

# Postulation in projective spaces and unexpected hypersurfaces

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This talk is based on joint work (Manuscripta) with  
Thomas Bauer (Marburg),  
Grzegorz Malara (PU Cracow)  
and  
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These slides are available at:  
<http://szemberg.up.krakow.pl/Cambridge2019.pdf>

## Definition

Let  $I \subset R$  be a homogeneous ideal in a polynomial ring  $R = \mathbb{K}[x_0, \dots, x_N]$ . The *Hilbert function* of  $I$  is

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$$\mathrm{HF}_{R/I}(d) = \dim(R/I)_d.$$

## Remark

*It is well-known that the Hilbert function becomes polynomial, i.e., there is a polynomial  $\mathrm{HP}_{R/I}(d)$  such that*

$$\mathrm{HF}_{R/I}(d) = \mathrm{HP}_{R/I}(d) \text{ for } d \gg 0.$$

### Remark

*Ideals motivated geometrically are of particular interest.*

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*If  $I$  is a saturated ideal defining a subscheme  $V \subset \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{K})$ , then we write*

$$\mathrm{HF}_V(d) = \mathrm{HF}_{R/I}(d)$$

*and*

$$\mathrm{HP}_V(d) = \mathrm{HP}_{R/I}(d).$$

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*The simplest Hilbert functions occur for subvarieties which impose independent (or predictable) conditions on forms of arbitrary degree.*

## Definition (Carlini, Catalisano, Geramita)

We say that a subscheme  $V \subset \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{K})$  has a *bipolynomial Hilbert function* if

$$\mathrm{HF}_V(d) = \min \{ \mathrm{HP}_{\mathbb{P}^N}(d), \mathrm{HP}_V(d) \}$$

for all  $d$ .

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There is

$$\mathrm{HP}_{\mathbb{P}^N}(d) = \binom{N+d}{d}$$

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## Example

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## Theorem (Hartshorne-Hirschowitz 1982)

*Let  $V$  be a union of  $s$  general lines in the projective space  $\mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{K})$ , with  $N \geq 3$ . Then the Hilbert function of  $V$  is bipolynomial.*

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*More precisely we have for all  $d$*

$$\mathrm{HF}_V(d) = \min \left\{ \binom{N+d}{d}, s(d+1) \right\}.$$



## Theorem (Alexander-Hirschowitz 1995)

Let  $V$  be a general collection of  $s$  double points in  $\mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{K})$  (over an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero). Then

$$\mathrm{HF}_V(d) = \min \left\{ \binom{N+d}{d}, s(N+1) \right\}$$

except in the following cases

- $d = 2, 2 \leq s \leq N$ ;
- $N = 2, d = 4, s = 5$ ;
- $N = 3, d = 4, s = 9$ ;
- $N = 4, d = 4, s = 14$ ;
- $N = 4, d = 3, s = 7$ .

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## Remark

*The authors worked on this problem for over 10 years.*

The proof of Alexander and Hirschowitz is rather involved. It has been simplified by several authors including:

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## Remark

*All proofs are based on some **degeneration**, i.e., if the claim holds for points in **special** position, then it holds for points in **general** position (provided both positions belong to a flat family).*

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### Remark

*Ciliberto and Miranda introduced a **degeneration** of the ambient space (replace  $\mathbb{P}^2$  by some other scheme) combined with the degeneration of points.*

## Conjecture (SHGH, Segre-Harbourne-Gimigliano-Hirschowitz)

*Let  $V$  be a collection of  $s$  general points of multiplicity  $m$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{K})$ .  
Then either*

$$\mathrm{HF}_V(d) = \min \left\{ \binom{d+2}{2}, s \binom{m+1}{2} \right\}$$

*or the linear system*

$$|\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(d) \otimes \mathcal{I}_V^{(m)}|$$

