jacobian*. This is

$$\det \left(\left(\frac{\partial g_i}{\partial x_j} \right)_{i,j=1}^n \right) \in \mathbf{k}(x_1, \dots, x_n),$$

where $g_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{f_i(1, x_1, \dots, x_n)}{f_0(1, x_1, \dots, x_n)}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, are the coordinates of the restriction of f to the affine open subset where $x_0 = 1$. One can check that this affine Jacobian is $(-1)^n \left(\frac{1}{x_1 \dots x_n} \right)^2$ for σ_n , so is a square up to scalar multiple (and is not zero, even if $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) > 0$). For n odd, one can then see that the same holds for linear automorphisms and for elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, by using chain rule.

3. Resolution of the standard involution and result on discrepancies

Let us recall the following easy and well known result: the standard quadratic involution $\sigma_2 : \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$ can be factorised as the blow-up of the three coordinate points $[1 : 0 : 0]$, $[0 : 1 : 0]$, $[0 : 0 : 1]$ followed by the contraction of the three coordinate lines passing through 2 of these 3 points.

We can generalise this observation in the following way.

PROPOSITION 3.1. — *Let $n \geq 2$, let $I_n = \{0, \dots, n\}$ and for each $d \in \{0, \dots, n - 2\}$ let Ω_d be the set of all subsets of I_n of size $n - d$. For each element $\Delta \in \Omega_d$, we denote by $X_\Delta \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ the linear subset of dimension d defined by $x_i = 0$ for each $i \in \Delta$.*

We then define inductively a sequence of birational morphisms $\pi_d : Y_{d+1} \rightarrow Y_d$, $d = 0, \dots, n - 2$ in the following way:

- (1) $Y_0 = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ and $\pi_0 : Y_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ is the blow-up of all coordinate points, i.e. all sets X_Δ , where $\Delta \in \Omega_0$.
- (2) For $d = 1, \dots, n - 2$, $\pi_d : Y_{d+1} \rightarrow Y_d$ is the blow-up of the strict transform of all varieties X_Δ , where $\Delta \in \Omega_d$.

Let $Y = Y_{n-1}$, let $\pi : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ denote the composition $\pi = \pi_0 \circ \dots \circ \pi_{n-2}$, and denote by $E_\Delta \subset Y$ the strict transform of the exceptional divisor contracted on X_Δ , for each Δ in some Ω_d . The following holds:

- (1) The lift $\hat{\sigma}_n = \pi^{-1} \sigma_n \pi$ is a biregular automorphism of Y .
- (2) For each $i \in \{0, \dots, d - 2\}$ and each $\Delta \in \Omega_i$, the automorphism $\hat{\sigma}_n$ exchanges E_Δ with $E_{I_n \setminus \Delta}$.

Proof. — (1) Denote by $\text{Sym}_{n+1} \subset \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ the group of permutations of variables. The variety $Y_0 = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ is covered by the $n + 1$ open subsets where $x_i \neq 0$, $i = 0, \dots, n$, each isomorphic to $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ and each containing exactly one point blown up by π_0 . We can moreover choose the isomorphism to be given by

$$(y_1, \dots, y_n) \mapsto \tau([1 : y_1 : \dots : y_n])$$

where $\tau \in \text{Sym}_{n+1}$. The choice of τ is not unique, there are $n!$ permutations for one given chart. The point blown up by π_0 is the origin of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, so the blow-up of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ at the origin naturally embeds into $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n \times \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ and has then n affine charts isomorphic to $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, each one intersecting exactly one of the n lines X_Δ passing through the point corresponding to the origin. We can then choose the charts so that the map π_0 corresponds to

$$(y_1, \dots, y_n) \mapsto \tau([1 : y_1 : y_1 y_2 : \dots : y_1 y_n]),$$

the exceptional divisor corresponds to $y_1 = 0$ and the line to $y_2 = \dots = y_n = 0$. Each of the $(n + 1)n$ charts on Y_1 corresponds to a choice of a point X_{Δ_0} and a line X_{Δ_1} containing the point. Continuing in this way, we obtain exactly $(n + 1)!$ charts on Y , parametrised by the elements $\tau \in \text{Sym}_{n+1}$ (or equivalently by the flags $X_{\Delta_0} \subset X_{\Delta_1} \subset \dots \subset X_{\Delta_{n-1}}$), such that the map π corresponds in the corresponding chart to

$$(y_1, \dots, y_n) \mapsto \tau([1 : y_1 : y_1 y_2 : \dots : y_1 y_2 \dots y_n]).$$

Since σ_n commutes with elements in Sym_{n+1} , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_n \tau([1 : y_1 : y_1 y_2 : \dots : y_1 y_n]) &= \tau([1 : \frac{1}{y_1} : \frac{1}{y_1 y_2} : \dots : \frac{1}{y_1 y_2 \dots y_n}]) \\ &= \tau([y_1 \dots y_n : y_2 \dots y_n : y_3 \dots y_n : \dots : y_{n-1} y_n : y_n : 1]) \end{aligned}$$

so the restriction of $\hat{\sigma}_n$ yields an isomorphism between each chart of Y with another one.

(2) Since $\hat{\sigma}_n$ is an automorphism of Y , it is enough to consider the blow-ups $\pi_\Delta : Z_\Delta \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}$ and $\pi_{I_n \setminus \Delta} : Z_{I_n \setminus \Delta} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}$ of X_Δ and $X_{I_n \setminus \Delta}$ and check that the lift $\sigma' = (\pi_{I_n \setminus \Delta})^{-1} \sigma_n \pi_\Delta$ of σ_n induces a birational map between the exceptional divisors. By a change of variables, we may assume that $X_\Delta \subset \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}$ and $X_{I_n \setminus \Delta} \subset \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}$ are given respectively by $x_0 = x_1 = \dots = x_k = 0$ and $x_{k+1} = \dots = x_n = 0$, so the blow-ups of these two subsets are given locally by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{A}^n_{\mathbf{k}} &\rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}} \\ (y_1, \dots, y_n) &\mapsto [y_1 : y_1 y_2 : \dots : y_1 y_{k+1} : y_{k+2} : \dots : y_n : 1], \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{A}^n_{\mathbf{k}} &\rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}} \\ (y_1, \dots, y_n) &\mapsto [1 : y_1 : \dots : y_k : y_{k+1} y_n : \dots : y_{n-1} y_n : y_n]. \end{aligned}$$

In these coordinates, the exceptional divisors are given by $y_1 = 0$ and $y_n = 0$ respectively and the map σ' becomes

$$(y_1, \dots, y_n) \mapsto \left(\frac{1}{y_2}, \frac{1}{y_3}, \dots, \frac{1}{y_{k+1}}, \frac{1}{y_{k+2}}, \dots, \frac{1}{y_n}, y_1 \right).$$

Restricting to $y_1 = 0$ we get a birational map between the two exceptional divisors. □

With this description, we can show that the discrepancy of a hypersurface contracted by an element of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is even when n is odd. To explain what this means, we first recall the following definition.

DEFINITION 3.2. — Let $\psi : X \dashrightarrow Y$ be a birational map between two smooth projective varieties and let $H \subset X$ be an irreducible hypersurface. We can always find a birational morphism $\pi : Z \rightarrow Y$, such that Z is a smooth projective variety and $\pi^{-1}\psi : X \dashrightarrow Z$ can be restricted to a birational map $H \dashrightarrow E$, for some irreducible hypersurface $E \subset Z$. We then define the discrepancy of H with respect to ψ by the integer a as the order of vanishing of $K_Z - \pi^*(K_Y)$ along E .

Remark 3.3. — The discrepancy only depends on ψ and H , and not on π [22, Proposition-Definition 4.4.1, p. 179]. In general, this definition is often used for terminal \mathbb{Q} -factorial singularities and the discrepancy can be a rational number, but we will only need the smooth case here. In particular, the discrepancies that we will consider are all integers.

Remark 3.4. — If $Y = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ and $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ is the blow-up of an irreducible subvariety $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ of dimension d , and $E \subset X$ is the exceptional divisor, then the discrepancy of E with respect to π is $n - d - 1$.

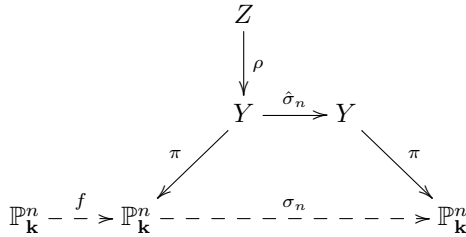
PROPOSITION 3.5. — Let \mathbf{k} be any field and let $n \geq 3$ be odd. If $g \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ and $H \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ is an irreducible hypersurface, the discrepancy of H with respect to g is always even.

Remark 3.6. — In characteristic 0, one can see that the discrepancy of an irreducible hypersurface $H \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ with respect to $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is the exponent of the equation of H in $\text{Jac}(\varphi)$. Hence, Proposition 3.5 is the geometric version of Corollary 2.8.

