Some defective secant varieties to osculating varieties of Veronese surfaces

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A.Bernardi, M.V.Catalisano *

Abstract. We consider the k-osculating varieties $O_{k,d}$ to the Veronese $d-$uple embeddings of $\mathbb{P}^2$. By studying the Hilbert function of certain zero-dimensional schemes $Y \subset \mathbb{P}^2$, we find the dimension of $O^s_{k,d}$, the $(s-1)^{th}$secant varieties of $O_{k,d}$, for $3 \leq s \leq 6$ and $s = 9$, and we determine whether those secant varieties are defective or not.

0. Introduction.

The problem of determining the dimension of the *higher secant varieties* of a projective variety is a classical subject of study. In the present paper we are concerned with the $(s-1)^{th}$ higher secant varieties of $O_{k,V_{n,d}}$, where $O_{k,V_{n,d}}$ is the k-osculating variety to the Veronese embedding $V_{n,d}$ of $\mathbb{P}^n$ into $\mathbb{P}^N$ $(N = \binom{d+n}{n} - 1)$ via the complete linear system R_d, where $R = K[x_0, \ldots, x_n]$, and K is an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero.

This matter has been dealt with by several authors in the last few years (see [2], [3], [4], [5], [7]). We wish to mention E.Ballico and C.Fontanari. In [2] and [3] they study the higher secant varieties of $O_{k,V_{n,d}}$ for $n = 2$ and $k = 1, 2$, and they prove the following results:

0.1. Proposition. *For $k = 1$, the $(s-1)^{th}$ higher secant variety of the tangential variety to $V_{2,d}$ has the expected dimension, unless $s = 2$ and $d = 3$.*

0.2. Proposition. *For $k = 2$, the $(s-1)^{th}$ higher secant variety of 2-osculating variety to $V_{2,d}$ has the expected dimension, unless $s = 2$ and $d = 4$.*

In this note, for $n = 2$, for $3 \leq s \leq 6$ and $s = 9$, and for all k, we will determine the dimension of $O^s_{k,V_{2,d}}$. The methods for proving our results are similar to the ones used by Ballico and Fontanari. The basic idea is to use Terracini's Lemma (see [13]), then, via apolarity, the calculation of $\dim O^s_{k,V_{2,d}}$ is related to the evaluation of the Hilbert function of certain $0-$dimensional schemes $Y \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ supported at s generic points (see [5]), and this is done using geometric constructions, Bezout's theorem, and the Horace Method ([11]).

In the first section we fix some notation, and describe the relationship between the higher secant varieties we want to study, and the 0-dimensional schemes Y.

* All authors supported by MIUR funds.

In the second section we relate the Hilbert function of Y to the Hilbert function $H(X,d)$ of a scheme X of s generic $(k+1)$-fat points (Lemma 2.2, Proposition 2.6 to 2.9, and Proposition 2.12), and in Theorem 2.13 we prove the main result of this paper, i.e., for $s \leq 6$ and $s = 9$:

$$\dim O^s_{k,V_{2,d}} = \min\{H(X,d) + 2s,\ N+1\} - 1,$$

except when $s = 2$, $d = k+2$. In this case

$$\dim O^2_{k,V_{2,k+2}} = H(T,d) - 1 = N - 1,$$

where $H(T,d)$ is the Hilbert function of a scheme T of s generic $(k+2)$-fat points.

We wish to warmly thank Monica Idà and Sandro Gimigliano for many interesting conversation about the questions considered in this paper, and the referee for his several helpful comments.

1. Preliminaries and notation.

1.1. Definition. If $V \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ is an irreducible projective variety, an *m-fat point* on V is the $(m-1)^{th}$ infinitesimal neighborhood of a smooth point P in V, and it will be denoted by mP (i.e., the scheme mP is defined by the ideal sheaf $\mathcal{I}^m_{P,V} \subset \mathcal{O}_V$). If $\dim V = n$, then, mP is a 0-dimensional scheme of length $\binom{m-1+n}{n}$. If X is the union of the $(m-1)^{th}$ infinitesimal neighborhoods in V of s generic smooth points of V, we will say for short that X is union of s generic m-fat points on V.

1.2. Remark. In general it is a hard problem to determine the postulation for a union of m-fat points. If $V = \mathbb{P}^2$, there is a conjecture for the postulation of a generic union $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ of s m-fat points (e.g. see [10]): for $s \geq 10$ the conjecture says that X is regular in any degree d. This has been proved for $m \leq 20$ in [8], and, when s is a square, by L.Evain in [9]. For $s \leq 9$ all the defective cases are known (e.g., see [8] or [10]), more precisely, for any m and $s \leq 9$ the cases in which $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ is not regular are:

i) $s = 2$, and $m \leq d \leq 2m-2$;
ii) $s = 3$, and $\frac{3m}{2} \leq d \leq 2m-2$;
iii) $s = 5$, and $2m \leq d \leq \frac{5m-2}{2}$;
iv) $s = 6$, and $\frac{12m}{5} \leq d \leq \frac{5m-2}{2}$;
v) $s = 7$, and $\frac{21m}{8} \leq d \leq \frac{8m-2}{3}$;
vi) $s = 8$, and $\frac{48m}{17} \leq d \leq \frac{17m-2}{6}$.

Now we recall the notions of higher secant variety and k^{th} osculating variety.

1.3. Definition. Let $V \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ be a closed irreducible projective variety; the $(s-1)^{th}$ *higher secant variety* of V is the closure of the union of all linear spaces spanned by s points of V, and it will be denoted by V^s. Let $\dim V = n$; the *expected dimension* for V^s is

$$(\dagger) \qquad \text{expdim} V^s = \min\{sn + s - 1,\ N\}$$

where the number $sn+s-1$ corresponds to ∞^{sn} choices of s points on V, plus ∞^{s-1} choices of a point on the $\mathbb{P}^{s-1}$ spanned by the s points. When $\dim V^s < \min\{sn+s-1,\ N\}$, the variety V^s is said to be *defective*, with *defect* $\delta = \min\{sn+s-1,\ N\} - \dim V^s$.

1.4. Definition. Let $V \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ be a variety, and let $P \in V$ be a smooth point; we define *the* k^{th} *osculating space to* V *at* P, and we denote it by $O_{k,V,P}$, as the linear space defined by the vanishing of all linear forms L such that $L|_V$ vanishes to order $k+1$ on V at P. Let $V_0 \subset V$ be the dense set of the smooth points where $O_{k,V,P}$ has maximal dimension. The k^{th} *osculating variety to* V is defined as:

$$O_{k,V} = \overline{\bigcup_{P\in V_0} O_{k,V,P}}.$$

1.5. Notation. Set $R = K[x,y,z] = \bigoplus R_d$. Let $V_d \subset \mathbb{P}^N$, $N = \binom{d+2}{2} - 1$, denote the *d-ple Veronese embedding* of $\mathbb{P}^2$, defined by the linear system R_d of all forms of a given degree d. Set $O_{k,d} = O_{k,V_d}$, so that the $(s-1)^{th}$ higher secant variety to the k^{th} osculating variety to the Veronese surface V_d will be denoted by $O^s_{k,d}$.

1.6. Remark. We have (see [5], Lemma 2.3) that the dimension of $O_{k,d}$ is always the expected one, that is

$$\dim O_{k,d} = \min\left\{ \binom{k+2}{2} + 1,\ \binom{d+2}{2} - 1 \right\}.$$

For $d \le k$ we immediately get $O_{k,d} = \mathbb{P}^N$, hence for $d \le k$ and for all s, we have $O^s_{k,d} = \mathbb{P}^N$.

Now we briefly recall how to associate to $O^s_{k,d}$, a zero dimensional scheme $Y \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ (see [5], Remark 2.2).

1.7. Remark. Let $\mathbb{P}^N = \mathbb{P}(R_d)$, and let $d \ge k+1$. A form $M \in R_d$ will denote, depending on the situation, a vector in R_d or a point in $\mathbb{P}^N$. We can view V_d as the image's closure of the map $(\mathbb{P}^2)^* \to \mathbb{P}^N$, where $L \mapsto L^d$, $L \in R_1$. Hence

$$V_d = \{L^d, \quad L \in R_1\}.$$

At the point $Q = L^d$ we have $O_{k,V_d,Q} = \{L^{d-k}F, \quad F \in R_k\}$ and $O_{k,d} = \bigcup_{Q\in V_d} O_{k,V_d,Q}$. So we have:

$$O_{k,d} = \{L^{d-k}F, \quad L \in R_1, \quad F \in R_k\}$$

hence

$$O^s_{k,d} = \{L_1^{d-k}F_1 + \cdots + L_s^{d-k}F_s, \quad L_i \in R_1, \quad F_i \in R_k, \quad i = 1,\ldots,s\}.$$

Let $P_i = L_i^{d-k}F_i$ be a generic point in $O_{k,d}$, and let $T_{O_{k,d},P_i}$ be the tangent space of $O_{k,d}$ at P_i. The affine cone over $T_{O_{k,d},P_i}$ is $W_i =< L_i^{d-k}R_k, L_i^{d-k-1}F_iR_1 >$.

Terracini's Lemma (see [13]) says that the tangent space of $O^s_{k,d}$ at a generic point of $< P_1,\ldots,P_s >$, $(P_1,\ldots,P_s \in O_{k,d})$, is the span of the tangent spaces of $O_{k,d}$ at P_i $(1 \le i \le s)$; if $T_{O_{k,d},P_i} = \mathbb{P}(W_i)$, then

$$\dim O^s_{k,d} = \dim < T_{O_{k,d},P_1},\ldots,T_{O_{k,d},P_s} >= \dim < W_1,\ldots,W_s > -1$$

Now consider the ortogonal space $W_i^{\perp} \subset R_d$, $(1 \le i \le s)$ via the apolarity action (for the definition of $W_i^{\perp}$ see [5], Remark 2.5). It generates an ideal in R defining a scheme $Z_i(k,d) \subset \mathbb{P}^2$. Let Y be a generic union of s schemes $Z_i(k,d)$ in $\mathbb{P}^2$, $(1 \le i \le s)$. Since

$$\dim < W_1, \dots, W_s > -1 = N - \dim[< W_1, \dots, W_s >]^{\perp} = N - \dim(W_1^{\perp} \cap \dots \cap W_s^{\perp}) = N - h^0(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{I}_Y(d)),$$

we have (see also [5], Remark 2.5):

$$(\ddagger) \qquad \dim O^s_{k,d} = N - h^0(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{I}_Y(d)) = H(Y,d) - 1$$

where $H(Y,d)$ is the Hilbert function of Y in degree d.

