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Ravi Vakil*, Department of Mathematics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, and **Sara Billey**, Department of Mathematics, University of Washington, Box 354350, Seattle, WA 98195-4350. *How can flags meet?*

How can m flags meet? In other words, given m flags in n -space, what are the possible dimensions of intersections of pieces of the flags? When $m = 2$, we are led to Schubert varieties, which are beautiful in all ways. Hence for general m , we are led to the natural generalization of Schubert varieties. When $m = 3$, the story is nice as well (and the generalized Schubert varieties are too). However, for general m , they are terribly behaved — they are not irreducible, reduced, or equidimensional, and have nasty singularities. We also give counterexamples to Eriksson and Linusson's Realizability Conjecture identifying which of these generalized Schubert varieties is non-empty. Even for four flags, we don't even know what intersection dimensions are achievable!

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