Proof. — Since the automorphisms of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ do not change the discrepancy, we only need to show that the discrepancy of H with respect to f differs by an even number from the discrepancy of H with respect to $\sigma_n f$ for $f \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

With the same notation as in Proposition 3.1, let Z be a smooth projective variety with a birational morphism $\rho : Z \rightarrow Y$ such that the restriction of $(\pi\rho)^{-1}f : \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n \dashrightarrow Z$ to H is a birational map $H \dashrightarrow H_Z$ for some irreducible hypersurface $H_Z \subset Z$. This fact implies that the discrepancy of H with respect to f (respectively to $\sigma_n f$) is equal to the discrepancy of

H_Z with respect to $\pi\rho$ (respectively to $\sigma_n\pi\rho = \pi\hat{\sigma}_n\rho$).



For $d = 0, \dots, n - 2$, let $E_d \in \text{Pic}(Y_{d+1})$ be the exceptional divisor of $\pi_d : Y_{d+1} \rightarrow Y_d$, which is the sum of $\binom{n+1}{n-d}$ irreducible divisors, contracted by π_d onto the strict transforms of the toric d -dimensional linear varieties of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$.

Using the ramification formula, $K_{Y_{d+1}} = \pi_d^*(K_{Y_d}) + (n - 1 - d)E_d$, repeatedly we get

$$K_Y = (\pi)^*(K_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n}) + E_{n-2} + \sum_{j=0}^{n-3} (n - 1 - j)(\pi_{j+1} \cdots \pi_{n-2})^*(E_j).$$

Since the linear spaces blown up by π_0, \dots, π_{n-2} are in increasing dimension, the strict transform of each E_j on Y is the same as its total transform $(\pi_j \cdots \pi_{n-2})^*(E_{j-1})$; we will denote it by \hat{E}_j (in the notation of Proposition 3.1, $\hat{E}_j = \sum_{\Delta \in \Omega_j} E_{\Delta}$). With this notation the above formula becomes

$$K_Y = (\pi)^*(K_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n}) + \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} (n - 1 - j)\hat{E}_j.$$

We also denote by $\hat{E}_{n-1} \in \text{Pic}(Y)$ the strict transform of the union of the coordinate hyperplanes. Applying Proposition 3.1, we obtain that $(\hat{\sigma}_n)^*(\hat{E}_j) = \hat{E}_{n-1-j}$ for $j = 0, \dots, n - 1$. Applying $(\hat{\sigma}_n)^*$ to the above formula we get

$$K_Y = (\pi\hat{\sigma}_n)^*(K_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n}) + \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} (n - 1 - j)\hat{E}_{n-1-j}.$$

It remains to compare the coefficients of H_Z in $K_Z - (\pi\rho)^*(K_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n})$ and $K_Z - (\pi\hat{\sigma}_n\rho)^*(K_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n})$ and to see that the difference is even:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\pi\hat{\sigma}_n\rho)^*(K_{\mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}}) - (\pi\rho)^*(K_{\mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}}) \\
 &= \rho^*((\pi\hat{\sigma}_n)^*(K_{\mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}}) - \pi^*(K_{\mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}})) \\
 &= \rho^*\left((K_Y - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2}(n-1-j)\hat{E}_{n-1-j}) - (K_Y - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2}(n-1-j)\hat{E}_j)\right) \\
 &= \rho^*\left(\sum_{j=0}^{n-2}(n-1-j)\hat{E}_j - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2}(n-1-j)\hat{E}_{n-1-j}\right) \\
 &= \rho^*\left(\sum_{j=0}^{n-2}(n-1-j)\hat{E}_j - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1}j\hat{E}_j\right) \\
 &= \rho^*\left((n-1)\hat{E}_0 - (n-1)\hat{E}_{n-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2}(n-1-2j)\hat{E}_j\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

All coefficients of the above sum are even, since n is odd. □

Remark 3.7. — The proof above also shows that composing with elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ do not change the parity of the discrepancies, when n is odd. It can then be used to say that two elements $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}})$ are not equal, up to right and left multiplication by elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

LEMMA 3.8. — *Let \mathbf{k} be any field and let $n > m \geq 2$. Then the birational map*

$$\varphi : [x_0 : \dots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : \dots : x_m \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_{m+1} : \dots : x_n]$$

sends the hyperplane $H_1 \subset \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}$ given by $x_1 = 0$ onto the exceptional divisor of the linear subspace $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}$ given by $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_m = 0$ and of dimension $n - m$.

Proof. — The hyperplane $H_1 \subset \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}$ given by $x_1 = 0$ is contracted by φ onto the linear subspace Γ . The blow-up $\pi_{\Gamma} : X_{\Gamma} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}}$ of this subset is the birational morphism given by the projection of

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{\Gamma} = \{ & ([x_0 : \dots : x_n], [y_1 : \dots : y_m]) \in \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbb{P}^{m-1}_{\mathbf{k}} \mid \\
 & x_i y_j = x_j y_i, i, j \in \{1, \dots, m\} \}
 \end{aligned}$$

onto the first factor. The birational map $(\pi_\Gamma)^{-1} \circ \varphi$ is then

$$([x_0 : \cdots : x_n]) \mapsto ([x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : \cdots : x_m \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_{m+1} : \cdots : x_n], [x_0 : x_2 : \cdots : x_m]),$$

so its restriction to H_1 yields a birational map from H_1 to the exceptional divisor $E = (\pi_\Gamma)^{-1}(\Gamma)$. □

COROLLARY 3.9. — *Let \mathbf{k} be any field and $n \geq 3$ be odd. Then the birational map*

$$\xi_n : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]$$

does not belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

Proof. — It follows from Lemma 3.8 that ξ_n sends a hyperplane onto the exceptional divisor of the linear subspace given by $x_1 = x_2 = 0$. The linear subspace having codimension 2, the discrepancy obtained is equal to 1. Thus ξ_n does not belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, by Proposition 3.5. □

Example 3.10. — Looking at the geometric description of σ_n , one can easily produce elements $g \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ which are not symmetrical. We choose for instance $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha & : [x_0 : x_1 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 + x_0 : x_2 + x_1 + x_0 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n], \\ \alpha^{-1} & : [x_0 : x_1 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 - x_0 : x_2 - x_1 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]. \end{aligned}$$

The image of the coordinate points by α and α^{-1} have distinct alignment with respect to the hyperplanes contracted by σ_n . Indeed, denoting by p_i the point where x_i is the only non-zero value, $\alpha(p_0) = [1 : 1 : 1 : 0 : \cdots : 0]$ has three non-zero coordinates, but this is not the case for $\alpha^{-1}(p_i)$, $i = 0, \dots, n$. This implies that the base-points of $g = \sigma_n \alpha \sigma_n$ and $g^{-1} = \sigma_n \alpha^{-1} \sigma_n$ have a different nature. Doing the computation, one gets

$$\begin{aligned} g & : [x_0 : x_1 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : \frac{x_0 x_1}{x_0 + x_1} : \frac{x_0 x_1 x_2}{x_0 x_1 + x_0 x_2 + x_1 x_2} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n], \\ g^{-1} & : [x_0 : x_1 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : \frac{x_0 x_1}{x_0 - x_1} : \frac{x_1 x_2}{x_1 - x_2} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]. \end{aligned}$$

If $n = 2$, g and g^{-1} are two birational maps of degree 3, with not the same number of proper base-points (3 and 4 respectively). If $n \geq 3$, we get maps of different degree: 4 and 3. This contradicts the expectations of Kantor and Coble on the degree of elements of $G_3(\mathbf{k})$:

For regular transformations of 3-space, Kantor claims, in [18, Theorem IX, p. 7] “Die Transformationen haben stets in beiden R umen gleich hohe Ordnung.” Also one can see [1, p. 2108], “wie die ebenen Cremonaschen Transformationen: eine Transformation und ihre inverse haben ein und diesselbe Ordnung”. Similarly, one find in [5, p. 366 (24)] “For a regular Cremona transformation in S_k the direct and inverse transformation have the same order and ...”

4. Changing the discrepancies in even dimension and monomial maps

As we saw in Proposition 3.5, the discrepancy of a hypersurface which is contracted by an element of G_n is always even when n is odd, and the main reason for this is that $\hat{\sigma}_n$ exchanges the divisors associated with blow-ups of linear subspaces of dimension k with divisors associated with blow-ups of linear subspaces of dimension $n - 1 - k$. Here, we show how to use this in even dimension to get elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ that contract divisors on subspaces of codimension 2, with discrepancy 1.

Example 4.1. — We fix $n \geq 2$.

