

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}^1 &\longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n \\ [Z_0, Z_1] &\longmapsto [Z_0^n, Z_0^{n-1}Z_1, Z_0^{n-2}Z_1^2, \dots, Z_1^n] \\ &\quad \parallel \\ t &\longmapsto \left[1, \frac{Z_1}{Z_0}, \left(\frac{Z_1}{Z_0}\right)^2, \dots, \left(\frac{Z_1}{Z_0}\right)^n \right] \end{aligned}$$

Its image is a nondegenerate curve of deg n , called the rational normal curve.

$$\mathbb{P}^1 \quad t=0, \{ [1, 0, \dots, 0], [1, 2, 2^2, \dots, 2^n] \dots [1, 1, \dots, 1] \\ [1, 3, 3^2, \dots, 3^n] \dots [1, n, n^2, \dots, n^n] \}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\overset{(n+1)}{\left| \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1^2 & \dots & 1^n \\ 1 & 2 & 2^2 & \dots & 2^n \\ 1 & 3 & 3^2 & \dots & 3^n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & n & n^2 & \dots & n^n \end{array} \right|} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1^n \\ 0 & 2 & 2^2 & \dots & 2^n \\ 0 & 3 & 3^2 & \dots & 3^n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & n & n^2 & \dots & n^n \end{vmatrix} = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot n \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 1^n \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & 2^n \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & \dots & 3^n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & n & \dots & n^n \end{vmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$= n! \prod_{j>i} (j-i) \neq 0 \quad \text{See Lang P179, Ex.3 (linear algebra)}$$

Vandermonde determinant.

\Rightarrow Its image contains $(n+1)$ -linearly independent points, so that it can not be contained in any hyperplane. \Rightarrow The image is nondegenerate.

Consider the intersection $\bar{u}_H(\mathbb{P}^1) \cap (\mathbb{P}^n = (X_0=0))$.

\Rightarrow It is $\{Z_0^n=0\}$, which is $[0,1]$ with multiplicity n . \Rightarrow The image degree is n . (Conglsh)