

$$\Rightarrow (l+m)d + 1 - \frac{m(m+1)}{2}(n-1) - m - ld \geq g.$$

$$(l+m)d - \frac{m(m+1)}{2}(n-1) - m - ld \geq g.$$

$$\Rightarrow md - \frac{m(m+1)}{2}(n-1) - m \geq g.$$

$$m(d - m(n-1) - 1) + m^2(n-1) - \frac{m(m+1)}{2}(n-1) = m(d - m(n-1) - 1) + \frac{m(n-1)}{2}(m-1).$$

Thus the genus of a nondegenerate curve of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  is at most

$$\frac{m(m-1)}{2}(n-1) + m\epsilon, \text{ where } m = \left\lfloor \frac{d-1}{n-1} \right\rfloor, d-1 = m(n-1) + \epsilon.$$

We will see in this section on ruled surfaces that in fact this bound is realized for each  $d$  and  $n$ , and an explicit description of these curves of maximal genus. For the time being, let us summarize what we know in general about nondegenerate curves in  $\mathbb{P}^n$ : if  $C$  has degree  $d$ , then

$$d < n \Rightarrow C \text{ is degenerate,}$$

$$d = n \Rightarrow C \text{ is the rational curve,}$$

$$n < d < 2n \Rightarrow g \leq d - n, \text{ with equality if } C \text{ is } \checkmark \text{ normal,}$$

$$d = 2n \Rightarrow g \leq n+1 \text{ with equality if and only if } C \text{ is a canonical curve,}$$

$$d \geq 2n \Rightarrow g \leq \frac{m(m-1)}{2}(n-1) + m\epsilon$$

$$\text{where } m = \left\lfloor \frac{d-1}{n-1} \right\rfloor, d-1 = m(n-1) + \epsilon.$$

⌈ ①  $d < n$ , by P173, if  $C$  is nondegenerate, then  $d \geq n-1+1 = n \Rightarrow C$  must be degenerate.