(1) Let $\alpha_1 \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ be given by

$$[x_0 : x_1 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_0 - x_1 : x_2 : \cdots : x_n].$$

Then, $\alpha_1 \sigma_n \alpha_1 \sigma_n \alpha_1 \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is equal to the quadratic involution

$$\theta_n : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : \frac{(x_0)^2}{x_1} : x_2 : \cdots : x_n].$$

(2) Moreover denoting by $\alpha_2 \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ the element given by

$$[x_0 : x_1 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_1 - x_2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n],$$

the map $\theta_n \alpha_2 \theta_n \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is equal to the quadratic involution

$$[x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : \frac{(x_0)^2}{x_1} - x_2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n].$$

Remark 4.2. — The composition which yields the map θ_n (but also the map α_2) was already constructed, at least for $n = 3$, by M. Gizatullin in [12, p. 115] to find elements of $G_3(\mathbf{k})$ which contract hyperplanes onto curves (see Section 8 for more details). The geometric idea here is that σ_n contracts a hyperplane onto a point, which is then moved by α onto a general point of a coordinate line. The point is then blown up and replaced with a hypersurface in the blow-up of the line, which is sent by σ_n onto a codimension 2 subset.

LEMMA 4.3. — *If $n \geq 3$ and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, the following map belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$:*

$$\tau : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 + \frac{x_2x_3}{x_0} : x_2 : \cdots : x_n]$$

Remark 4.4. — We do not know if τ belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ when $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 2$. Calculations tend to indicate that this is not the case, but we do not have a proof.

Proof. — It follows from Example 4.1 that

$$\tau' : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 + \frac{(x_2)^2}{x_0} : x_2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]$$

belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$. Hence, writing $\alpha = [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 + x_3 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]$, we get

$$(\tau')^{-1}\alpha^{-1}\tau'\alpha : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 + \frac{x_3(x_3 - 2x_2)}{x_0} : x_2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n],$$

which is equal to τ , up to linear automorphisms. □

The main construction of this section is the following example, which we first describe algebraically, before explaining the geometry behind the construction.

Example 4.5. — The following construction works for each integer $n \geq 3$ but is more interesting for $n \geq 4$.

We denote by $\theta_n, \tau_1, \tau_2, \alpha \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbf{k}})$ the following birational involutions

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_n &= [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : \frac{(x_0)^2}{x_1} : x_2 : \cdots : x_n], \\ \tau_1 &= [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : -x_1 + \frac{x_0x_2}{x_3} : x_2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n], \\ \tau_2 &= [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : -x_2 + \frac{x_1x_3}{x_0} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n], \\ \alpha &= [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_3 - x_2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from Example 4.1 and Lemma 4.3 that the four maps belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, if $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$. Then,

$$\chi_0 = \sigma_n \alpha \sigma_n \tau_2 \sigma_n \tau_1 \theta_n \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$$

is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_0 : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto \\ \left[\frac{1}{x_0} : \frac{x_1x_3}{x_0(x_1x_2 - x_0x_3)} : \frac{x_1(x_2)^2 + x_0(x_3)^2 - x_0x_2x_3}{x_0(x_3)^3} : \frac{1}{x_3} : \cdots : \frac{1}{x_n} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

It sends the hyperplane $H_0 \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by $x_0 = 0$ onto the exceptional divisor of the plane $P \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by $x_3 = \cdots = x_n = 0$. Hence the discrepancy is $n - 3$.

Let us explain the geometric idea of this construction.

- (1) The map θ_n sends the hyperplane H_0 onto a codimension 1 subset of the exceptional divisor of the linear subspace $R \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by $x_0 = x_1 = 0$.
- (2) The map σ_n exchanges the exceptional divisor of R with the exceptional divisor of the line $L \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by $x_2 = \cdots = x_n = 0$; these divisors are naturally birational to $R \times L$, so that the projections are restrictions of the blow-ups.
- (3) The image of H_0 by θ_n corresponds then to a divisor of bidegree $(0, 1)$ in $R \times L$; the projection to R is surjective but the projection to L has only one point in its image.
- (4) The map τ_1 fixes R ; its action on the divisor $R \times L$ sends the divisor of bidegree $(0, 1)$ onto a divisor of bidegree $(1, 1)$.
- (5) After applying σ_n , we apply τ_2 , which fixes L . It sends the divisor of bidegree $(1, 1)$ onto a divisor of bidegree $(1, 0)$ in $R \times L$.
- (6) After applying σ_n again, the divisor of bidegree $(1, 0)$ corresponds to a general hypersurface of R ($x_3 = x_2$), which we move to a special one ($x_2 = 0$) by α .
- (7) The last application of σ_n allows to go from $x_0 = x_1 = x_2 = 0$ to the plane given by $x_3 = \cdots = x_n = 0$.

Remark 4.6. — In the above construction, we could replace the maps τ_i with maps fixing L and R respectively, and acting on the exceptional divisor in the same way. If $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 2$, it does not seem to be possible to obtain such elements in $G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

Starting with the map $\chi_0 \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ of Example 4.5, the following construction provides monomial elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

Example 4.7. — We use the map $\chi_0 \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ of Example 4.5 and the following two elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &= [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 + \frac{x_0 x_3}{x_2} : x_2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n], \\ \alpha &= [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_3 - x_2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]. \end{aligned}$$

Then $\chi_1 = \sigma_n \tau \alpha \chi_0 \tau \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is the following monomial map

$$\chi_1 : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : \frac{x_0 x_2}{x_3} : -\frac{x_0 (x_3)^3}{x_1 (x_2)^2} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n].$$

Then we can obtain the following.

PROPOSITION 4.8. — Assume that $n \geq 3$ and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$. Then, the following birational maps are elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] &\mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \left(\frac{x_1}{x_0}\right)^2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n], \\ \nu : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] &\mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_3 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_4 : \cdots : x_n]. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the following birational map belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ if and only if n is even:

$$\xi_n : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n].$$

Proof. — (a) It follows from Example 4.1 that the birational map

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_n : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] &\mapsto [x_0 : \frac{(x_0)^2}{x_1} : x_2 : \cdots : x_n] \\ &= [x_1 : x_0 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : \cdots : x_n \frac{x_1}{x_0}] \end{aligned}$$

belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$. Hence, the maps

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_1 : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] &\mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : \frac{(x_1)^2}{x_2} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n], \\ \varphi_2 : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] &\mapsto [\frac{(x_1)^2}{x_0} : x_1 : \cdots : x_n], \\ \varphi_3 : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] &\mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : \frac{(x_0)^2}{x_2} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n], \end{aligned}$$

all belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, which implies that $\mu = \varphi_2\varphi_3\varphi_2\varphi_1 \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

(b) It follows from Example 4.7 that the birational map

$$\chi : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : \frac{x_0x_2}{x_3} : \frac{x_0(x_3)^3}{x_1(x_2)^2} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]$$

belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, and as before the map

$$\varphi_4 : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : \frac{(x_3)^2}{x_1} : x_2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]$$

also belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$. Hence, the map

$$\mu\chi\varphi_4 : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_2 \frac{x_0}{x_3} : x_1 \frac{x_0}{x_3} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]$$

belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$. This implies that $\nu \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

(c) Multiplying ν with conjugates by permutations, we obtain that

$$\psi_k : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_3 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_4 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : \cdots : x_{2k-1} \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_{2k} : \cdots : x_n]$$

belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ for each k with $3 \leq 2k - 1 \leq n$.

If $n = 2k - 1$, the map ξ_n does not belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, by Corollary 3.9.

If $n = 2k$, the map $\varphi_5(\psi_k)^{-1} \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is equal to

$$[x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 : \cdots : x_{n-1} : x_n \frac{x_1}{x_0}]$$

where

$$\varphi_5 : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_3 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : \cdots : x_n \frac{x_1}{x_0}].$$

Since φ_5 is equal to θ_n up to automorphisms, the map ξ_n belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$. □

As we already explained in the introduction, the subgroup of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ that consists of monomial transformations with coefficient one is isomorphic to $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$: each matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$$

corresponds to the birational map of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ which is given by

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1^{a_{11}} \cdots x_n^{a_{1n}}, \dots, x_1^{a_{n1}} \cdots x_n^{a_{nn}})$$

and which extends to the birational map of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by

$$[x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [1 : (\frac{x_1}{x_0})^{a_{11}} \cdots (\frac{x_n}{x_0})^{a_{1n}} : \cdots : (\frac{x_1}{x_0})^{a_{n1}} \cdots (\frac{x_n}{x_0})^{a_{nn}}].$$

LEMMA 4.9. — *Let $n \geq 1$, and denote by $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}} \subset \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$ the subgroup of matrices such that each column has an odd number of odd entries. Then the following hold.*

- (1) *The group $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}$ is a maximal subgroup of $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$, and has index $2^n - 1$.*

- (2) If $n \geq 3$, then $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}}$ is generated by the group of matrix permutations and the following matrices:

$$M_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}, M_\mu = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ 2 & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}, M_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ 1 & 1 & & \\ 1 & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Proof. — (1) There is a canonical surjective group homomorphism $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{F}_2)$, which induces an action $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$ on the vector space $V = (\mathbb{F}_2)^n$ by right multiplication. As two distinct elements of $V \setminus \{0\}$ are linearly independent, the action on $V \setminus \{0\}$ is doubly transitive. Moreover, it follows from the definition of $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}}$ that it is the isotropy group of the point $(1, \dots, 1)$, so $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}}$ has index $2^n - 1$ in $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$, and acts transitively on $V \setminus \{(0, \dots, 0), (1, \dots, 1)\}$. It remains to see that this implies that $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}}$ is maximal in $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$. An elementary way is to observe that for each $M, N \in \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z}) \setminus \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}}$, there exist $A, B \in \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}}$ such that $AM = NB$: choose B that sends $(1, \dots, 1)N$ onto $(1, \dots, 1)M$ and observe that $A = NBM^{-1}$ fixes $(1, \dots, 1)$. This can also be explained by more general classical results: groups doubly transitive are primitive [15, p. 149, Theorem 1.9] and stabilisers in primitive groups are maximal [15, p. 147, Theorem 1.4].