Since for $d = k+1$, $O^2_{k,d} = \mathbb{P}^N$ (see [5], Proposition 3.4 C)), then for $s \ge 2$ we immediately get:

1.8. Proposition. *For $d = k+1$ and $s \ge 2$, we have $O^s_{k,d} = \mathbb{P}^N$.*

For $d \ge k+2$, the schemes $Z_i(k,d)$ are zero-dimensional, and do not depend on d, in fact we have the following lemma (see [5], Lemmata 2.6, 2.7, 2.8):

1.9. Lemma. *Let $Z(k,d) = Z_i(k,d)$ be one such scheme with support at P. For $d \ge k+2$, we have:*

i) $(k+1)P \subset Z(k,d) \subset (k+2)P$;

ii) the length of $Z(k,d)$ is $l(Z) = \binom{k+2}{2} + 2$;

iii) $Z(k,d) = Z(k,k+2)$.

Henceforth for $d \ge k+2$ we will denote $Z(k,d)$ by $Z(k)$, or Z, if k is obvious by the context.

From $(\ddagger)$ and the lemma above it follows that for $d \ge k+2$ in order to study the dimension of $O^s_{k,d}$, we only need to study the postulation of unions of generic schemes $Z(k)$.

1.10. Remark. Let $d \ge k+2$. Recall that $Z(k)$ is defined by the ideal generated by $W^{\perp} \subset R_d$, where $W = < L^{d-k}R_k, L^{d-k-1}FR_1 >$, with $L \in R_1$ and $F \in R_k$. Now we want to give a specialization of the scheme $Z(k)$: put $L = x$ and $F = y^k$; we get

$$W = < x^{d-k}R_k, x^{d-k-1}y^kR_1 >$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned} W^{\perp} = < & x^{d-k-1}y^{k-1}z^2, \dots, x^{d-k-1}yz^k, x^{d-k-1}z^{k+1}, x^{d-k-2}y^{k+2}, x^{d-k-2}y^{k+1}z, \dots, \\ & x^{d-k-2}yz^{k+1}, x^{d-k-2}z^{k+2}, x^{d-k-3}y^{k+1}, x^{d-k-3}y^kz, \dots, x^{d-k-3}yz^k, x^{d-k-3}z^{k+1}, \dots, \\ & xy^{d-1}, xy^{d-2}z, \dots, xyz^{d-2}, xz^{d-1}, y^d, y^{d-1}z, \dots, yz^{d-1}, z^d > . \end{aligned}$$

Let I be the ideal generated by $W^{\perp}$. By a direct computation, it is easy to show that the saturation of I is the ideal

$$(I)^{sat} = (y,z)^{k+1} \cap ((y,z)^{k+2} + (z^2))$$

that defines a scheme supported at a point of $\mathbb{P}^2$, whose structure is given by the union of its k^{th} infinitesimal neighbourhood, with the intersection of its $(k+1)^{th}$ infinitesimal neighbourhood with a double line.

1.11. Notation. We fix the following notation:

i) let $P_1, \dots, P_s$ be s generic points in $\mathbb{P}^2$;

ii) let X be the union of s generic $(k+1)$-fat points in $\mathbb{P}^2$, with support in $P_1, \dots, P_s$;

iii) let T be the union of s generic $(k+2)$-fat points in $\mathbb{P}^2$, with support in $P_1, \dots, P_s$;

iv) let Z_i be a 0-dimensional scheme in $\mathbb{P}^2$, as defined in Remark 1.7, with support in P_i;

v) let $Y = Z_1 + \cdots + Z_s$;

vi) denote by $(k+1, k+2)P$ a 0-dimensional scheme whose defining ideal is $\wp^{k+1} \cap (\wp^{k+2} + l^2)$ where $\wp$ is the homogeneous ideal in $R = K[x, y, z]$ of a point $P \in \mathbb{P}^2$, and l is the ideal of a generic line through P; we call $(k+1, k+2)P$ a $(k+1, k+2)$ *point*;

vii) let $\mathcal{Z}_i$ be a $(k+1, k+2)$ point with support in P_i. By Remark 1.10, the scheme $\mathcal{Z}_i$ is a specialization of Z_i;

viii) let $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Z}_1 + \cdots + \mathcal{Z}_s$ (so $\mathcal{Y}$ is a specialization of the scheme Y). We have

$$\deg \mathcal{Y} = \deg Y = s\left(\binom{k+2}{2} + 2\right) = \deg X + 2s;$$

ix) if $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ is a curve, and Z is a zero-dimensional scheme, the scheme Z' defined by the ideal $(I_Z : I_{\mathcal{C}})$ is called the residual of Z with respect to $\mathcal{C}$, and denoted by $Res_{\mathcal{C}} Z$.

In the following lemma we determine the subscheme of a $(k+1, k+2)$ point with support in P, residual to a curve $\mathcal{C}$.

1.12. Lemma. *Let $\mathcal{Z}$ be a $(k+1, k+2)$ point, with support in P with defining ideal $\wp^{k+1} \cap (\wp^{k+2} + l^2)$, where $\wp$ is the ideal of P, and $l = (L)$ is the ideal of a generic line through P. Let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ be a curve having at P a singularity of multiplicity m, and having L as tangent direction with multiplicity t. Then $Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z})$ is defined by the ideal*

$$I_{Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z})} = \wp^{\max\{k+1-m;0\}} \cap (\wp^{\max\{k+2-m;0\}} + l^{\max\{2-t;0\}}).$$

$Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z})$ is a fat point, or a $(k+1-m, k+2-m)$ point, except for $m < k+1$ and $t = 1$, more precisely:

$$Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z}) = \begin{cases} 0P & for \;\; m \geq k+2, \;\; or \;\; m = k+1 \;\; and \;\; t \geq 2 \\ 1P & for \;\; m = k+1 \;\; and \;\; t \leq 1 \\ (k+1-m)P & for \;\; m < k+1 \;\; and \;\; t \geq 2 \\ 2P & for \;\; m = k \;\; and \;\; t = 0 \\ (k+1-m, k+2-m)P & for \;\; m < k \;\; and \;\; t = 0 \end{cases}.$$

Proof. Without loss of generality, we assume that $\wp = (x, y)$, $L = x$, and, by abuse of notation, that x, y are affine coordinates.

Let $x^t f_1 + f_2 = 0$ be an equation defining the curve $\mathcal{C}$, where f_1 is a homogeneous polynomial of degree $m - t$, $f_1 \notin (x)$, and $f_2 \in (x, y)^{m+1}$. We have to prove that

$$((x,y)^{k+1} \cap ((x,y)^{k+2} + (x^2))) : (x^t f_1 + f_2) = (x,y)^{\max\{k+1-m;0\}} \cap ((x,y)^{\max\{k+2-m;0\}} + (x^{\max\{2-t;0\}})).$$

This is obvious for $m \geq k+2$, and for $m = k+1, t \geq 2$, since in these cases $Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z})$ is the emptyset.

Let $m = k+1$, $t \leq 1$. The equality above becomes

$$((x,y)^{k+1} \cap ((x,y)^{k+2} + (x^2))) : (x^t f_1 + f_2) = (x, y).$$

"$\subseteq$" : To prove this inclusion, let $g = a + h$, $a \in K$, $h \in (x, y)$. If $g\ (x^t f_1 + f_2) = (a + h)\ (x^t f_1 + f_2) \in ((x,y)^{k+2} + (x^2))$, since $f_2 \in (x,y)^{m+1}$, $h x^t f_1 \in (x,y)^{m+1}$, and $m + 1 = k + 2$, it follows that

$ax^tf_1 \in ((x,y)^{k+2}+(x^2))$. But f_1 is a homogeneous polynomial of degree $m-t$, $f_1 \notin (x)$, $t \le 1$, so it easily follows that $a=0$, hence $g \in (x,y)$. The reverse inclusion is obvious.

Since $I_{Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z})} = (x,y)$, we have $Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z}) = 1P$.

Now, let $m < k+1$, $t \ge 2$. In this case we have to prove that

$$((x,y)^{k+1} \cap ((x,y)^{k+2}+(x^2))) : (x^tf_1+f_2) = (x,y)^{k+1-m}.$$

If $g\ (x^tf_1+f_2) \in (x,y)^{k+1}$, it immediately follows that $g \in (x,y)^{k+1-m}$, and the reverse inclusion is obvious. Moreover, since $I_{Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z})} = (x,y)^{k+1-m}$, we have that $Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z}) = (k+1-m)P$.

Let $m \le k$, $t \le 1$. Now we have to prove that

$$((x,y)^{k+1} \cap ((x,y)^{k+2}+(x^2))) : (x^tf_1+f_2) = (x,y)^{k+1-m} \cap ((x,y)^{k+2-m}+(x^{2-t})).$$

"$\subseteq$" : As in the previous case, if $g\ (x^tf_1+f_2) \in (x,y)^{k+1}$, it follows that $g \in (x,y)^{k+1-m}$, so we can write

$$g = xg_1 + ay^{k+1-m} + g_2,$$

where $g_1 \in (x,y)^{k-m}$ is homogeneous of degree $k-m$, $g_2 \in (x,y)^{k+2-m}$, $a \in K$. In order to prove that

$$g\ (x^tf_1+f_2) = (xg_1+ay^{k+1-m}+g_2)(x^tf_1+f_2) \in ((x,y)^{k+2}+(x^2)))$$

since $g_2x^tf_1$, and $f_2 \in (x,y)^{k+2}$, it suffices to prove that

$$x^{t+1}g_1f_1 + ax^ty^{k+1-m}f_1 \in ((x,y)^{k+2}+(x^2)).$$

Since $x^{t+1}g_1f_1+ax^ty^{k+1-m}f_1$ is homogeneous of degree $k+1$, and $f_1 \notin (x)$, we get that $x^{t+1}g_1+ax^ty^{k+1-m} \in (x^2)$. For $t=1$, this implies $a=0$, so $g \in ((x,y)^{k+2-m}+(x))$. For $t=0$ this implies $a=0$, and $g_1 \in (x)$, so $g \in ((x,y)^{k+2-m}+(x^2))$.

