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**Heather M. Russell\*** (hrussell@math.lsu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Louisiana State University, 303 Lockett Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-4918. *A topological construction for all two-row Springer Varieties.*

Springer varieties are certain subvarieties of the full flag variety in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Given any partition of the number  $n$  there is an associated Springer variety. The ones corresponding to partitions of type  $(n - k, k)$  are called two-row Springer varieties. For  $n$  even Khovanov studies the  $(n/2, n/2)$  Springer variety establishing connections between its integral cohomology and a certain invariant of tangles. In doing this he provides a new topological construction of the  $(n/2, n/2)$  Springer variety as a subspace of the product of  $n$  copies of the two-sphere. We extend Khovanov's construction to all two-row Springer varieties and explore the combinatorial and topological advantages of this new perspective. (Received September 04, 2009)