(2) We assume $n \geq 3$ and denote by $H \subset \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}}$ the group generated by matrix permutations and by M_θ, M_μ, M_ν . Our aim is to prove that $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}} \subset H$.

Denote by H' the group of elements of $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}}$ having ${}^t(0, \dots, 0, 1)$ as the last column. By sending an element of H' onto the submatrix consisting of the first $n - 1$ lines and columns, we obtain a group homomorphism $\rho : H' \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(n - 1, \mathbb{Z})$. Note that ρ is surjective: we can complete any element of $\mathrm{GL}(n - 1, \mathbb{Z})$ by adding entries on the last line so that the corresponding element belongs to $H' \subset \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\mathrm{odd}}$. The kernel of ρ is then isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^{n-1} , generated by the matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \\ & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and is thus contained in H . Moreover, the matrices

$$M_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M'_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ 1 & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 1 & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

belong to $H' \cap H$ and are sent by ρ onto elements that generate $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$, together with the image of the permutation matrices of H' . It follows that $H' \subset H$.

It remains to take an arbitrary element $g \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}$ and to see that some element of Hg has last column equal to ${}^t(0, \dots, 0, 1)$; this will imply that $g \in H$. To do this, we replace g with hg , where $h \in H$, in the following way.

- Step 1: We multiply g on the left with multiples of permutations and M_θ , so that the last column becomes ${}^t(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ with $0 \leq a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n$.
- Step 2: We multiply on the left with the conjugate of M'_ν^{-1} by a permutation matrix, replace ${}^t(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ with ${}^t(a_1, \dots, a_{n-3}, a_{n-2} - a_{n-1}, a_{n-1}, a_n - a_{n-1})$, and then go back to Step 1.

It remains to observe that this algorithm always ends with a last column equal to ${}^t(0, \dots, 0, 1)$. Note that Step 2 decreases the value of $\sum_i |a_i|$ by $2a_{n-2}$. If $a_{n-2} = 0$, then $a_{n-1} \neq a_n$ because the sum is odd, and applying Step 2 decreases the value of $\max_i |a_i|$ (except in the case where $a_{n-1} = 0$, which implies that $a_n = 1$). Hence, we always decrease the value of the pair $(\sum_i |a_i|, \max_i |a_i|)$ (in a lexicographic order), until we reach ${}^t(0, \dots, 0, 1)$. □

We can now give the proofs of Theorems 1.1 and 1.4, which follow from the above results.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. — For any n and any \mathbf{k} , the group $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ contains the diagonal automorphisms of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, so the question reduces to studying the intersection of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ with the group $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$ of monomial transformations with coefficient one.

If $n = 2$, then $G_2(\mathbf{k})$ contains $\theta_2 : [x_0 : x_1 : x_2] \mapsto [x_0 : \frac{(x_0)^2}{x_1} : x_2] = [1 : \frac{x_0}{x_1} : \frac{x_2}{x_0}]$ (Example 4.1), and thus also the map $[x_0 : x_1 : x_2] \mapsto [\frac{(x_0)^2}{x_2} : x_1 : x_0] = [1 : \frac{x_1}{x_0} \cdot \frac{x_2}{x_0} : \frac{x_2}{x_0}]$. The two correspond to

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z})$$

and generate, together with permutations, the group $\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z})$.

If $n \geq 4$ is even and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, the map

$$\xi_n : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_3 : \cdots : x_n]$$

belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ (Proposition 4.8). This map, together with permutations and θ_n , generates $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$.

If n is odd, then $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ does not contain ξ_n (Corollary 3.9), so $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$ is not contained in $G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

If n is odd and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, then $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ contains the following maps (see Example 4.1 and Proposition 4.8):

$$\theta_n : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 x_1 : (x_0)^2 : x_1 x_2 : \cdots : x_1 x_n],$$

$$\mu : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 (\frac{x_1}{x_0})^2 : x_3 : \cdots : x_n],$$

$$\nu : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_3 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_4 : \cdots : x_n].$$

This shows, together with Lemma 4.9, that $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ contains the subgroup $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}$ of $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$ because $M_\theta, M_\mu, M_\nu \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}$ correspond to $\theta_n, \mu, \nu \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ respectively. Moreover, this group being maximal in $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})$, we have

$$G_n(\mathbf{k}) \cap \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z}) = \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}.$$

□

Proof of Theorem 1.4. — (1) If $H \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ is a irreducible hypersurface which is sent by an element $g \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ onto the exceptional divisor of an irreducible closed subset $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, the discrepancy of H with respect to g is $n - d - 1$, where d is the dimension of Γ . If n is odd, the discrepancy is even by Proposition 3.5, so d is even.

(2) If $n > m \geq 0$, nm is even and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, we want to find an irreducible closed linear subset $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ and an element $g \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$ that sends a hyperplane onto the exceptional divisor of Γ . We consider the map

$$\varphi : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 \frac{x_1}{x_0} : \cdots : x_{n-m} \frac{x_1}{x_0} : x_{n-m+1} : \cdots : x_n]$$

which sends the hyperplane $H_1 \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by $x_1 = 0$ onto the exceptional divisor of the linear subspace $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by $x_1 = x_2 = \cdots = x_{n-m} = 0$ and of dimension m .

If n is even, then φ belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, like all monomial birational maps of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ (Theorem 1.1). If n is odd, then m is even, so φ belongs to $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}$, which is contained in $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ by Theorem 1.1. □

Example 4.10. — At the end of the introduction of [12], M. Gizatullin gives an example of quadratic transformation due to I. Dolgachev, “considered as an analog for \mathbb{P}^5 of the standard quadratic transformation” σ_2 . The transformation is given by

$$\sigma' : [x_0 : \cdots : x_5] \mapsto [x_1x_2 : x_0x_2 : x_0x_1 : x_0x_3 : x_1x_4 : x_2x_5].$$

It sends the three hyperplanes $x_0 = 0$, $x_1 = 0$ and $x_2 = 0$ onto the exceptional divisors of three planes. In affine coordinates, we obtain

$$(x_1, \dots, x_5) \mapsto \left(\frac{1}{x_1}, \frac{1}{x_2}, \frac{x_3}{x_1x_2}, \frac{x_4}{x_2}, \frac{x_5}{x_1} \right)$$

which corresponds to the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}(5, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}$$

so the map belongs to $G_5(\mathbf{k})$ if $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, by Theorem 1.1.

Remark 4.11. — Seeing \mathbb{P}^5 as $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{k}[x_0, \dots, x_2]_2)$, where $\mathbf{k}[x_0, \dots, x_n]_d$ denotes the vector space of homogeneous polynomials of degree d , we can choose homogenous coordinates $z_{i,j} = x_i x_j$ on it. The map of Example 4.10 becomes then

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma' : [z_{00} : z_{11} : z_{22} : z_{12} : z_{02} : z_{01}] &\mapsto \\ &[z_{11}z_{22} : z_{00}z_{22} : z_{00}z_{11} : z_{12}z_{00} : z_{02}z_{11} : z_{01}z_{22}] \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{z_{00}} : \frac{1}{z_{11}} : \frac{1}{z_{22}} : \frac{z_{12}}{z_{11}z_{22}} : \frac{z_{02}}{z_{00}z_{22}} : \frac{z_{01}}{z_{00}z_{11}} \right] \end{aligned}$$

One obtains a map $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^2) \cup \{\sigma_2\} \rightarrow G_5(\mathbf{k})$ that sends σ_2 onto σ' , and a linear automorphism α onto the linear automorphism corresponding to the action of α on $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{k}[x_0, \dots, x_2]_2)$. This map naturally extends to a group homomorphism $G_2(\mathbf{k}) \rightarrow G_5(\mathbf{k})$, as it was observed by [12].

One can then generalise this construction to any dimension, and send σ_n onto the involution $\sigma' \in \text{Bir}(\mathbf{k}[x_0, \dots, x_n]_2) = \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}^N)$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma' : [z_{00} : z_{11} : \cdots : z_{nn} : \cdots : z_{ij} : \cdots] &\mapsto \\ &\left[\frac{1}{z_{00}} : \frac{1}{z_{11}} : \cdots : \frac{1}{z_{nn}} : \cdots : \frac{z_{ij}}{z_{ii}z_{jj}} : \cdots \right]. \end{aligned}$$

This element is a monomial transformation of \mathbb{P}^N , that belongs to $G_N(\mathbf{k})$ if $n \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$.