"$\supseteq$" : This inclusion is obvious.

So we have proved that, for $m \le k$ and $t \le 1$:

$$I_{Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z})} = \begin{cases} (x,y)^{k+1-m} \cap ((x,y)^{k+2-m}+(x)) = (x,y)^{k+1-m} \cap (x,y^{k+2-m}) & for \quad m \le k \quad and \quad t=1 \\ (x,y) \cap ((x,y)^2+(x^2)) = (x,y)^2 & for \quad m = k \quad and \quad t=0 \\ (x,y)^{k+1-m} \cap ((x,y)^{k+2-m}+(x^2)) & for \quad m < k \quad and \quad t=0 \end{cases},$$

hence for $m=k$ and $t=0$ we have $Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z}) = 2P$, for $m<k$ and $t=0$ we have $Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z}) = (k+1-m, k+2-m)P$, while for $m \le k$ and $t=1$, $Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Z})$ is the union of the fat point $(k+1-m)P$ with the intersection of the line $\{x=0\}$ with the fat point $(k+2-m)P$. □

2. Osculating varieties to Veronese surface and some of their higher secant varieties.

In this section we will compute the dimension of $O^s_{k,d}$ for $3 \le s \le 6$ and $s=9$.

2.1. Remark. We recall that for $d \le k+1$ and $s \ge 2$ (see Remark 1.6 and Proposition 1.8):

$$\dim O^s_{k,d} = N.$$

So we have to study the dimension of $O^s_{k,d}$ only for $d \geq k+2$. Since, for $d \geq k+2$ (see(‡))

$$\dim O^s_{k,d} = H(Y,d) - 1,$$

then, if we know the postulation of Y, we are done.

We wish to notice that, by (†), the expected dimension for $O^s_{k,d}$ is

$$\text{expdim } O^s_{k,d} = \min\{sn + s - 1,\ N\},$$

where $n = \dim O_{k,d} = \min\left\{\binom{k+2}{2} + 1,\ \binom{d+2}{2} - 1\right\} = \min\left\{\binom{k+2}{2} + 1,\ N\right\} = \min\left\{\frac{\deg Y}{s} - 1,\ N\right\}$ (see Remark 1.6 and Lemma 1.9 *ii*)). Hence it easily follows that

$$\text{expdim } O^s_{k,d} = \min\{\deg Y,\ N+1\} - 1 = \ \exp\ H(Y,d) - 1$$

where $\exp\ H(Y,d)$ is the expected value for $H(Y,d)$.

In the next lemmata we show that the postulation of Y is strictly related with the postulation of the specialized scheme $\mathcal{Y}$, and of the scheme of fat points X.

2.2. Lemma. *If the Hilbert function of the specialized scheme $\mathcal{Y}$ in degree d is*

$$H(\mathcal{Y},d) = \min\{H(X,d) + 2s, N+1\},$$

then

$$H(Y,d) = \min\{H(X,d) + 2s, N+1\}.$$

Proof. It follows from the obvious inequalities: $H(\mathcal{Y},d) \leq H(Y,d) \leq \min\ \{H(X,d) + 2s, N+1\}$. □

2.3. Lemma. *Let $s > 2$. Then:*

i) for $k = 1$, $\mathcal{Y} = Y = (2,3)P_1 + \cdots + (2,3)P_s$, and $H(\mathcal{Y},d) = \min\{\deg Y, N+1\}$;

ii) for $k = 2$, $\mathcal{Y} = (3,4)P_1 + \cdots + (3,4)P_s$, and $H(\mathcal{Y},d) = \min\{\deg Y, N+1\}$.

Proof. *i*) If $d = 2$ see [7], Proposition 3.3; for $d = 3$ see [7], Proposition 4.5; for $d \geq 4$ see [2], Theorem 1.

ii) follows from [3] Theorems 1 and 2. □

2.4. Lemma. *i) If $H(\mathcal{Y},d_0) = H(X,d_0) + 2s$, then for every $d \geq d_0$ we have*

$$H(\mathcal{Y},d) = H(X,d) + 2s;$$

ii) if $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{d_0} = (0)$, then for every $d \leq d_0$ we have $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = (0)$.

Proof. *i*) Since $X \subset \mathcal{Y}$ and $H(\mathcal{Y},d_0) = H(X,d_0) + 2s$, then it easily follows that $\dim\left(I_X/I_{\mathcal{Y}}\right)_{d_0} = 2s$. Therefore there are $2s$ forms $f_1,\dots,f_{2s} \in (I_X)_{d_0}$ linearly independent modulo $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{d_0}$. Let $\{l = 0\}$ be a line not through any of the points $P_1,\dots,P_s$. The forms $f_1 l^{d-d_0},\dots,f_{2s} l^{d-d_0} \in (I_X)_d$ are linearly independent modulo $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$, hence $\dim\left(I_X/I_{\mathcal{Y}}\right)_d \geq 2s$, so we have $H(\mathcal{Y},d) \geq H(X,d) + 2s$. Since obviously $H(\mathcal{Y},d) \leq H(X,d) + 2s$, then the conclusion follows.

ii) Obvious. □

Now we will study the postulation of $\mathcal{Y}$ for each s separately ($s = 3, 4, 5, 6, 9$), but first we wish to mention the case $s = 2$.

2.5. Proposition. *For $s = 2$ we have:*

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \begin{cases} \textit{for } k = 1: & \begin{cases} N+1 & \textit{if } d \le 2 \\ H(T,d) = 9 < \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d) & \textit{if } d = 3 \\ H(X,d) + 4 = \deg Y & \textit{if } d \ge 4 \end{cases} \\ \textit{for } k = 2: & \begin{cases} N+1 & \textit{if } d \le 3 \\ H(T,d) = 14 < \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d) & \textit{if } d = 4 \\ H(X,d) + 4 = \deg Y & \textit{if } d \ge 5 \end{cases} \\ \textit{for } \ k \ge 3: & \begin{cases} N+1 & \textit{if } \ \ d \le k+1 \\ H(T,d) = N < \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d) & \textit{if } \ \ d = k+2 \\ H(X,d) + 4 < \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d) & \textit{if } \ \ k+3 \le d \le 2k \\ H(X,d) + 4 = \deg Y & \textit{if } \ d \ge 2k+1 \end{cases} \end{cases}.$$

Proof. The case $d \le k+1$ follows from Lemma 2.4 *ii*), and [5], Proposition 3.4, *C*).

For $d = k+2$, observe that the line L through P_1 and P_2 is a component of multiplicity at least $2(k+1) - d = k$ for the curves defined by the forms both of $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$ and of $(I_T)_d$. Since $Res_{kL}\mathcal{Y} = Res_{kL}T = 2P_1 + 2P_2$ (see Lemma 1.12), we get

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{k+2} = \dim(I_T)_{k+2} = \dim(I_{2P_1+2P_2})_2 = 1$$

(the only curve is the $(k+2)$-uple line through the two points). Thus $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(T, d)$. Moreover, since T is not regular in degree $k+2$ (see Remark 1.2), we get $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d)$ (see [5], Corollary 3.5).

For $k = 1, 2$ and $d \ge k+3$, see [5], Corollary 3.8. For $k \ge 3$, and $d \ge 2k+1$ see [5], Proposition 3.9.

Now let $k \ge 3$, and $k+3 \le d \le 2k$. For $d = k+3$ the line L through P_1 and P_2 is a component of multiplicity at least $\nu = 2(k+1) - d = k-1$ for the curves defined by the forms of both $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$, and $(I_X)_d$, hence from the case $k = 1$, $d = 4$, we get

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{k+3} = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{k+3-(k-1)} = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_4 = 15 - 10 = 5, \qquad \dim(I_X)_{k+3} = \dim(I_{X'})_4 = 9,$$

where $\mathcal{Y}' = Res_{\nu L}\mathcal{Y} = (2,3)P_1 + (2,3)P_2$ (see Lemma 1.12), and $X' = Res_{\nu L}X = 2P_1 + 2P_2$.

It follows that $H(\mathcal{Y}, k+3) = H(X, k+3) + 4$. Hence by Lemma 2.4 *i*), for every $d \ge k+3$ we have

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 4.$$

Since two $(k+1)$-fat points impose independent conditions to curves of degree d if and only if $d \ge 2k+1$ (see Remark 1.2), then, for $k+3 \le d \le 2k$, we have $H(X, d) < \deg X$, thus

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 4 < \deg X + 4 = \deg Y.$$

Moreover, since for $d = k+3$, $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{k+3} = 5$, then for $d \ge k+3$, $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$ is positive, that is $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \binom{d+2}{2}$. It follows that if $k+3 \le d \le 2k$, then $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \min\left\{\deg \mathcal{Y}, \binom{d+2}{2}\right\} = \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d)$.

(For $k \ge 3$, and $k+3 \le d \le 2k$, see also [5], Proposition 3.10). □

2.6. Proposition. *For $s = 3$ we have:*

i)
$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \begin{cases} N+1 & \text{if } d \leq \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil \\ H(X,d)+6 < \deg Y & \text{if } \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1 \leq d \leq 2k \\ H(X,d)+6 = \deg Y & \text{if } d \geq \max\{\lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1;\ 2k+1\} \end{cases}.$$

ii)
$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d) \quad \text{iff} \quad \begin{cases} \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 2 \leq d \leq 2k & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1 \leq d \leq 2k & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases}.$$

Proof. *i)* In case $d \leq \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil$, it suffices to prove that $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = (0)$ for $d = \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil$.