*contains a fat  $(-1)$ -curve in its base locus.*

### Conjecture (Nagata 1959)

*Let  $V$  be a collection of  $s \geq 10$  general points of multiplicity  $m$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{K})$ . Then **the initial degree**  $d$  of  $I(V)$  satisfies*

$$d > m\sqrt{s}.$$

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$$d > m\sqrt{s}.$$

### Remark

*This is well-known if  $s$  is a perfect square and open otherwise.*

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### Definition

We say that a set  $Z$  of reduced points (not necessarily general) in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  admits an *unexpected hypersurface* of degree  $d$  with a **general** point  $P$  of multiplicity  $m$ , if

$$h^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(d) \otimes \mathcal{I}_Z \otimes \mathcal{I}_P^m) > \max \left\{ 0, h^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(d) \otimes \mathcal{I}_Z) - \binom{n-1+m}{n} \right\}.$$



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## Remark

*The empty set does not admit any unexpected hypersurfaces.*

## Example

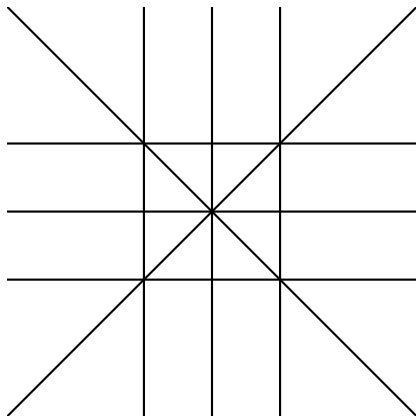
In the article

Di Gennaro, R., Ilardi, G., Vallés, J.: Singular hypersurfaces characterizing the Lefschetz properties. Lond. Math. Soc. 89 (2014) 194–212

the authors observed in passing that

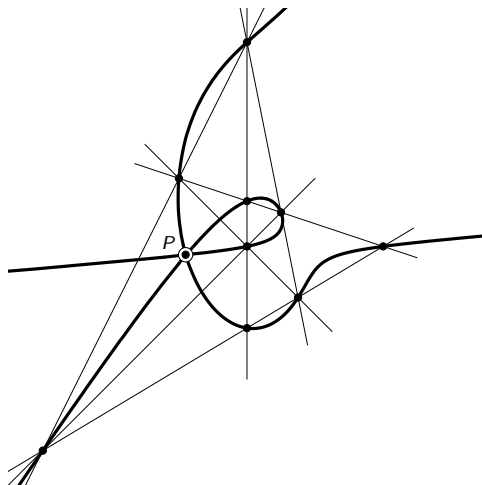
there exists a set  $Z$  of 9 points in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  (coming from the  $B_3$  root system) which admits an unexpected (irreducible) curve of degree 4 (passing through  $Z$ ) with a general point  $P$  of multiplicity 3.

# A visualization of the dual $B_3$ line arrangement



$$xyz(x^2 - y^2)(y^2 - z^2)(z^2 - x^2)$$

# Visualization of the unexpected quartic admitted for $B_3$



## Example (Bauer, Malara, Sz., Szpond, Manuscripta 2019)

Let  $Z$  be the set of points with coordinates

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= (1 : 0 : 0), & P_2 &= (0 : 1 : 0), & P_3 &= (0 : 0 : 1), \\ P_4 &= (1 : 1 : 0), & P_5 &= (1 : -1 : 0), & P_6 &= (1 : 0 : 1), \\ P_7 &= (1 : 0 : -1), & P_8 &= (0 : 1 : 1), & P_9 &= (0 : 1 : -1). \end{aligned}$$

and let  $P = (a : b : c)$  be a general point. Then

$$\begin{aligned} Q_P(x : y : z) = & 3a(b^2 - c^2) \cdot x^2yz + 3b(c^2 - a^2) \cdot xy^2z \\ & + 3c(a^2 - b^2) \cdot xyz^2 \\ & + a^3 \cdot y^3z - a^3 \cdot yz^3 + b^3 \cdot xz^3 \\ & - b^3 \cdot x^3z + c^3 \cdot x^3y - c^3 \cdot xy^3 \end{aligned}$$

vanishes at all points of  $Z$  and has a triple point at  $P$ .