The natural question that arises is to know if this extends to a group homomorphism $G_n(\mathbf{k}) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}^N)$ (or $G_n(\mathbf{k}) \rightarrow G_N(\mathbf{k})$ for $n \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$). One needs for this to know the relations of the group $G_n(\mathbf{k}) = \langle \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^n), \sigma_n \rangle$.

5. Linear injections $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1})$

There is a canonical injection

$$\iota_n : \text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1}),$$

which corresponds to acting on the n first coordinates of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1}$ and to fix the last one: if $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$, then $\iota_n(\varphi) \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1})$ is given by

$$(\iota_n(\varphi))(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) = (\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n), x_{n+1}).$$

Choosing birational maps $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ and $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1}$, we can thus obtain injections $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1})$. The simplest one is when we use linear open embeddings $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^i \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^i$, i.e. open embeddings such that the pull-back of a general hyperplane is a hyperplane.

DEFINITION 5.1. — *An injective group homomorphism $\iota : \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1})$ is said to be a linear embedding if there exist linear open embeddings $\tau_n : \mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ and $\tau_{n+1} : \mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1}$ such that*

$$\iota(\varphi) = \tau_{n+1} \iota_n((\tau_n)^{-1} \varphi \tau_n) (\tau_{n+1})^{-1}$$

for each $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ (where $\iota_n : \text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1})$ is the canonical embedding as above).

PROPOSITION 5.2. — *Let $\iota : \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1})$ be a linear embedding.*

- (1) *If n is even, then $\iota(G_n(\mathbf{k})) \not\subset G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$.*
- (2) *If n is odd and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, then $\iota(G_n(\mathbf{k})) \subset G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$.*

Proof. — Let us denote by $\tau_n : \mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ and $\tau_{n+1} : \mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1}$ the linear embeddings associated to ι .

If we replace τ_n with another linear embedding $\tau'_n : \mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, we do not change the group $\iota(G_n(\mathbf{k}))$ since $(\tau'_n)^{-1} \circ \tau_n$ is an element of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \subset G_n(\mathbf{k})$. Similarly, replacing τ_n with another linear embedding only replaces $\iota(G_n(\mathbf{k}))$ with a conjugate by an element of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^{n+1}) \subset G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$. We can then assume that τ_n, τ_{n+1} are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= [1 : x_1 : \dots : x_n], \\ \tau_{n+1}(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) &= [1 : x_1 : \dots : x_n : x_{n+1}]. \end{aligned}$$

With this choice, we can see $\iota(\sigma_n)$ locally as

$$\iota(\sigma_n) : [1 : x_1 : \cdots : x_{n+1}] \mapsto [1 : \frac{1}{x_1} : \cdots : \frac{1}{x_n} : x_{n+1}].$$

Hence, $\iota(\sigma_n)\sigma_{n+1}$ is the map

$$[1 : x_1 : \cdots : x_{n+1}] \mapsto [1 : x_1 : \cdots : x_n : \frac{1}{x_{n+1}}],$$

which is equal to the map $\theta_{n+1} \in G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$ of Example 4.1 up to permutations. This shows that $\iota(\sigma_n) \in G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$ for each n , so it remains to decide when $\iota(\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)) \subset G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$.

Let us denote by $A_0 \subset \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ the subgroup of elements that preserve the hyperplane $H_0 \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by $x_0 = 0$. The group $(\tau_n)^{-1}A_0\tau_n \subset \text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is then equal to the group Aff_n of affine automorphisms of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ (generated by $\text{GL}(n, \mathbf{k})$ and the translations). Since $\iota(\text{Aff}_n)$ is contained in Aff_{n+1} , we obtain that $\iota(A_0) \subset \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^{n+1}) \subset G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$.

Because A_0 acts transitively on the set of hyperplanes of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ distinct from H_0 , it is a maximal subgroup of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$. Hence, $\iota(G_n(\mathbf{k}))$ is contained in $G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$ if and only if $\iota(\nu) \in G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$ for one element $\nu \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \setminus A_0$.

We choose $\nu \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ to be the involution

$$\nu : [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mapsto [x_1 : x_0 : x_2 : \cdots : x_n]$$

and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (\tau_n)^{-1}\nu\tau_n : (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto \left(\frac{1}{x_1}, \frac{x_2}{x_1}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_1}\right) \\ \iota_n((\tau_n)^{-1}\nu\tau_n) : (x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) &\mapsto \left(\frac{1}{x_1}, \frac{x_2}{x_1}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_1}, x_{n+1}\right) \\ \iota(\nu) : [x_0 : x_1 : \cdots : x_{n+1}] &\mapsto [x_1 : x_0 : x_2 : \cdots : x_n : x_{n+1} \frac{x_1}{x_0}]. \end{aligned}$$

If n is odd and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, then $\iota(\nu)$ belongs to $G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$ by Theorem 1.1.

If n is even, then $\iota(\nu)$ does not belong to $G_{n+1}(\mathbf{k})$ by Corollary 3.9. \square

6. Automorphisms of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$

Any linear embedding of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ into $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ yields an injective group homomorphism

$$\text{Aut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n).$$

Changing the linear embedding only changes the image by conjugation by an element of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$. Hence, whether an element of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ or not does not depend of the linear embedding. In the sequel, we

will always talk about extension of automorphisms of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ to $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ via linear embeddings.

By Jung-van der Kulk's Theorem [17], [20], the group $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^2)$ is generated by $\text{GL}(2, \mathbf{k})$ and by all elementary automorphisms of the form $(x, y) \mapsto (x + p(y), y)$ (where $p \in \mathbf{k}[y]$ is a polynomial).

This is no longer true for $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^3)$ if $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$ [30] and still open for $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ if $n \geq 4$ or if $n = 3$ and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) > 0$. The group $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \subset \text{Aut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ generated by $\text{GL}(n, \mathbf{k})$ and elementary automorphisms is then called *Tame group of automorphisms*.

If $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$ and $n \geq 3$, H. Derksen showed that the group $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is generated by affine automorphisms and by

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + (x_2)^2, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

(see [11, Theorem 5.2.1, p. 95]). Hence, we easily obtain that $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is contained in $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ in this case. In $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) > 0$, the result of H. Derksen does not work, as the following lemma shows.

LEMMA 6.1. — *Let $n \geq 2$ and let \mathbf{k} be a field of characteristic $p > 0$.*

(a) *Let us write $R_p = \mathbf{k}[(x_1)^p, \dots, (x_n)^p] \subset \mathbf{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ and let*

$$R = x_1 R_p + \dots + x_n R_p \subset \mathbf{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

Then, the following sets of endomorphisms of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ are closed under composition:

- $\{f : (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (f_1, \dots, f_n) \mid f_i \in x_1 R_p + \dots + x_n R_p + R_p \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n\}$,
- $\{f : (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (f_1, \dots, f_n) \mid f_i \in x_1 \mathbf{k} + \dots + x_n \mathbf{k} + R_p \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n\}$.

(b) *The group generated by affine transformations and all maps of the form*

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + x_2^{pa_3} \dots x_n^{pa_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n), \quad a_3, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{N}$$

is a proper subgroup of $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$.

(c) *The group generated by affine transformations and all maps of the form*

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + (x_2)^{mp}, x_2, \dots, x_n), \quad m \in \mathbb{N}$$

is a proper subgroup of $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$.

Remark 6.2. — If $\mathbf{k} = \mathbb{F}_2$, Assertion (c) can also be proven by looking at the bijections induced by the automorphisms on the \mathbf{k} -points of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, as observed in [23].

Proof. — Assertion (a) is given by the fact that if $g(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R_p$, then $g(f_1, \dots, f_n) \in R_p$, for each $f_1, \dots, f_n \in \mathbf{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. Assertions (b) and (c) directly follow from (a). \square

The question of finding a finite set of elements that generate, together with affine automorphisms, the group $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is still open when $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) > 0$ (see [23]).

We will show all tame automorphisms belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, when $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$. This shows in particular that we only need affine automorphisms and two elements of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ (Corollary 6.6).

LEMMA 6.3. — *Let $n \geq 2$, let \mathbf{k} be such that $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$ and let $a_2, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$.*

If na_2 is even, the element of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ given by

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + x_2^{a_2} \dots x_n^{a_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

extends to an element of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, via any linear embedding $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$.