Let $\mathcal{C}$ be the curve formed by the three lines P_1P_2, P_1P_3, P_2P_3. For $d = \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil$, the curve $\mathcal{C}$ is a fixed component, of multiplicity at least

$$\nu = 2(k+1) - d = \begin{cases} \frac{k+1}{2} & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ \frac{k}{2} & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

for the curves defined by the forms of $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$, so we have (see Lemma 1.12)

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{d-3\nu}$$

where

$$\mathcal{Y}' = Res_{\nu\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{Y} = \begin{cases} P_1 + P_2 + P_3 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ 2P_1 + 2P_2 + 2P_3 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases}, \qquad d - 3\nu = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ 2 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases}.$$

It immediately follows that $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = (0)$.

Now let $d \geq \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1$. In order to prove that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 6$, by Lemma 2.4 it suffices to prove that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 6$ for $d = \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1$.

Let $d = \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1$. The curve $\mathcal{C}$ is a fixed component, with multiplicity at least

$$\nu = 2(k+1) - d = \begin{cases} \frac{k-1}{2} & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ \frac{k-2}{2} & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

for the curves defined by the forms of both $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$ and $(I_X)_d$, then we have

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{d-3\nu}\ , \qquad \dim(I_X)_d = \dim(I_{X'})_{d-3\nu}$$

where (see Lemma 1.12)

$$d - 3\nu = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ 6 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases},$$

$$\mathcal{Y}' = Res_{\nu\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{Y} = \begin{cases} (2,3)P_1 + (2,3)P_2 + (2,3)P_3 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ (3,4)P_1 + (3,4)P_2 + (3,4)P_3 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases},$$

$$X' = \begin{cases} 2P_1 + 2P_2 + 2P_3 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ 3P_1 + 3P_2 + 3P_3 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases}.$$

Since it is well known that $\dim(I_{2P_1+2P_2+2P_3})_4 = 6$ and $\dim(I_{3P_1+3P_2+3P_3})_6 = 10$, we have

$$\dim(I_{X'})_{d-3\nu} = \begin{cases} 6 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ 10 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases},$$

moreover, by Lemma 2.3 we get that

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{d-3\nu} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is even} \\ 4 & \text{if } k+1 \text{ is odd} \end{cases}.$$

It follows that $\dim(I_X)_d - \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = 6$, hence $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) - H(X, d) = 6$.

Since three $(k+1)$-fat points impose independent conditions to curves of degree d if and only if $d \geq 2k+1$ (see Remark 1.2), then for $\lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1 \leq d \leq 2k$ we have $H(X, d) < \deg X$, while if $d \geq \max\left\{\lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1;\ 2k+1\right\}$, then $H(X, d) = \deg X$. Since $\deg Y = \deg X + 6$ we get:

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \begin{cases} H(X, d) + 6 < \deg Y & \text{if } \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1 \leq d \leq 2k \\ H(X, d) + 6 = \deg Y & \text{if } d \geq \max\left\{\lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1;\ 2k+1\right\} \end{cases}.$$

ii) For $d \leq \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil$, or $d \geq \max\left\{\lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1;\ 2k+1\right\}$, from *i)* we have $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d)$.

If $k+1$ is even, and $d = \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1$, then $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = 0$, hence $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \binom{d+2}{2}$, the expected one.

If $k+1$ is even, and $d = \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 2$, from *i)*, since $\dim(I_X)_{d-1} = 6$ implies $\dim(I_X)_d > 6$, we have:

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = \binom{d+2}{2} - H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \binom{d+2}{2} - H(X, d) - 6 = \dim(I_X)_d - 6 > 0.$$

Hence, if $k+1$ is even, for $d = \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 2$, and so also for $d \geq \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 2$, we have $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d > 0$, that is $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \binom{d+2}{2}$. Since, by *i)*, if $\lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1 \leq d \leq 2k$, then $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \deg Y$, it follows that for $\lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 2 \leq d \leq 2k$ we have $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \min\left\{\deg Y, \binom{d+2}{2}\right\} = \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d)$.

If $k+1$ is odd and $d \geq \lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1$, from the proof of *i)* we get $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d > 0$, that is $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \binom{d+2}{2}$. Moreover, by *i)*, if $\lceil \frac{3(k+1)}{2} \rceil + 1 \leq d \leq 2k$, then $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \deg Y$, and the conclusion immediately follows. □

2.7. Proposition. *For $s = 4$ we have:*

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \begin{cases} \text{for } k \leq 6: & \begin{cases} N+1 & \text{if } d \leq 2k+2 \\ H(X, d) + 8 = \deg Y & \text{if } d \geq 2k+3 \end{cases} \\ \text{for } k \geq 6: & \begin{cases} N+1 & \text{if } d \leq 2k+1 \\ H(X, d) + 8 = \deg Y & \text{if } d \geq 2k+2 \end{cases} \end{cases}.$$

Proof. If $d \leq 2k+1$, by Bezout Theorem, each element of $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$ is divisible by every form defining an irreducible conic through $P_1, \ldots, P_4$, hence $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = (0)$.

Let $d = 2k+2$. Recall that the ideal of the scheme $\mathcal{Z}_i$ is $\wp_i^{k+1} \cap (\wp_i^{k+2} + l_i^2)$, where l_i defines a generic line L_i through P_i $(1 \leq i \leq 4)$ such that $\deg(\mathcal{Y} \cap L_i) = k+2$. Let $\mathcal{C}_i$ be the conic through $P_1, \ldots, P_4$, tangent in P_i to L_i. For the genericity of the L_i's, the conics $\mathcal{C}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{C}_4$ are irreducible and distinct. Bezout's Theorem implies that each conic $\mathcal{C}_i$ is a component of any curve defined by the forms of $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$. By Lemma 1.12 we can determine $I_{Res_{\mathcal{C}_1+\cdots+\mathcal{C}_4}\mathcal{Y}}$, and it is an easy computation (wich will be omitted) that the intersection multiplicities of the curves defined by the forms of $(I_{Res_{\mathcal{C}_1+\cdots+\mathcal{C}_4}\mathcal{Y}})_{d-8}$ with a conic $\mathcal{C}_i$, is bigger than $2(d-8)$. Hence by Bezout's Theorem we get that each conic $\mathcal{C}_i$ is a component with multiplicity at least 2 of any curve defined by the forms of $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$. So these curves have a component of degree 16. It follows that, if $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d \neq (0)$, then $d \geq 16$, that is $k \geq 7$. Thus, for $k \leq 6$, we have $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = (0)$, that is $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = N+1$. Observe that for $k = 6$, we have $N+1 = H(X, d) + 8 = \deg Y$, in fact in this case $d = 2k+2 = 14$, $\;N+1 = \binom{16}{2} = 120$, and, since four 7-fat points impose independent conditions to curves of degree 14 (see Remark 1.2), then $H(X, d) = 112$. If $k \geq 7$ we have

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{2k+2} = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{2k+2-16},$$

where $\mathcal{Y}' = Res_{2\mathcal{C}_1+\cdots+2\mathcal{C}_4}\mathcal{Y} = (k-7)P_1 + \cdots + (k-7)P_4$ is a scheme of four $(k-7)$-fat points (see Lemma 1.12). Since $\mathcal{Y}'$ imposes independent conditions to curves of degree $2k-14$ (see Remark 1.2), then $H(\mathcal{Y}, 2k+2) = \binom{2k+4}{2} - \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{2k+2} = \binom{2k+4}{2} - \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{2k-14} = \binom{2k+4}{2} - \binom{2k-12}{2} + 4\binom{k-6}{2} = 4\binom{k+2}{2} + 8 = H(X, 2k+2) + 8 = \deg Y$.

Now let $d \geq 2k+3$. It suffices to prove that $H(\mathcal{Y}, 2k+3) = H(X, 2k+3) + 8 = \deg Y$ (see Lemma 2.4 *i)*), so let $d = 2k+3$. By induction on k. For $k = 1$ see Lemma 2.3. Let $k \geq 2$. Let $\mathcal{C}$ be an irreducible conic through $P_1, \ldots, P_4$, and let Q_1, Q_2, Q_3 be three points on $\mathcal{C}$. Let $\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}} = \mathcal{Y} + Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3$. By Bezout's Theorem, the conic $\mathcal{C}$ is a fixed component for the curves of degree $2k+3$ through $\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}$, then

$$\dim(I_{\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}})_{2k+3} = \dim(I_{\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}'})_{2k+1} = \binom{2k+3}{2} - H(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}', 2k+1),$$

where $\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}' = Res_{\mathcal{C}}\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}} = Res_{\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{Y} = \sum_{i=1}^{4}(k, k+1)P_i$ (see Lemma 1.12). By the inductive hypothesis we have that $H(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}', 2k+1) = \deg \widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}' = 4\binom{k+1}{2} + 8$, hence

$$H(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}, 2k+3) = \binom{2k+5}{2} - \binom{2k+3}{2} + 4\binom{k+1}{2} + 8 = \deg \mathcal{Y} + 3 = \deg \widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}.$$

Hence $\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}$ imposes independent conditions to curves of degree $2k+3$. Since $\mathcal{Y} \subset \widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}$, then also $\mathcal{Y}$ imposes independent conditions to curves of degree $2k+3$, that is $H(\mathcal{Y}, 2k+3) = \deg \mathcal{Y} = \deg Y$.

□

2.8. Proposition. *For $s = 5$ we have:*

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \begin{cases} N+1 & \text{if } \; d \leq 2k+3 \\ H(X, d) + 10 < \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d) & \text{if } \; 2k+4 \leq d \leq \lfloor \frac{5(k+1)}{2} \rfloor - 1 \\ H(X, d) + 10 = \deg Y & \text{if } d \geq \max\left\{2k+4; \; \lfloor \frac{5(k+1)}{2} \rfloor\right\} \end{cases}.$$

Proof. Let $d \leq 2k+3$. If we prove that $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = (0)$ for $d = 2k+3$ we are done. So let $d = 2k+3$. For $k = 1$ see Lemma 2.3. Let $k \geq 2$. Any curve defined by a nonzero element of $(I_X)_d$ has the conic $\mathcal{C}$ through $P_1, \ldots, P_5$ as a component of multiplicity at least $5(k+1) - 2d = k-1$, where X is the fat point subscheme of 5 points of multiplicity $k+1$, hence the same is true for $\mathcal{Y}$ in place of X, since $X \subset \mathcal{Y}$, so we have:

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{2k+3} = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{2k+3-2(k-1)} = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_5,$$

where, by Lemma 1.12, $\mathcal{Y}' = Res_{(k-1)\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{Y} = (2,3)P_1 + \cdots + (2,3)P_5$. Since, by Lemma 2.3 *i)*, $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_5 = 0$, then the conclusion follows.