### Example (Bauer, Malara, Sz., Szpond, Manuscripta 2019)

For a generic choice of the point  $S = (x : y : z)$  the cubic (in variables  $a, b, c$ )

$$\begin{aligned} Q_S(a : b : c) = & \quad yz(y^2 - z^2) \cdot a^3 + xz(z^2 - x^2) \cdot b^3 \\ & + xy(x^2 - y^2) \cdot c^3 + 3x^2yz \cdot ab^2 \\ & - 3xy^2z \cdot a^2b + 3xyz^2 \cdot a^2c - 3x^2yz \cdot ac^2 \\ & + 3xy^2z \cdot bc^2 - 3xyz^2 \cdot b^2c \end{aligned}$$

has a triple point in  $S$ .

Hence it splits into three lines.

Theorem (Farnik, Galuppi, Sodomaco, Trok, arXiv:1804.03590)

*Up to projective equivalence, the configuration of points  $B_3$  is the only one which admits an unexpected curve of degree 4.*

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*Up to projective equivalence, the configuration of points  $B_3$  is the only one which admits an unexpected curve of degree 4.*

*There is no unexpected curve of degree  $d \leq 3$  (this reproves a result from S. Akesseh thesis, Lincoln 2017).*



## Question

*For which  $d$  and  $m$  are there unexpected hypersurfaces?*

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## Theorem (Harbourne, Migliore, Nagel, Teitler)

*Denote by  $d$  the degree of an unexpected hypersurface of some finite set of points  $Z \subset \mathbb{P}^n$  and by  $m$  its multiplicity at a general point  $P$  in  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .*

- (i) If  $n = 2$  then there exists some set  $Z$  admitting such an unexpected curve if and only if  $(d, m)$  satisfies  $d > m > 2$ .*
- (ii) If  $n \geq 3$  then there exists a set  $Z$  admitting such an unexpected hypersurface if and only if  $(d, m)$  satisfies  $d \geq m \geq 2$ .*

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- (ii) If  $n \geq 3$  then there exists a set  $Z$  admitting such an unexpected hypersurface if and only if  $(d, m)$  satisfies  $d \geq m \geq 2$ .*

## Remark

*The construction given by HMNT is explicit and solves the geography problem but we are far from understanding all ways the unexpected hypersurfaces come up.*

## Definition

A Fermat-type hyperplane arrangement  $\mathcal{F}_N^n$  in  $\mathbb{P}^N$  is the arrangement determined by linear factors of the polynomial

$$F_{N,n} = \prod_{0 \leq i < j \leq N} (x_i^n - x_j^n).$$

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## Remark

*For  $N = 2$  we obtain Fermat (Ceva) arrangements of lines defined by the equation*

$$(x^n - y^n)(y^n - z^n)(z^n - x^n) = 0.$$

*We study the ideal  $I$  generated by the following 8 binomials of degree 4:*

$$\begin{aligned} &x(y^3 - z^3), \ x(z^3 - w^3), \ y(x^3 - z^3), \ y(z^3 - w^3), \\ &z(x^3 - y^3), \ z(y^3 - w^3), \ w(x^3 - y^3), \ w(y^3 - z^3). \end{aligned}$$

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This is the ideal of  $27 = 3^3$  (complete intersection) points of the form

$$P_{(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)} = (1 : \varepsilon^\alpha : \varepsilon^\beta : \varepsilon^\gamma)$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is a primitive root of unity of order 3 and  $1 \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma \leq 3$ ; and the 4 coordinate points. We denote the set of all these 31 points by  $W$ .

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This is a subset of points determined by the arrangement  $\mathcal{F}_3^3$ .