Proof. — If a_2 is even, the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -a_2 & -a_3 & \dots & -a_n \\ & 1 & a_3 & \dots & a_n \\ & & 1 & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

belongs to $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{Z})_{\text{odd}}$, so the birational map of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ given by

$$\varphi : (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 x_2^{-a_2} \dots x_n^{-a_n}, x_2 x_3^{a_3} \dots x_n^{a_n}, x_3, \dots, x_n)$$

extends to an element of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ by Theorem 1.1. The same holds if a_2 is odd but n is even, since in this case all monomial elements belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, again by Theorem 1.1. We take

$$l : (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + 1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} l\varphi : (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto (x_1 x_2^{-a_2} \dots x_n^{-a_n} + 1, x_2 x_3^{a_3} \dots x_n^{a_n}, x_3, \dots, x_n) \\ \varphi^{-1}l\varphi : (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto (x_1 + x_2^{a_2} \dots x_n^{a_n}, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n), \end{aligned}$$

which concludes the proof. \square

COROLLARY 6.4. — *If n is even and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, any linear embedding of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ to $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ yields an inclusion $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \subset G_n(\mathbf{k})$.*

Proof. — Follows from Lemma 6.3 and from the fact that $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is generated by affine automorphisms, which extend to elements of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \subset G_n(\mathbf{k})$, and maps of the form

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + x_2^{a_2} \dots x_n^{a_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n).$$

□

In the case where n is odd, we can work a little bit more and obtain the same result:

PROPOSITION 6.5. — *If $n \geq 2$ and $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, any linear embedding of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ to $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ yields an inclusion $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \subset G_n(\mathbf{k})$.*

Proof. — By Corollary 6.4, we can assume that n is odd. The aim is to show that each map of the form

$$P_v = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + x_2^{v_2} \dots x_n^{v_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n),$$

extends to an element of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, for each $v = (v_2, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{N}^{n-1}$. It follows from Lemma 6.3 that this works if one of the v_i is even (apply permutations of coordinates).

We can also get P_v if one of the v_i is equal to 1. Indeed, for each $(v_3, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{N}^{n-2}$, the following maps belong to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$:

$$\begin{aligned} (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto (x_1 + (x_2 + 1)^2 x_3^{v_3} \dots x_n^{v_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n), \\ (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto (x_1 - x_3^{v_3} \dots x_n^{v_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n), \\ (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto (x_1 - (x_2)^2 x_3^{v_3} \dots x_n^{v_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n), \end{aligned}$$

so the composition $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + 2x_2x_3^{v_3} \dots x_n^{v_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ belongs to $G_n(\mathbf{k})$. As $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$, we get $P_v \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$.

Then, we observe that

$$f : (x_1, \dots, x_n) \dashrightarrow (x_1 \cdot (x_2)^2, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

extends to an element of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, by Theorem 1.1. Conjugating

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + x_2^{v_2} \dots x_n^{v_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

by f we obtain

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + x_2^{v_2+2} x_3^{v_3} \dots x_n^{v_n}, x_2, \dots, x_n).$$

This implies that we can get all elements P_v . □

COROLLARY 6.6. — *For each $n \geq 2$, the group $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is contained in the subgroup of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ generated by affine automorphisms and by the*

following two birational involutions

$$\begin{aligned} (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto \left(\frac{1}{x_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{x_n}\right) \\ (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto \left(\frac{1}{x_1}, \frac{x_2}{x_1}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_1}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Proof. — We fix the linear embedding $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto [1 : x_1 : \dots : x_n]$, that fixes an isomorphism $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n) \rightarrow \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$. The image of affine automorphisms corresponds then to the subgroup of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ that preserve the hyperplane x_0 , being the complement of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$. The group $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ is then generated by this group, by the automorphism $[x_0 : \dots : x_n] \mapsto [x_1 : x_0 : x_2 : \dots : x_n]$ and by σ_n . Writing the action of these two elements on $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$ gives the result. □

Example 6.7. — Let us recall that the famous Nagata automorphism of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^3$ is given by

$$N : (x, y, z) \mapsto (x + 2y(xz - y^2) + z(xz - y^2)^2, y + z(xz - y^2), z).$$

This element was proven to be in $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^3) \setminus \text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^3)$ if $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$ in [30]. The case of $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) > 0$ is however still open.

PROPOSITION 6.8. — *Let \mathbf{k} be a field such that $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$. Taking any linear embedding $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^3$ sends the Nagata automorphism to an element of $G_3(\mathbf{k})$.*

Proof. — Recall the following classical observation: the Nagata automorphism can be seen as an automorphism of the affine plane over the field $\mathbf{k}(z)$, and as such can be decomposed as a composition of elementary automorphisms and affine automorphisms.

Explicitely, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha : (x, y, z) &\mapsto \left(x + \frac{y^2}{z}, y, z\right) \\ \beta : (x, y, z) &\mapsto (x, y + xz^2, z) \end{aligned}$$

and obtain $N = \alpha^{-1}\beta\alpha$. We fix a linear embedding $(x, y, z) \mapsto [1 : x : y : z]$ of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^3$ into $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^3$ and obtain the birational maps

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\alpha} : [w : x : y : z] &\mapsto \left[w : x + \frac{y^2}{z} : y : z\right] \\ \hat{\beta} : [w : x : y : z] &\mapsto \left[w : x : y + \frac{xz^2}{w^2} : z\right]. \end{aligned}$$

The map $\hat{\alpha}$ belongs to $G_3(\mathbf{k})$ by Example 4.1. The map $\hat{\beta}$ also belongs to $G_3(\mathbf{k})$ as it is the extension of a tame automorphism $\beta \in \text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^3)$ (Proposition 6.5). □

Remark 6.9. — In $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$, one easily gets elements whose inverse does not have the same degree. For example,

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 + (x_2)^2, x_2 + (x_3)^2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$$

has degree 2 but its inverse has degree 4. This provides other kind of elements $g \in G_n(\mathbf{k})$, such that $\deg(g) \neq \deg(g^{-1})$ (see Example 3.10).

7. Rational hypersurfaces contracted

Let us recall why there are elements of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$, for each $n \geq 3$, that contract non-rational hypersurfaces ([14, p. 381, §31], [26]). This is done for example by taking an irreducible polynomial $q \in \mathbf{k}[x, y]$ of degree $d > 1$ that defines a non-rational curve Γ of \mathbb{A}^2 , and by considering the birational map

$$[x_0 : \dots : x_n] \dashrightarrow [x_0 q\left(\frac{x_1}{x_3}, \frac{x_2}{x_3}\right) : x_1 : \dots : x_n],$$

which contracts the hypersurface given by $q\left(\frac{x_1}{x_3}, \frac{x_2}{x_3}\right) \cdot (x_3)^d$, birational to $\Gamma \times \mathbb{P}^{n-2}$. Note that this argument directly implies that the group $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is in fact not generated by $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ and a finite number of elements. However, the question of whether $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ is generated by maps preserving a fibration is still open.

If $n = 2$ and \mathbf{k} is not algebraically closed, a similar argument works: we take an irreducible polynomial $p \in \mathbf{k}[x]$ of degree $d > 1$, having roots in $\bar{\mathbf{k}} \setminus \mathbf{k}$, where $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ is the algebraic closure of \mathbf{k} . We then consider the birational map of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$ given by

$$[x_0 : x_1 : x_2] \dashrightarrow [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 p\left(\frac{x_1}{x_0}\right)]$$

which contracts the curve given by $p\left(\frac{x_1}{x_0}\right)x_0^d = 0$, which is irreducible over \mathbf{k} and not rational (but is a union of lines over $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$).

These two observations show that $G_n(\mathbf{k}) \neq \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ if $n \geq 3$ or if $n = 2$ and \mathbf{k} is not algebraically closed.

The description of $G_2(\mathbf{k})$, for any field \mathbf{k} is given in Proposition 7.4 below, and follows from an adaptation of the classical proofs of Noether-Castelnuovo’s Theorem, and the following easy observation on the relation between the base-points and curves contracted.

LEMMA 7.1. — Let \mathbf{k} be any field, and let $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ be its algebraic closure. Let $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2)$ be a birational map, which is also a birational map of $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{\mathbf{k}}}^2$. The following are equivalent.

- (1) Every $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -base-point of φ is defined over \mathbf{k} .
- (2) Every $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -base-point of φ^{-1} is defined over \mathbf{k} .
- (3) Every irreducible $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -curve contracted by φ is defined over \mathbf{k} .
- (4) Every irreducible \mathbf{k} -curve contracted by φ is rational over \mathbf{k} .

Proof. — Seeing φ as an element of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\bar{\mathbf{k}}}^2)$, where $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ is the algebraic closure of \mathbf{k} , we have a minimal resolution

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & Z & \\ \pi \swarrow & & \searrow \eta \\ \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2 & \overset{\varphi}{\dashrightarrow} & \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2 \end{array}$$

where π and η are the blow-ups of the $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -base-points of φ and φ^{-1} respectively.

(a) We suppose that one $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -base-point of φ^{-1} is not defined over \mathbf{k} . There is thus a (-1) -curve $E \subset Z$, not defined over \mathbf{k} , which is contracted by η and not by π . The image $\pi(E)$ is then an irreducible $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -curve in $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{\mathbf{k}}}^2$, contracted by φ . This yields (3) \Rightarrow (2).

