

We can thus write

$$\tilde{V}_c \sim 6\tilde{\omega} - 2e \in H^2(\tilde{W}, \mathbb{Z}),$$

where  $\tilde{\omega} = \pi^*\omega$  is the pullback to  $\tilde{W}$  of the class  $\omega$  of the hyperplane in  $W$ , and  $e$  the class of the exceptional divisor  $E$ .

By the results on P475 & P605,  $\tilde{V}_c = \pi^*V_c - \text{mult}_{W_2}(V_c) \cdot E$ . Since  $V_c \sim 6\omega$ ,  $\tilde{V}_c \sim 6\pi^*\omega - 2 \cdot e = 6\tilde{\omega} - 2e \in H^2(\tilde{W}, \mathbb{Z})$ . ( $\because \tilde{\omega} \in H^2(\tilde{W}, \mathbb{Z})$ ) and, in general,  $E \in H_{2n-2}(M, \mathbb{Z})$ ,  $\dim M = n$ , here we are considering the Poincaré dual,  $\Rightarrow e \in H^2(M, \mathbb{Z})$ . Since  $M = \tilde{W}$ ,  $e \in H^2(\tilde{W}, \mathbb{Z})$ .  $\square$

Now, to determine the fivefold self-intersection  $(6\tilde{\omega} - 2e)^5$  of  $\tilde{V}_c$  in  $\tilde{W}$ , recall from our discussion in Section 1 that the surface  $W_2$  is the Veronese surface  $\nu_2(\mathbb{P}^2)$ .

Remember the original question 'Given  $C_1, \dots, C_5 \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ , five smooth conics chosen generically, how many smooth conics in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  are tangent to all five?'

We are not trying to calculate  $V_c^5$ .

To get the answer of the question, we have to calculate  $\tilde{V}_c^5$ , since  $\pi$  is one to one,  $\text{onto}$ , isomorphism outside  $E$ .  $\square$