Now let $d \geq 2k+4$. We have to prove that

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 10.$$

By Lemma 2.4, it suffices to prove that $H(\mathcal{Y},d)=H(X,d)+10$ for $d=2k+4$, so let $d=2k+4$. For $k=1,2$ see Lemma 2.3. If $k=3$ (hence $d=10$), let Q be a point on the conic $\mathcal{C}$ through $P_1,\dots,P_5$. The scheme $\mathcal{Y}+Q$ imposes independent conditions to curves of degree 10. In fact, since the conic $\mathcal{C}$ is a fixed locus for $(I_{\mathcal{Y}+Q})_{10}$, from the case $k=2$ we get:

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}+Q})_{10}=\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_8=\binom{8+2}{2}-5(8)=5=\binom{10+2}{2}-5(12)-1=\binom{10+2}{2}-\deg(\mathcal{Y}+Q),$$

where $\mathcal{Y}'=Res_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{Y}+Q)=(3,4)P_1+\cdots+(3,4)P_5$ (see Lemma 1.12). Since $\mathcal{Y}+Q$ imposes independent conditions to curves of degree 10, then $\mathcal{Y}$ and X also do the same. It follows that

$$H(\mathcal{Y},10)=\deg Y=\deg X+10=H(X,10)+10.$$

For $k\geq 4$, since $\mathcal{C}$ is a fixed component with multiplicity at least $(k-3)$ for curves defined both by $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{2k+4}$ and by $(I_X)_{2k+4}$, it follows that

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{2k+4}=\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{2k+4-2(k-3)}=\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{10},\qquad \dim(I_X)_{2k+4}=\dim(I_{X'})_{10},$$

where (see Lemma 1.12)

$$\mathcal{Y}'=Res_{(k-3)\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{Y}=(4,5)P_1+\cdots+(4,5)P_5,\qquad X'=Res_{(k-3)\mathcal{C}}4P_1+\cdots+4P_5.$$

From the case $k=3$ it follows that

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{2k+4}=6,\qquad \dim(I_X)_{2k+4}=16,$$

hence $H(\mathcal{Y},d)=H(X,d)+10$.

So we have proved that for $d\geq 2k+4$

$$H(\mathcal{Y},d)=H(X,d)+10.$$

Now, since $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{2k+4}$ is positive, then $H(\mathcal{Y},d)<\binom{d+2}{2}$ for any $d\geq 2k+4$. Moreover, since five generic $(k+1)$-fat points impose independent conditions to curves of degree d if and only if $d\geq\lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor$ (see Remark 1.2), then for $2k+4\leq d\leq\lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor-1$, we have $H(X,d)<\deg X$, hence

$$H(\mathcal{Y},d)=H(X,d)+10<\min\left\{\deg X+10,\binom{d+2}{2}\right\}=\min\left\{\deg Y,\binom{d+2}{2}\right\}=\exp H(\mathcal{Y},d).$$

If $d\geq\max\left\{2k+4;\ \lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor\right\}$, then $H(X,d)=\deg X$, so $H(\mathcal{Y},d)=\deg Y$. $\square$

2.9. Proposition. *For $s=6$ we have:*

$$H(\mathcal{Y},d)=\begin{cases}\textit{for } k=1: & \begin{cases}N+1 & \textit{if } d\leq 6\\ H(X,d)+12=\deg Y & \textit{if } d\geq 7\end{cases}\\ \textit{for } k=2: & \begin{cases}N+1 & \textit{if } d\leq 8\\ H(X,d)+12=\deg Y & \textit{if } d\geq 9\end{cases}\\ \begin{array}{l}\textit{for } k\geq 3\\ k\equiv 2\ (mod\,5):\end{array} & \begin{cases}N+1 & \textit{if } d\leq\lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil-1\\ H(X,d)+12<\exp H(\mathcal{Y},d) & \textit{if } \lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil\leq d\leq\lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor-1\\ H(X,d)+12=\deg Y & \textit{if } d\geq\max\left\{\lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil;\ \lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor\right\}\end{cases}\\ \begin{array}{l}\textit{for } k\geq 3\\ k\not\equiv 2\ (mod\,5):\end{array} & \begin{cases}N+1 & \textit{if }\ d\leq\lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil\\ H(X,d)+12<\exp H(\mathcal{Y},d) & \textit{if }\ \lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil+1\leq d\leq\lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor-1\\ H(X,d)+12=\deg Y & \textit{if }\ d\geq\max\left\{\lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil+1;\lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor\right\}\end{cases}\end{cases}.$$

Proof. We start by proving four particular cases, that we need later in the proof.

2.10. Lemma. *We have:*

i) $\dim(I_{(8,9)P_1+\cdots+(8,9)P_6})_{20} = 3$*;*

ii) $\dim(I_{(6,7)P_1+\cdots+(6,7)P_6})_{15} = 0$*;*

iii) $\dim(I_{(5,6)P_1+\cdots+(5,6)P_6})_{13} = 3$*;*

iv) $\dim(I_{(4,5)P_1+\cdots+(4,5)P_6})_{11} = 6$.

Proof. Though all of the above equalities can be checked using CoCoA (see [6]), we prove *i)* by specializing the scheme $\mathcal{Y}$. The proofs of *ii), iii)*, and *iv)* by using a specialization of $\mathcal{Y}$ are similar, and we left them to the reader.

i) Let $Q \in \mathbb{P}^2$ be a generic point, and let $\mathcal{F} = \{F = 0\}$ be a rational integral curve of degree 5 passing through Q, and having at each P_i, $1 \le i \le 6$, an ordinary singularity of multiplicity 2, (so $F \in (I_{2P_1+\cdots+2P_6})_5$), and let $\{\widetilde{l_i} = 0\}$ be one of the two distinct lines contained in the tangent space $T_{\mathcal{F},P_i}$ to $\mathcal{F}$ at the point P_i. Recall that the defining ideal of $\mathcal{Y} = (8,9)P_1 + \cdots + (8,9)P_6$ is

$$I_{\mathcal{Y}} = (\wp_1^8 \cap (\wp_1^9 + l_1^2)) \cap \cdots \cap (\wp_6^8 \cap (\wp_6^9 + l_6^2)).$$

Specialize the scheme $\mathcal{Y}$ putting $l_i = \widetilde{l_i}$ for $i = 1,2,3,4$, and let $\mathcal{Y}^*$ be such specialization of $\mathcal{Y}$. Since the expected dimension of $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{20}$ is $\binom{20+2}{2} - \deg \mathcal{Y} = 231 - 228 = 3$, then if we prove that $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}^*})_{20} = 3$, we are done. It is easy to see that the curves defined by the forms of $(I_{\mathcal{Y}^*+Q})_{20}$ have the quintic $\mathcal{F}$ as fixed component with multiplicity at least 2, hence

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}^*+Q})_{20} = \dim(I_{\mathcal{W}})_{10}$$

where $\mathcal{W} = Res_{2\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{Y}^* + Q) = 4P_1 + 4P_2 + 4P_3 + 4P_4 + (4,5)P_5 + (4,5)P_6$. Now let $\mathcal{W}^*$ be a specialization of $\mathcal{W}$ obtained by putting $l_i = \widetilde{l_i}$ for $i = 5,6$. Since the quintic $\mathcal{F}$ is as fixed component with multiplicity at least 2 for $(I_{\mathcal{W}^*+Q})_{10}$, and since $Res_{2\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{W}^* + Q) = \emptyset$ (see Lemma 1.12) we have

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{W}^*+Q})_{10} = \dim(I_{Res_{2\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{W}^*+Q)})_0 = 1.$$

Thus for the specialized scheme $\mathcal{W}^*$ we have $\dim(I_{\mathcal{W}^*})_{10} = 2 = \binom{10+2}{2} - \deg \mathcal{W}^*$. Then $\mathcal{W}^*$, and so $\mathcal{W}$ also, imposes independent conditions to curves of degree 10. It follows that $\dim(I_{\mathcal{W}})_{10} = 2$. So $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}^*+Q})_{20} = 2$, hence $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}^*})_{20} = 3$, and we are done. □

Now let $k + 1 = 5q + r$, $(0 \le r \le 4)$. Thus $k \equiv 2 \pmod 5$ iff $r = 3$.

For $k = 1, 2$ see Lemma 2.3.

Let $k \ge 3$. Let $\mathcal{C}_i$ be the conic through $P_1, \ldots, \widehat{P_i}, \ldots, P_6$, ($i = 1, \ldots, 6$), and let $\mathcal{C} = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \mathcal{C}_i$. Observe that if $2d < 5(k+1)$, then the curves defined by the forms of $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$, and by the forms of $(I_X)_d$ have the six conics $\mathcal{C}_i$ as fixed components with multiplicity at least $\nu = 5(k+1) - 2d$.

Then

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{d-12\nu}, \qquad \dim(I_X)_d = \dim(I_{X'})_{d-12\nu},$$

where

$$\mathcal{Y}' = Res_{\nu\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{Y} = (k+1-5\nu, k+2-5\nu)P_1 + \cdots + (k+1-5\nu, k+2-5\nu)P_6,$$

$$X' = Res_{\nu\mathcal{C}}X = (k+1-5\nu)P_1 + \cdots + (k+1-5\nu)P_6.$$

We split the proof in four cases.

Case 1): $k \equiv 2 \ (mod\ 5)$, and $d \leq \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil - 1 = 12q + 7$.

In this case it suffices to prove that $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = (0)$ for $d = 12q+7$. Since $2d = 2(12q+7) < 5(k+1) = 5(5q+3)$, then the curves defined by the forms of $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$ should have a fixed locus of degree $12\nu = 12q+12$, and this is impossible, since $d = 12q+7$. It follows that $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = (0)$.