(b) If one irreducible $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -curve C in $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{\mathbf{k}}}^2$ is contracted by φ but not defined over \mathbf{k} , the closure of C under the \mathbf{k} -topology is an irreducible \mathbf{k} -curve, not irreducible over $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$, and contracted by φ . This curve being not rational over \mathbf{k} , we obtain (4) \Rightarrow (3).

(c) Suppose that (2) holds. Observing that the Picard group of Z , viewed as a $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -variety, is generated by the pull-back by η of the divisor of a line in $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{\mathbf{k}}}^2$ and by the exceptional divisors produced by the corresponding blow-ups, we see that each $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -curve on Z is linearly equivalent to a divisor defined over \mathbf{k} . Hence, all rational irreducible $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -curves in Z with negative self-intersection are defined over \mathbf{k} , since they are rigid in their equivalence classes. This implies that all irreducible $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -curves contracted by η and π are defined over \mathbf{k} , and yields (1), (3) and (4).

(d) The last implication needed is (1) \Rightarrow (2) which is equivalent to (2) \Rightarrow (1), by replacing φ with its inverse. \square

The classical proofs of the Noether-Castelnuovo's Theorem decompose an element of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\bar{\mathbf{k}}}^2)$ into a product of quadratic and linear elements. One of the simplest can be found in [3], and works perfectly here if the field is infinite, but not in the case of finite fields, as it uses the choice of "general" points.

The same phenomenon occurs for the classical proof of G. Castelnuovo, well explained in [2, Chapter 8], together with historical references. We will then take the proofs given by the Minimal Model Program (see [16, Comment 4, p. 622]).

Using the classical Noether inequalities [16, Lemma 2.4], one can obtain the decomposition of every element of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2)$ into Sarkisov links [16, Theorem 2.5]. The fact that all our base-points are defined over \mathbf{k} implies that the base-points of the Sarkisov links are also defined over \mathbf{k} . Hence, the links involved are the following [16, Section 2.2].

- (I) A birational map $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_1$ given by the blow-up of a \mathbf{k} -point of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$.
- (II) A birational map $\mathbb{F}_m \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_{m\pm 1}$ given by the blow-up of a \mathbf{k} -point, followed by the contraction of the strict transform of a fibre.
- (III) A birational morphism $\mathbb{F}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$ given by the contraction of the (-1) -curve onto a \mathbf{k} -point of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$ (inverse of a link of type I).
- (IV) The automorphism $\mathbb{F}_0 = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^1 \times \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_0$ that consists of exchanging the two factors.

Remark 7.2. — Usually, there is a fibration associated to each \mathbb{F}_i , which is implicit for $i \geq 1$ but important for \mathbb{F}_0 as there are two such; this explains why links of type IV arise. For our purpose, we do not need to really consider the fibration, and observe that the composition of a link with automorphisms is again a link. So we consider automorphisms as composition of zero links, and will then not need links of type IV.

LEMMA 7.3. — *Let \mathbf{k} be any field and let $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2)$ be a birational map, such that all $\bar{\mathbf{k}}$ -base-points are defined over \mathbf{k} . Then, φ decomposes into a sequence of elementary links as above, involving only $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$, \mathbb{F}_1 , \mathbb{F}_0 .*

Proof. — As we already explained, we can decompose φ into Sarkisov links of type I, II, III as above. It remains to see that we can avoid \mathbb{F}_n for $n \geq 2$.

To do this, we take two two links of type II given by

$$\varphi_1 : \mathbb{F}_m \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_{m+1} \text{ and } \varphi_2 : \mathbb{F}_{m+1} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_m,$$

for some $m \geq 1$ and prove that $\varphi_2\varphi_1$ is either an isomorphism or decomposes into links involving only \mathbb{F}_i for some $i \leq m$. If $\varphi_2\varphi_1$ is not an isomorphism, then it has exactly two base-points: the point p_1 being the base-points of φ_1 and the other point p_2 corresponding to the base-point of φ_2 , via φ_1 . Note that p_1 is a proper point of \mathbb{F}_m and that p_2 is either a proper point or infinitely near to p_1 , and that the two points do not belong to the same fibre (as proper or infinitely near points). The exceptional

section E of \mathbb{F}_m is sent by $\varphi_2\varphi_1$ onto itself, so $p_1 \in E$ but p_2 does not belong to E (as a proper or infinitely near point). If p_2 is a proper point of \mathbb{F}_m , we factorise $\varphi_1\varphi_2$ into the link associated first to p_2 and then to the image of p_1 , and obtain links $\mathbb{F}_m \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_{m-1} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_m$. Otherwise, we take a point $p_3 \in \mathbb{F}_m$ on a distinct fibre of p_1 and not lying on E , and denote by $\varphi_3 : \mathbb{F}_m \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_{m-1}$ the link associated to it, and by $\varphi_4 : \mathbb{F}_{m-1} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_m$ the link associated to $\varphi_3(p_1)$. Then, p_1, p_3 are the two base-points of $\varphi_4\varphi_3$ and $\varphi_2\varphi_1(\varphi_4\varphi_3)^{-1}$ has exactly two base-points, which are now both proper points of \mathbb{F}_m . Applying the previous case, we get the result. \square

PROPOSITION 7.4. — *Let \mathbf{k} be some field. The group $G_2(\mathbf{k})$ is equal to the subgroup of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2)$ consisting of elements that contract only rational curves, which is equal to the subgroup of elements of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2)$ having all base-points defined over \mathbf{k} .*

Proof. — By Lemma 7.1, it suffices to show that every element $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2)$ which has all base-points defined over \mathbf{k} belongs to $G_2(\mathbf{k})$. If φ has degree 1, then $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2) = \text{PGL}(3, \mathbf{k}) \subset G_2(\mathbf{k})$. Otherwise, we apply Lemma 7.3 and decompose φ into links of type I, II, III, involving only $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2, \mathbb{F}_0, \mathbb{F}_1$. We prove then that $\varphi \in G_2(\mathbf{k})$, proceeding by induction on the number of links, the case of zero links being the case of automorphisms.

Let $\varphi_1 : \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_1$ be some link of type I. If φ_1 is followed by a link φ_2 of type III, then $\varphi_2\varphi_1$ is an automorphism of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$, so we can decrease by two the number of links. If φ_1 is followed by a link $\varphi_2 : \mathbb{F}_1 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_0$, then φ_3 is a link $\mathbb{F}_0 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{F}_1$ (we did not use links of type IV, see Remark 7.2). It remains to show that the birational map $\psi = (\varphi_1)^{-1}\varphi_3\varphi_2\varphi_1 : \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$ belongs to $G_2(\mathbf{k})$. Replacing φ with $\varphi\psi^{-1}$ will then decrease by 2 the number of links needed.

Note that ψ has at most 3 base-points, and is thus of degree 1 or 2. If ψ has degree 1, then $\psi \in G_2(\mathbf{k})$. Otherwise, the three base-points of ψ are defined over \mathbf{k} , and two of these are proper points of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$: these are the base-point p_1 of φ_1 and $p_2 = (\varphi_1)^{-1}(q)$, where q is the base-point of φ_2 , which does not belong to the exceptional divisor of \mathbb{F}_1 . Moreover, the three base-points of ψ are not collinear, since the linear system of ψ is irreducible and of degree 2.

If the third base-point p_3 of ψ is also a proper point of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$, there exists $\beta \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2) = \text{PGL}(3, \mathbf{k})$ that sends the coordinate points $[1 : 0 : 0]$, $[0 : 1 : 0]$, $[0 : 0 : 1]$ onto p_1, p_2, p_3 . Then, φ and $\sigma_2\beta$ have the same linear system, which implies that $\varphi = \alpha\sigma_2\beta$ for some $\alpha \in \text{PGL}(3, \mathbf{k})$. This shows that $\varphi \in G_2(\mathbf{k})$.

If p_3 is not a proper point of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^2$, it has to correspond to a tangent to one of the two other points, say p_1 , and which is not the direction of the line through p_1, p_2 . We can then as before replace φ with $\varphi\beta$, for some $\beta \in \text{PGL}(3, \mathbf{k})$ and assume that $p_1 = [0 : 0 : 1]$, $p_2 = [0 : 1 : 0]$, and that p_3 corresponds to the direction of $x_1 = 0$. Hence, $\varphi = \alpha\theta_2$, where $\alpha \in \text{PGL}(3, \mathbf{k})$ and θ_2 is as before equal to

$$\theta_2 : [x_0 : x_1 : x_2] \mapsto [x_0x_1 : (x_0)^2 : x_2x_1]$$

and belongs to $G_2(\mathbf{k})$ (see Example 4.1). □

8. Punctual maps

There are plenty of definitions of a punctual element of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ in the literature, which are often falsely considered as equivalent. The most studied case is when $n = 3$ and $\mathbf{k} = \mathbb{C}$; let us restrict to that case for the moment, and give the most used definitions.

