

cubic curve containing P_1, \dots, P_6 . \square

We claim now that the linear system $|\tilde{C}|$ embeds $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$ as a cubic surface in \mathbb{P}^3 . This involves quite a bit of checking: we have to show that

1. $\tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{C} = 3$

2. $\dim |\tilde{C}| = 3$

3. $\mathcal{L}_{\tilde{C}}$ separates points $p \neq q \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$ for

a. $p, q \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2 - \bigcup E_i$,

b. $p \in E_i$, $q \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2 - \bigcup E_i$

c. $p \in E_i$, $q \in E_j$, and

d. $p, q \in E_i$; and

4. $\mathcal{L}_{\tilde{C}}$ has nonzero differential at p for

a. $p \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2 - \bigcup E_i$, and

b. $p \in E_i$.

Assertion 1 is immediate: we have

$$\tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{C} = \pi^* 3H \cdot \pi^* 3H + E_1 \cdot E_1 + \dots + E_6 \cdot E_6 = 9 - 6 = 3.$$

The other assertions, however, are of a different character. For example, we know that the complete linear system of cubic curves in the plane has dimension 9, and that the requirement that a cubic pass through any one of the points p_i imposes one linear condition on the system $|3H|$; the statement $\dim |\tilde{C}| = 3$ amounts to saying that the conditions imposed by the six points p_i are independent.