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We assign to a compact symmetric space M a commutative graded algebra, whose elements are certain convex bodies (zonoids) in the exterior algebra of the cotangent space V of M . They can be viewed equivalently as measures on the Grassmann manifolds of V . This Grassmann zonoid algebra allows to describe the intersection of randomly moved submanifolds of M , much like the cohomology algebra of M describes intersections with sign count. Moreover, the link to convexity enforces inequalities in the style of the Alexandrov Fenchel inequality. There is a close connection to the theory of valuations.

Joint work with Paul Breiding (University of Osnabrück), Antonio Lerario (SISSA) and Leo Mathis (University of Frankfurt).