- (0) The map θ_n from Example 4.1 can be seen, in affine coordinates, as an affine blow-up $z'_1 = \frac{z_1}{z_n}$, $i = 1, \dots, n-1$, $z'_n = z_n$. It was studied, at least for $n = 3$, by G. Kobb in [19, p. 406], see also [1, p. 2056–2057].
- (1) In [18], S. Kantor studies birational maps of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3$ with no curve of the first species, that is transformations without curves whose proper image in the projective space is a surface; this is also the definition of punctual maps given in [12, p. 116]. S. Kantor gives a proof that contains gaps (H. Hudson says that “the proof is admittedly “gewagt”” in [14, p. 318, §29] using the word “gewagt” that appears in Kantor’s work in the footnotes of pages 18 and 20) which says that each such map is generated by $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^3)$ and σ_3 . He also claims that the set of such maps forms a group.
- (2) In [5, p. 359, §4], A. Coble defines a *regular* map of \mathbb{P}^3 to be a birational map which is a generated by $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3)$ and σ_3 ; this terminology is confusing, since regular usually means “defined at every point”. A. Coble explains “They are determined essentially by their fundamental points alone and in all important particulars are entirely analogous to the ternary Cremona transformation.”
- (3) In [14, p. 318, §29], [9] and [10], H. Hudson and P. Du Val define the group of punctual birational map of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3)$ as the group generated by σ_3 and $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3)$. They claim that the linear system of a map in this group is only defined by points.

- (4) In [7, p. 93], I. Dolgachev and D. Ortland define a punctual Cremona transformation to be a map of the form $\pi\tau\eta^{-1}$, where $\eta : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3$ and $\pi : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3$ are blow-ups of points of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3$ and $\tau : X \dashrightarrow Y$ is a pseudo-isomorphism, that is a birational map which does not contract any hypersurface. They also claim that the set of such maps is a group, and compare it to the group generated by σ_n and linear automorphisms.

Recall that an irreducible curve $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}^3$ is a fundamental curve of the first kind for $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}^3)$ if there is an irreducible surface $S \subset \mathbb{P}^3$ contracted by φ^{-1} onto Γ (which means that a general point of S is sent to Γ by φ^{-1} and that a general point of Γ is obtained by this way).

In [12, p. 116], M. Gizatullin give a simple example which shows that the set of birational maps of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3$ having no fundamental curve of the first kind is not a group, contrary to what S. Kantor claimed to have proven. The map computed in [12, p. 115] is the birational involution

$$\theta : [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 : x_3] \dashrightarrow [(x_1)^2 : x_0x_1 : x_0x_2 : x_0x_3]$$

that we already introduced in Example 4.1. The map $\theta^{-1} = \theta$ contracts the plane H_1 given by $x_1 = 0$ onto the line l given by $x_0 = x_1 = 0$, or more precisely send H_1 on the divisor of a line \hat{l} infinitely near to l . Hence, the line l is a fundamental curve of the first kind of θ . The map θ is then not punctual in all natural senses, except that it belongs to the group generated by $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3)$ and σ_3 .

This example also shows that the terminology ‘‘punctual’’ does not seem to be appropriate for the group $G_3(\mathbb{C})$ (and even more for $G_n(\mathbb{C})$ for $n \geq 4$). Note that H. Hudson was aware of some problems: in [14, p. 318, §39], after having said that the set of punctual transformations is a group which consists of compositions of maps of the form $\alpha\sigma_3\beta$, $\alpha, \beta \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3)$, she describes the linear system of such an element, and assume for this that the base-points of the new map are either points where a surface is contracted by the previous map, or ‘‘in general position’’. The set of such maps obtained could deserve the word ‘‘punctual’’, and are in fact some of the maps described in [7] (maybe all), but would not be a group.

One consequence of the work made in this text is the following result, which tends to show that the ‘‘gewagt’’ Theorem of S. Kantor is false.

PROPOSITION 8.1. — *Let \mathbf{k} be any field. There are elements of $\text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^3)$ which have no fundamental curve of the first species, but which do not belong to $G_3(\mathbf{k})$.*

Remark 8.2. — The example given here is not really “punctual”, since one of the hypersurfaces is contracted onto a line in the exceptional divisor of a point. So the “gewagt” Theorem of Kantor could maybe be true if we avoid such kind of examples (see below).

Proof. — The birational monomial involution

$$\psi : [x_0 : \cdots : x_3] \mapsto [x_1 : x_0 : x_2 \frac{(x_1)^2}{(x_0)^2} : x_3 \frac{x_1}{x_0}]$$

does not belong to $G_3(\mathbf{k})$. Indeed, the map

$$\theta : [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 : x_3] \mapsto [x_0 : x_1 : \frac{(x_3)^2}{x_2} : x_3]$$

belongs to $G_3(\mathbf{k})$ (Example 4.1), but

$$\theta\psi\theta : [x_0 : x_1 : x_2 : x_3] \mapsto [x_1 : x_0 : x_2 : x_3 \frac{x_1}{x_0}]$$

does not belong to $G_3(\mathbf{k})$ (Corollary 3.9). The map ψ contracts exactly two hypersurfaces, namely $H_0, H_1 \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^3$, given respectively by $x_0 = 0$ and $x_1 = 0$, respectively on the points $[0 : 0 : 1 : 0]$ and $[0 : 1 : 0 : 0]$. Hence, $\psi = \psi^{-1}$ does not have any fundamental curve of the first species. \square

In fact, part (1) of Theorem 1.4 shows that even if hypersurfaces are contracted by elements of $G_3(\mathbf{k})$ onto points, we cannot send a hypersurface onto the exceptional divisor of a curve by some element of $G_3(\mathbf{k})$, so this group is not “so” far from being punctual. However, the elements of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$ are very far from being punctual in dimension $n \geq 4$, as one can contract hypersurfaces on the exceptional divisors of planes (part (2) of Theorem 1.4).

In fact, it seems to us that a “punctual” map should be an element of $\varphi \in \text{Bir}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n)$ admitting a birational morphism $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, that consists of sequence of blow-ups of points, and such that $(\varphi\pi)^{-1} : \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n \dashrightarrow X$ should not contract any hypersurface. The strong sense would be to ask that all points lie in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^n$, and a weaker sense would allow infinitely near points.

The definition of [7] goes in this direction, but is in fact even stronger, as it basically ask that the map and also its inverse are punctual in the strong sense (we could say bipunctual). As explained before, the set of maps satisfying any of these definitions is not a group, contrary to what is claimed in many of the texts cited above. The following example also shows that all these definitions are different.

Example 8.3. — Let \mathbf{k} be a field with $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 2$ and let $l \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^3)$, be the automorphism given by

$$l : [x_0 : \cdots : x_3] \mapsto [x_0 : x_2 + x_3 : x_1 + x_3 : x_1 + x_2]$$

$$l^{-1} : [x_0 : \cdots : x_3] \mapsto [2x_0 : -x_1 + x_2 + x_3 : x_1 - x_2 + x_3 : x_1 + x_2 - x_3]$$

and observe that l and l^{-1} act in the following way on the coordinate points of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{k}}^3$:

$$l([1 : 0 : 0 : 0]) = ([1 : 0 : 0 : 0]) \quad l^{-1}([1 : 0 : 0 : 0]) = ([1 : 0 : 0 : 0])$$

$$l([0 : 1 : 0 : 0]) = ([0 : 0 : 1 : 1]) \quad l^{-1}([0 : 1 : 0 : 0]) = ([0 : -1 : 1 : 1])$$

$$l([0 : 0 : 1 : 0]) = ([0 : 1 : 0 : 1]) \quad l^{-1}([0 : 0 : 1 : 0]) = ([0 : 1 : -1 : 1])$$

$$l([0 : 0 : 0 : 1]) = ([0 : 1 : 1 : 0]) \quad l^{-1}([0 : 0 : 0 : 1]) = ([0 : 1 : 1 : -1]).$$

Hence, $\alpha = \sigma_3 l \sigma_3$ is punctual in the weak sense defined above, but not in the strong sense, since l^{-1} sends coordinate points onto general points of the hyperplane $x_0 = 0$. However, α^{-1} is not even punctual in the weak sense, as l sends coordinate points onto points on general points of coordinate lines.

Similarly, taking

$$l : [x_0 : \cdots : x_3] \mapsto [x_0 - x_2 : x_1 - x_2 : -x_2 + x_3 : 2x_2 - x_3]$$

$$l^{-1} : [x_0 : \cdots : x_3] \mapsto [x_0 + x_2 + x_3 : x_1 + x_2 + x_3 : x_2 + x_3 : 2x_2 + x_3]$$

the map $\alpha = \sigma_3 l \sigma_3$ is punctual in the strong sense defined above, but α^{-1} is not punctual in the weak one.

The question of showing that every bipunctual map is in fact an element of $G_n(\mathbf{k})$, asked in [7] and corresponding to the ‘‘gewagt’’ theorem of Kantor is still open.

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