

Choose three noncollinear points; call them  $P_1, P_2$ , and  $P_3$  and let  $C$  be a conic containing the remaining points  $P_4, P_5, \dots, P_8$ . By hypothesis, the cubics

$$C + L_{12}, \quad C + L_{13}, \quad \text{and} \quad C + L_{23}$$

each contain all eight points; since each of the points  $P_1, P_2$  and  $P_3$  lies outside one of the lines  $L_{12}, L_{13}$ , and  $L_{23}$ , it follows that the conic  $C$  contains all eight. Q.E.D.

By the hypothesis that any cubic passing through any seven of the points contains them all, since  $C + L_{12}, C + L_{13}$  and  $C + L_{23}$  contain 7 points, they contain all 8 points. Since  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  are not collinear,  $P_1 \notin L_{23} \Rightarrow P_1 \in C + L_{23} \Rightarrow P_1 \in C$ . Similarly,  $P_2 \in L_{13} + C \Rightarrow P_2 \notin L_{13} \Rightarrow P_2 \in C \Rightarrow$  Again  $P_3 \in C$ .  
 $\Rightarrow P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, \dots, P_8 \in C \Rightarrow C$  contains all eight.

Since  $H^0(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}(2H)) = \langle \tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_6 \rangle$ ,  $\exists b_1, b_2, \dots, b_6$  not all zero s.t.  $b_1 \tau_1 + \dots + b_6 \tau_6 = 0$  at  $P_4, P_5, \dots, P_8$ . Point is  $\# \{P_4, \dots, P_8\} = 5 < 6$ .

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} b_1 \tau_1(P_4) + \dots + b_6 \tau_6(P_4) = 0 \\ \vdots \\ b_1 \tau_1(P_8) + \dots + b_6 \tau_6(P_8) = 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{ has nontrivial solutions.}$$

The statement of the lemma also holds in case  $P_1$  is infinitely near  $P_2$ , that is, if  $P_1$  is a point on the exceptional divisor  $E$  of the blow-up  $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2 \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{P}^2$