Case 2): $k \equiv 2 \ (mod\ 5)$, and $d \geq \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil = 12q + 8$.

First we will prove that

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12.$$

By Lemma 2.4, it suffices to prove that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12$, for $d = 12q + 8$. Since $k \geq 3$, and $k+1 = 5q+3$, then we have $q \geq 1$. Let $q = 1$, so $d = 20$, $k+1 = 8$, $\mathcal{Y} = (8,9)P_1 + \cdots + (8,9)P_6$, and $X = 8P_1 + \cdots + 8P_6$. Since $\dim(I_{(8,9)P_1+\cdots+(8,9)P_6})_{20} = 3$ (see Lemma 2.10 *i)*), and six 8-fat points impose independent conditions to curves of degree 20 (see Remark 1.2), we have $\dim(I_X)_{20} = 15$. It follows that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12$. If $q > 1$, then $\nu\mathcal{C} = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \nu\mathcal{C}_i$ is a fixed locus for $(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$ and $(I_X)_d$. Since $\nu = 5(k+1) - 2d = 5(5q+3) - 2(12q+8) = q - 1$, we have $d - 12\nu = 12q + 8 - 12(q-1) = 20$, and $k + 1 - 5\nu = 5q + 3 - 5(q-1) = 8$. So

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{20} = 3, \qquad \dim(I_X)_d = \dim(I_{X'})_{20} = 15,$$

where $\mathcal{Y}' = Res_{\nu\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{Y} = (8,9)P_1 + \cdots + (8,9)P_6$, $X' = Res_{\nu\mathcal{C}}X = 8P_1 + \cdots + 8P_6$.

So we have proved that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12$.

Now, since for $d = 12q + 8$, $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$ is positive (and in fact it is equal to $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{20} = 3$), then $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \binom{d+2}{2}$ for any $d \geq 12q + 8$.

Since six generic $(k+1)$-fat points impose independent conditions to curves of degree d if and only if $d \geq \lfloor \frac{5(k+1)}{2} \rfloor$ (see Remark 1.2), then for $12q + 8 \leq d \leq \lfloor \frac{5(k+1)}{2} \rfloor - 1$, we have $H(X, d) < \deg X$, hence

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12 < \min \left\{ \deg X + 12, \binom{d+2}{2} \right\} = \min \left\{ \deg Y, \binom{d+2}{2} \right\} = \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d).$$

While for $d \geq \max \left\{ 12q + 8;\ \lfloor \frac{5(k+1)}{2} \rfloor \right\}$, we have $H(X, d) = \deg X$, so $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12 = \deg X + 12 = \deg Y$. That is enough to finish the proof of this case.

Case 3): $k \not\equiv 2 \ (mod\ 5)$, and $d \leq \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil$.

By Lemma 2.4 we have only to prove that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = N + 1$ for $d = \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil = 12q + \lceil \frac{12r}{5} \rceil$. Since $k \geq 3$, we have $k + 1 = 5q + r \geq 4$, hence $q \geq \frac{4-r}{5}$. As above, let $\nu = 5(k+1) - 2d$, $\mathcal{Y}' = Res_{\nu\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{Y}$, and let $d' = d - 12\nu$. We have:

r	$k+1$	d	ν	$\mathcal{Y}'$	d'
0	$5q$	$12q$	$q > 0$	$P_1 + \cdots + P_6$	0
1	$5q+1$	$12q+3$	$q - 1 \geq 0$	$(6,7)P_1 + \cdots + (6,7)P_6$	15
2	$5q+2$	$12q+5$	$q > 0$	$(2,3)P_1 + \cdots + (2,3)P_6$	5
4	$5q+4$	$12q+10$	$q \geq 0$	$(4,5)P_1 + \cdots + (4,5)P_6$	10

Since for $\nu = 0$, we have $\mathcal{Y}' = \mathcal{Y}$ and $d' = d$, then for every $\nu \geq 0$ we have:

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{d'}.$$

Now we will prove that $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{d'} = 0$.

For $r = 0$ it is obvious. For $r = 2$ see Lemma 2.3. For $r = 1$ by Lemma 2.10 *ii)*, we have $\dim(I_{(6,7)P_1+\cdots+(6,7)P_6})_{15} = 0$. For $r = 4$, let $\mathcal{F} = \{F = 0\}$ be a rational integral curve of degree 5 having at each P_i $(1 \leq i \leq 6)$ an ordinary singularity of multiplicity 2, $(F \in (I_{2P_1+\cdots+2P_6})_5)$. If there exists a form $G \neq 0$, $G \in (I_{(4,5)P_1+\cdots+(4,5)P_6})_{10}$, then $FG \neq 0$ and $FG \in (I_{(6,7)P_1+\cdots+(6,7)P_6})_{15}$, but this is impossible by the previous case $r = 1$.

Case 4): $k \not\equiv 2$ $(mod\ 5)$, and $d \geq \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil + 1$.

First we will prove that

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12.$$

By Lemma 2.4, it suffices to prove that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12$ for $d = \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil + 1 = 12q + \lceil \frac{12r}{5} \rceil + 1$.

As usual, let $\nu = 5(k+1) - 2d$, $\mathcal{Y}' = Res_{\nu\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{Y}$, $X' = Res_{\nu\mathcal{C}}X$, and $d' = d - 12\nu$. We have:

r	$k + 1$	d	ν	$k+1-5\nu$	$\mathcal{Y}'$	X'	d'
0	$5q$	$12q + 1$	$q - 2$	10	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(10,11)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 10P_i$	25
1	$5q + 1$	$12q + 4$	$q - 3$	16	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(16,17)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 16P_i$	40
2	$5q + 2$	$12q + 6$	$q - 2$	12	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(12,13)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 12P_i$	30
4	$5q + 4$	$12q + 11$	$q - 2$	14	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(14,15)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 14P_i$	35

Since for $\nu = 0$, we have $\mathcal{Y}' = \mathcal{Y}$, $X' = X$, and $d' = d$, then for every $\nu \geq 0$ we have:

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{d'}, \qquad \dim(I_X)_d = \dim(I_{X'})_{d'}.$$

It follows that

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) - H(X, d) = H(\mathcal{Y}', d') - H(X', d').$$

Hence in case $\nu \geq 0$ we have only to prove that:

(a) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(10,11)P_i,\ 25) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 10P_i,\ 25) + 12$;
(b) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(12,13)P_i,\ 30) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 12P_i,\ 30) + 12$;
(c) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(14,15)P_i,\ 35) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 14P_i,\ 35) + 12$;
(d) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(16,17)P_i,\ 40) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 16P_i,\ 40) + 12$;

Now we need the following lemma:

2.11. Lemma. *Let:*

$$\mathcal{Y} = (m, m+1)P_1 + \cdots + (m, m+1)P_6,$$

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}} = (m+2, m+3)P_1 + \cdots + (m+2, m+3)P_6, \qquad \widetilde{X} = (m+2)P_1 + \cdots + (m+2)P_6.$$

If the integer $\eta = 5(d+5) - 12(m+2) + 1 \geq 0$, and $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \deg \mathcal{Y}$, then

i) $H(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}, d+5) = \deg(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}), \quad H(\widetilde{X}, d+5) = \deg(\widetilde{X})$;
ii) $H(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}, d+5) = H(\widetilde{X}, d+5) + 12$.

Proof. *i)* Let $\mathcal{F}$ be (as above) a rational curve of degree 5 having at each P_i $(1 \leq i \leq 6)$, an ordinary singularity of multiplicity 2. Let $Q_1, \ldots, Q_\eta \in \mathcal{F}$ be generic points. Since $5(d+5) < 6(2(m+2)) + \eta$, by Bezout Theorem $\mathcal{F}$ is a fixed component for the curves defined by the forms of $(I_{\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}+Q_1+\cdots+Q_\eta})_{d+5}$. It follows that

$$\dim(I_{\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}+Q_1+\cdots+Q_\eta})_{d+5} = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d.$$

Since $\binom{d+5+2}{2} - \deg(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}} + Q_1 + \cdots + Q_\eta) = \frac{1}{2}(d+7)(d+6) - (\deg \mathcal{Y} + 6(m+2) + 6(m+1) + \eta) = \binom{d+2}{2} - \deg \mathcal{Y} = \binom{d+2}{2} - H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$, we have

$$\dim(I_{\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}+Q_1+\cdots+Q_\eta})_{d+5} = \binom{d+5+2}{2} - \deg(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}} + Q_1 + \cdots + Q_\eta)$$

hence $H(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}} + Q_1 + \cdots + Q_\eta, d+5) = \deg(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}} + Q_1 + \cdots + Q_\eta)$.

Since obviously $\widetilde{X} \subset \widetilde{\mathcal{Y}} \subset \widetilde{\mathcal{Y}} + Q_1 + \cdots + Q_\eta$, it follows that $H(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}, d+5) = \deg(\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}})$, and $H(\widetilde{X}, d+5) = \deg(\widetilde{X})$.

ii) Obvious. □

By *Case 2)* we know that $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(8,9)P_i,\ 20) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 8P_i,\ 20) + 12 = \deg(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(8,9)P_i)$, so by Lemma 2.11 *ii)* we have $(a) : H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(10,11)P_i,\ 25) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 10P_i,\ 25) + 12$. Moreover, by Lemma 2.11 *i)*, $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(10,11)P_i,\ 25) = \deg(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(10,11)P_i)$, hence by Lemma 2.11 *ii)* we get $(b) : H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(12,13)P_i,\ 30) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 12P_i,\ 30) + 12$. Analogously, by Lemma 2.11, we have that $(b) \Rightarrow (c) \Rightarrow (d)$, so, for $\nu \geq 0$, we have proved that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12$.

