

Section 2 of the geometry of the Grassmannian $G(2, 4)$ to see in detail the behavior of 2-planes on a quadric in \mathbb{P}^5 .

The first statement of the proposition is readily verified: since the Gauss map G on a smooth quadric $F \subset \mathbb{P}^{m+1}$ is the restriction of a linear isomorphism $\mathbb{P}^{m+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{m+1*}$, the family of tangent planes to F along a linear subspace $\Lambda_k \subset F$ forms a k -dimensional linear subspace of \mathbb{P}^{m*} .

\square We have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F & \xrightarrow{G} & \mathbb{P}^{m+1*} \\
 \downarrow & & \parallel \\
 \mathbb{P}^{m+1} & \xrightarrow[\cong]{Q} & \mathbb{P}^{m+1*} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 [a_0, \dots, a_m] & \longmapsto & \{x \mid Qa = 0\} = [Qa]
 \end{array}$$

\Rightarrow If $\Lambda_k \subset F$, $Q(\Lambda_k)$ is a k -dimensional linear subspace of \mathbb{P}^{m*} , since $k \leq m$. \square

Since the tangent space to F at any point of Λ contains Λ , moreover, the image $G(\Lambda)$ lies entirely in the $(m-k)$ -dimensional subspace of \mathbb{P}^{m+1*} of planes through Λ ; thus

$$k \leq m-k$$