## Theorem (Bauer, Malara, Sz., Szpond)

Let  $P = (a : b : c : d)$  be a generic point in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . Then the quartic

$$\begin{aligned} Q_R(x : y : z : w) = & b^2(c^3 - d^3) \cdot x^3y + a^2(d^3 - c^3) \cdot xy^3 \\ & + c^2(d^3 - b^3) \cdot x^3z + c^2(a^3 - d^3) \cdot y^3z \\ & + a^2(b^3 - d^3) \cdot xz^3 + b^2(d^3 - a^3) \cdot yz^3 \\ & + d^2(b^3 - c^3) \cdot x^3w + d^2(c^3 - a^3) \cdot y^3w \\ & + d^2(a^3 - b^3) \cdot z^3w + a^2(c^3 - b^3) \cdot xw^3 \\ & + b^2(a^3 - c^3) \cdot yw^3 + c^2(b^3 - a^3) \cdot zw^3 \end{aligned}$$

- *vanishes at all points of  $W$ ,*
- *vanishes to order 3 at  $P$ ,*
- *is an unexpected surface for  $W$ .*

## Question

*Can there be an unexpected hypersurface with more than one general fat point?*

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## Theorem (Szpond, arXiv:1812.04032)

*Let  $N = 2k + 1$  be an odd number. Let  $W_N$  be the union of coordinate points in  $\mathbb{P}^N$  and the Fermat-type configuration of points*

$$(1 : \varepsilon^{\alpha_1} : \varepsilon^{\alpha_2} : \dots : \varepsilon^{\alpha_N}),$$

*where  $\varepsilon$  is a primitive root of 1 of order 3 and  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N = 1, 2, 3$ . Let  $R$  and  $P_1, \dots, P_{k-1}$  be generic points in  $\mathbb{P}^N$ . Then there exists a **unique** quartic hypersurface*

- *vanishing at all points of  $W_N$ ,*
- *vanishing to order 3 at  $R$ ,*
- *vanishing to order 2 at  $P_1, \dots, P_{k-1}$ ,*
- *unexpected for  $W_N$ .*

## Example (Harbourne, Migliore, Nagel, Teitler)

The root system  $B_{n+1} \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$  consists of the  $2(n+1)^2$  integer vectors  $(a_1, \dots, a_{n+1})$  such that

$$1 \leq a_1^2 + \dots + a_{n+1}^2 \leq 2.$$

Thus there is  $|Z_{B_{n+1}}| = (n+1)^2$  for the corresponding set of points  $Z_{B_{n+1}} \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ .

These root systems give always rise to unexpected hypersurfaces of degree 4 with a point of multiplicity 4 and sometimes to hypersurfaces with different invariants too.

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These root systems give always rise to unexpected hypersurfaces of degree 4 with a point of multiplicity 4 and sometimes to hypersurfaces with different invariants too.

### Remark

*The above claim is, so far, based on computer experiments.*

### Example (Harbourne, Migliore, Nagel, Teitler)

Let  $Z \subset \mathbb{P}^3$  be defined by the  $F_4$  root system:

$$\begin{aligned} &(1 : 0 : 0 : 0), (0 : 1 : 0 : 0), (0 : 0 : 1 : 0), (0 : 0 : 0 : 1), \\ &(1 : 1 : 0 : 0), (1 : 0 : 1 : 0), (1 : 0 : 0 : 1), (0 : 1 : 1 : 0), \\ &(0 : 1 : 0 : 1), (0 : 0 : 1 : 1), (1 : -1 : 0 : 0), (1 : 0 : -1 : 0), \\ &(1 : 0 : 0 : -1), (0 : 1 : -1 : 0), (0 : 1 : 0 : -1), (0 : 0 : 1 : -1), \\ &(1 : 1 : 1 : 1), (1 : 1 : 1 : -1), (1 : 1 : -1 : 1), (1 : -1 : 1 : 1), \\ &(1 : 1 : -1 : -1), (1 : -1 : 1 : -1), (1 : -1 : -1 : 1), (1 : -1 : -1 : -1). \end{aligned}$$

Then  $Z$  admits an unexpected surface of degree 4 and a general point  $R$  of multiplicity 4.

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Then  $Z$  admits an unexpected surface of degree 4 and a general point  $R$  of multiplicity 4.

### Proposition (Chiantini, Migliore)

*Projecting  $Z$  from  $R$ , one gets a complete intersection.*

*We have no idea where else, in which form and with what additional properties unexpected hypersurfaces might pop up.*



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**T H A N K   Y O U !**