Now let $\nu < 0$. In this case, since $k+1 = 5q + r \geq 3$, we are left with the folloving cases:

r	q	$k+1$	Y	X	d
0	1	5	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(5,6)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 5P_i$	13
1	1	6	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(6,7)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 6P_i$	16
1	2	11	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(11,12)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 11P_i$	28
2	1	7	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(7,8)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 7P_i$	18
4	0	4	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(4,5)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 4P_i$	11
4	1	9	$\sum_{i=1}^{6}(9,10)P_i$	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} 9P_i$	23

hence we have to prove that:
(e) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(5,6)P_i,\ 13) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 5P_i,\ 13) + 12$;
(f) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(6,7)P_i,\ 16) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 6P_i,\ 16) + 12$;
(g) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(11,12)P_i,\ 28) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 11P_i,\ 28) + 12$;
(h) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(7,8)P_i,\ 18) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 7P_i,\ 18) + 12$;
(i) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(4,5)P_i,\ 11) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 4P_i,\ 11) + 12$;

(l) $H(\sum_{i=1}^{6}(9,10)P_i,\ 23) = H(\sum_{i=1}^{6} 9P_i,\ 23) + 12$.

By Remark 1.2 and by Lemma 2.10 *iii)*, and *iv)*, it easily follows that (e) and (i) hold, moreover by Lemma 2.11 we have that (e) $\Rightarrow$ (h) $\Rightarrow$ (l) $\Rightarrow$ (g), and (i) $\Rightarrow$ (f), so we have proved that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12$ also for $\nu < 0$.

Now observe that for $d = \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil + 1$, $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$ is positive. In fact, as shown above, we have if $\nu \geq 0$:

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = \dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}'})_{d'} = \binom{d'+2}{2} - \deg X' - 12 = \begin{cases} \binom{25+2}{2} - 6\binom{10+1}{2} - 12 & = 9 \quad \text{for } r = 0 \\ \binom{40+2}{2} - 6\binom{16+1}{2} - 12 & = 33 \quad \text{for } r = 1 \\ \binom{30+2}{2} - 6\binom{12+1}{2} - 12 & = 16 \quad \text{for } r = 2 \\ \binom{35+2}{2} - 6\binom{14+1}{2} - 12 & = 24 \quad \text{for } r = 4 \end{cases}$$

if $\nu < 0$:

$$\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d = \begin{cases} \binom{13+2}{2} - 6\binom{5+1}{2} - 12 & = 3 \quad \text{for } r = 0,\ q = 1 \\ \binom{16+2}{2} - 6\binom{6+1}{2} - 12 & = 15 \quad \text{for } r = 1,\ q = 1 \\ \binom{28+2}{2} - 6\binom{11+1}{2} - 12 & = 27 \quad \text{for } r = 1,\ q = 2 \\ \binom{18+2}{2} - 6\binom{7+1}{2} - 12 & = 10 \quad \text{for } r = 2,\ q = 1 \\ \binom{11+2}{2} - 6\binom{4+1}{2} - 12 & = 6 \quad \text{for } r = 4,\ q = 0 \\ \binom{23+2}{2} - 6\binom{9+1}{2} - 12 & = 18 \quad \text{for } r = 4,\ q = 1 \end{cases}.$$

Since $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d > 0$ for $d = \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil + 1$, we have that $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_d$ is positive for any $d \geq \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil + 1$, and this means that $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) < \binom{d+2}{2}$ for any $d \geq \lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil + 1$. Moreover, since six generic $(k+1)$-fat points impose independent conditions to curves of degree d if and only if $d \geq \lfloor \frac{5(k+1)}{2} \rfloor$ (see Remark 1.2), then for $\lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil + 1 \leq d \leq \lfloor \frac{5(k+1)}{2} \rfloor - 1$, we have $H(X, d) < \deg X$, hence

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12 < \min\left\{\deg X + 12, \binom{d+2}{2}\right\} = \min\left\{\deg Y, \binom{d+2}{2}\right\} = \exp H(\mathcal{Y}, d).$$

While for $d \geq \max\left\{\lceil \frac{12(k+1)}{5} \rceil + 1;\ \lfloor \frac{5(k+1)}{2} \rfloor\right\}$, we have $H(X, d) = \deg X$, so $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = H(X, d) + 12 = \deg X + 12 = \deg Y$, and this finish the proof.

$\square$

2.12. Proposition. *For $s = 9$ we have:*

$$H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \begin{cases} k = 1: & \begin{cases} N+1 & \text{if } d \leq 8 \\ H(X,d) + 18 = \deg Y & \text{if } d \geq 8 \end{cases} \\ k = 2: & \begin{cases} N+1 & \text{if } d \leq 10 \\ H(X,d) + 18 = \deg Y & \text{if } d \geq 11 \end{cases} \\ k = 3: & \begin{cases} N+1 & \text{if } d \leq 13 \\ H(X,d) + 18 = \deg Y & \text{if } d \geq 14 \end{cases} \\ k \geq 4: & \begin{cases} N+1 & \text{if } d \leq 3k+3 \\ H(X,d) + 18 = \deg Y & \text{if } d \geq 3k+4 \end{cases} \end{cases}.$$

Proof. For $k = 1, 2$ the statement is known by [2] and [3].

Let $k = 3$, so $\mathcal{Y} = (4,5)P_1 + \cdots + (4,5)P_9$.

For $d = 13$, by CoCoA (see [6]), or by specializing the scheme $\mathcal{Y}$ it is easy to check that $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{13} = 0$, hence for $d \le 13$ the conclusion follows from Lemma 2.4.

Now let C be the unique (smooth) cubic curve passing through the support of $\mathcal{Y}$, i.e., through $P_1, \dots, P_9$. Consider the following exact sequence, where $\mathcal{Y}' = Res_C \mathcal{Y}$:

$$0 \to \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}'}(d-3) \to \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}}(d) \to \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}\cap C, C}(d) \to 0$$

We have that $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}\cap C,C}(d) = \mathcal{O}_C(dH - \mathcal{Y}\cap C)$, where H is a line section of C, and $\deg(\mathcal{O}_C(dH - \mathcal{Y}\cap C)) = 3d - 9(k+1)$.

Let $d = 14$. Since $k = 3$, we have $\deg(\mathcal{O}_C(dH - \mathcal{Y}\cap C)) = 14\cdot 3 - 4\cdot 9 = 6$. It follows that $h^1(\mathcal{O}_C(dH - \mathcal{Y}\cap C)) = 0$. Since $\mathcal{Y}' = (3,4)P_1 + \cdots + (3,4)P_9$, from the case $k = 2$ we get $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}'}(d-3)) = h^1(\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}'}(11)) = 0$. So by the exact sequence above it follows that $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{(4,5)P_1+\cdots+(4,5)P_9}(14)) = 0$, which implies $H(\mathcal{Y}, 14) = \deg Y$. For $d > 14$ the conclusion follows from Lemma 2.4.

Let $k \ge 4$.

Now we proceed by induction on k. For $k = 4$, we have $\mathcal{Y} = (5,6)P_1 + \cdots + (5,6)P_9$, and $3k+4 = 16$. By CoCoA (see [6]), or by specializing the scheme $\mathcal{Y}$ it is easy to check that $\dim(I_{\mathcal{Y}})_{16} = 0$. So, since $N + 1 = \binom{16+2}{2} = 9\cdot 17 = \deg \mathcal{Y}$, it follows that $H(\mathcal{Y}, 16) = N + 1 = \deg \mathcal{Y}$. Hence by Lemma 2.4 it follows that for $d \le 16$ we have $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = N + 1$, while for $d \ge 16$ we have $H(\mathcal{Y}, d) = \deg \mathcal{Y}$.

Now let $k > 4$. We have:

$$\mathcal{Y} = (k+1, k+2)P_1 + \cdots + (k+1, k+2)P_9 \qquad \mathcal{Y}' = (k, k+1)P_1 + \cdots + (k, k+1)P_9.$$

Since obviously if $d \le 3k+3$, then $d - 3 \le 3(k-1)+3$, and if $d \ge 3k+4$, then $d-3 \ge 3(k-1)+4$, by the induction hypothesis we have $H(\mathcal{Y}', d-3) = N'+1$ for $d-3 \le 3(k-1)+3$, ($N' = \binom{d-3+2}{2}$), and $H(\mathcal{Y}', d-3) = \deg \mathcal{Y}'$ for $d-3 \ge 3(k-1)+4$. That is:

$$h^0(\mathcal{I}_{Y'}(d-3)) = 0 \quad \text{ for } \ d-3 \le 3(k-1)+3,$$

$$h^1(\mathcal{I}_{Y'}(d-3)) = 0 \quad \text{ for } \ d-3 \ge 3(k-1)+4.$$

Moreover, since $\deg(\mathcal{O}_C(dH - \mathcal{Y}\cap C)) = 3d - 9(k+1) \le 0$ for $d \le 3k+3$, and $\deg(\mathcal{O}_C(dH - \mathcal{Y}\cap C)) = 3d - 9(k+1) \ge 3$ for $d \ge 3k+4$, we have:

$$h^0(\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}\cap C,C}(d)) = 0 \quad \text{ for } \ d \le 3k+3,$$

$$h^1(\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}\cap C,C}(d)) = 0 \quad \text{ for } \ d \ge 3k+4.$$

So whenever $d \le 3k+3$, we get $h^0(\mathcal{I}_{Y'}(d-3)) = h^0(\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}\cap C,C}(d)) = 0$, which by the exact sequence above implies $h^0(\mathcal{I}_Y(d)) = 0$.

When $d \ge 3k+4$, we get $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{Y'}(d-3)) = h^1(\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{Y}\cap C,C}(d)) = 0$, so by the exact sequence above we have $h^1(\mathcal{I}_Y(d)) = 0$, and we are done. □

With all these partial results we have actually proved the main theorem of this paper:

2.13. Theorem. *For $s \le 6$, or $s = 9$, then*

$$\dim O^s_{k,d} = \min\left\{H(X,d) + 2s,\ \binom{d+2}{2}\right\} - 1$$

except when $s = 2$, $d = k+2$ where $\dim O^2_{k,k+2} = H(T,d) - 1 = \binom{d+2}{2} - 2$.

Proof. For $s = 1$, since $H(X,d) = \min\left\{\binom{k+2}{2}, \binom{d+2}{2}\right\}$, then the result follows from Remark 1.6.

For $s = 2$ and $d = k+2$, since $H(\mathcal{Y},d) = H(T,d)$ (see Propositions 2.5), by the obvious inequalities $H(\mathcal{Y},d) \le H(Y,d) \le H(T,d)$ we get

$$H(Y,d) = H(\mathcal{Y},d) = H(T,d)$$

and the conclusion follows from Remark 1.7 (‡).

In the other cases by Lemma 2.2, and from Propositions 2.5 to 2.9, and Proposition 2.12, we have

$$H(Y,d) = H(\mathcal{Y},d) = \min\{H(X,d) + 2s, N+1\},$$

hence from Remark 1.7 (‡) we get the conclusion. □

2.14. Corollary. *Let $\delta = \min\{\deg Y - 1,\ N\} - \dim O^s_{k,d}$ be the defect of $O^s_{k,d}$. If $s \le 6$, or $s = 9$, then $O^s_{k,d}$ is defective only in the following cases:*

i) $s = 2$, $d = k+2$, *with defect:* $\delta = 1$.

ii) $s = 2$, $k \ge 3$, $k+3 \le d \le 2k$, *with defect:* $\delta = \min\left\{\binom{2(k+1)-d}{2}; (d-k)^2 - 4\right\}$.

iii) $s = 3$, $k \ge 7$, k *odd*, $\lceil\frac{3(k+1)}{2}\rceil + 2 \le d \le 2k$, *with defect:* $\delta = \min\left\{3\binom{2(k+1)-d}{2}; \binom{2d-3k-1}{2} - 6\right\}$.

iv) $s = 3$, $k \ge 6$, k *even*, $\lceil\frac{3(k+1)}{2}\rceil + 1 \le d \le 2k$, *with defect:* $\delta = \min\left\{3\binom{2(k+1)-d}{2}; \binom{2d-3k-1}{2} - 6\right\}$.

v) $s = 5$, $k \ge 5$, $2k+4 \le d \le \lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor - 1$, *with defect* $\delta = \min\left\{\binom{5(k+1)-2d}{2};\ 5\binom{d-2k-1}{2} - 9\right\}$.

vi) $s = 6$, $k \equiv 2\ (mod\,5)$, $k \ge 17$, $\lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil \le d \le \lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor - 1$, *with defect:*
$\delta = \min\left\{6\binom{5(k+1)-2d}{2};\ \binom{5d-12k-10}{2} - 12\right\}$.

vii) $s = 6$, $k \not\equiv 2\ (mod\,5)$, $k \ge \begin{cases} 19 & \text{if } k \text{ odd} \\ 24 & \text{if } k \text{ even} \end{cases}$, $\lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil + 1 \le d \le \lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor - 1$, *with defect:*
$\delta = \min\left\{6\binom{5(k+1)-2d}{2};\ \binom{5d-12k-10}{2} - 12\right\}$.

Proof. First observe that: $k+3 \le 2k$ implies $k \ge 3$; if k is odd and $\lceil\frac{3(k+1)}{2}\rceil + 2 \le 2k$, then $3(k+1)+4 \le 4k$, that is $k \ge 7$, while if k is even and $\lceil\frac{3(k+1)}{2}\rceil + 1 \le 2k$, then $k \ge 6$; from $2k+4 \le \lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor - 1$ we get $k \ge 5$; finally, for $k \equiv 2\ (mod\,5)$, it is easy to compute that $\lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil \le \lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor - 1$ implies $k \ge 17$, while for $k \not\equiv 2\ (mod\,5)$, if $\lceil\frac{12(k+1)}{5}\rceil + 1 \le \lfloor\frac{5(k+1)}{2}\rfloor - 1$, then $k \ge \begin{cases} 19 & \text{if } k \text{ odd} \\ 24 & \text{if } k \text{ even} \end{cases}$.

From what we have seen above, and by Remark 1.6, Propositions 2.5 to 2.9 and 2.12, we immediately get that $O^s_{k,d}$ is defective only in the cases *i)* to *vii)*.

For $s=2$ and $d=k+2$, since $\dim O^2_{k,k+2}=N-1$, while the expected dimension is N, we have $\delta=1$. In the other cases we know that $H(Y,d)=H(X,d)+2s$, so we have

$$\delta=\min\{\deg Y-1,\ N\}-\dim O^s_{k,d}=\min\{\deg Y-1,\ N\}-H(Y,d)+1$$

$$=\min\{\deg Y-H(X,d)-2s,\ N+1-H(X,d)-2s\}=\min\{\deg X-H(X,d),\ \dim(I_X)_d-2s\}.$$

For $s=2$, $k\geq 3$ and $k+3\leq d\leq 2k$, computing the dimension of $(I_X)_d$ by removing the line P_1P_2 $(2(k+1)-d)$ times, we get:

$$\dim(I_X)_d=\dim(I_{X'})_{2(d-k-1)}=\binom{2(d-k-1)+2}{2}-2\binom{d-k}{2}=(d-k)^2,$$

where $X'=(d-k-1)P_1+(d-k-1)P_2$, hence

$$\deg X-H(X,d)=2\binom{k+2}{2}-\binom{d+2}{2}+(d-k)^2=\binom{2(k+1)-d}{2},$$

$$\delta=\min\left\{\binom{2(k+1)-d}{2};(d-k)^2-4\right\}.$$

In cases iii) and iv), computing the dimension of $(I_X)_d$ by cutting off the three lines P_1P_2, P_1P_3, P_2P_3, $2(k+1)-d$ times each, we have:

$$\dim(I_X)_d=\dim(I_{X'})_{d-3(2k+2-d)}=\dim(I_{X'})_{2(2d-3k-3)}$$

$$=\binom{2(2d-3k-3)+2}{2}-3\binom{2d-3k-2}{2}=\binom{2d-3k-1}{2},$$

where $X'=\sum_{i=1}^3(k+1-2(2k+2-d))P_i=\sum_{i=1}^3(2d-3k-3)P_i$, and from here we easily get:

$$\deg X-H(X,d)=3\binom{k+2}{2}-\binom{d+2}{2}+\binom{2d-3k-1}{2}=3\binom{2(k+1)-d}{2},$$

$$\delta=\min\left\{3\binom{2(k+1)-d}{2};\binom{2d-3k-1}{2}-6\right\}.$$

For s=5, computing the dimension of $(I_X)_d$ (by cutting off the fixed conics), we get:

$$\dim(I_X)_d=\dim(I_{X'})_{d-2(5k+5-2d)}=\dim(I_{X'})_{5(d-2k-2)}$$

$$=\binom{5(d-2k-2)+2}{2}-5\binom{2d-4k-3}{2}=5\binom{d-2k-1}{2}+1,$$

where $X'=\sum_{i=1}^5(k+1-(5k+5-2d))P_i=\sum_{i=1}^5(2d-4k-4)P_i$, and from here we get:

$$\deg X-H(X,d)=5\binom{k+2}{2}-\binom{d+2}{2}+5\binom{d-2k-1}{2}+1=\binom{5(k+1)-2d}{2},$$

$$\delta=\min\left\{\binom{5(k+1)-2d}{2};\ 5\binom{d-2k-1}{2}-9\right\}.$$

Finally, for s=6, calculating the dimension of $(I_X)_d$ by removing every conic C_i (see the proof of Proposition 2.9) $(5(k+1)-2d)$ times, we get

$$\dim(I_X)_d = \dim(I_{X'})_{d-12(5k+5-2d)} = \dim(I_{X'})_{25d-60k-60}$$

$$= \binom{25d-60k-60+2}{2} - 6\binom{10d-24k-24+1}{2} = \binom{5d-12k-10}{2},$$

where $X' = \sum_{i=1}^{6}(k+1-5(5k+5-2d))P_i = \sum_{i=1}^{6}(10d-24k-24)P_i$, and from here we get:

$$\deg X - H(X,d) = 6\binom{k+2}{2} - \binom{d+2}{2} + \binom{5d-12k-10}{2} = 6\binom{5(k+1)-2d}{2},$$

$$\delta = \min\left\{6\binom{5(k+1)-2d}{2};\ \binom{5d-12k-10}{2} - 12\right\}.$$

□

2.15. Remark. Some examples, some computations, and a lack of geometric reasons, lead us to conjecture that also for $s=7$, and $s=8$ we have

$$\dim O^s_{k,d} = \min\left\{H(X,d)+2s,\ \binom{d+2}{2}\right\} - 1.$$

Unfortunately, by methods similar to the ones utilized for $s \le 6$, the proof splits into many cases, and becomes too long and tedious to justify including.

E.Ballico and C.Fontanari in [4] give partial results about the regularity of $O^s_{k,d}$ for $2 \le s \le 8$. Our Corollary 2.14, for $s \le 6$ or $s = 9$, improves the results of [4] and gives a complete classification of all the defective cases.

2.16. Remark. We wish to notice that there are no defective cases for $s=4$ or $s=9$.

In case $s=2$, $d=k+2$ defectivity is forced by the defectivity of T, in fact, since $Y \subset T$ implies that $H(Y,k+2) \le H(T,k+2)$, and since $H(T,k+2) = N < \exp H(Y,k+2) = N+1$, it follows that $H(Y,k+2) < \exp H(Y,k+2)$. In the other cases defectivity of $O^s_{k,d}$ is forced by the defectivity of X.

2.17. Remark. In light of Remarks 2.15 and 2.16, and the results of L.Evain (see Remark 1.2), we like to conjecture that if s is a square, then $O^s_{k,d}$ is regular in any degree d.

Anyway by the results of L.Evain, and by [5], Lemma 3.1, we easily deduce a partial result about the regularity of $O^s_{k,d}$:

If s is a square, and $N+1 \le \deg X$ or $N+1 \ge \deg T$, then $\dim O^s_{k,d}$ is as expected.

In fact if s is a square, by [9] we know that X and T have maximal Hilbert function. Hence if $N+1 \le \deg X$, then $\dim(I_X)_d = 0$, and if $N+1 \ge \deg T$, then $H(T,d) = \deg T$. Since $X \subset Y \subset T$, it follows that if $\dim(I_X)_d = 0$, then $H(Y,d) = N+1$, and if $H(T,d) = \deg T$, then $H(Y,d) = \deg Y$, and now the conclusion follows from Remark 2.1.

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