

More explanation on the exceptional case.

The exception case implies that some of $\frac{n(n-3)+1}{2}$ - points are not linearly independent in \mathbb{P}^n . So, some curve of degree $n-3$ possesses more than $\frac{n(n-3)+1}{2}$ points.

First choose N - points P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N .

Choose a curve B of degree $n-3$ passing through P_{N+1}, \dots, P_n .

$\Rightarrow B$ might pass through P_u , for $u \leq N$.

\Rightarrow We relabel $P_1, \dots, P_{\frac{n(n-3)+1}{2}}$ so that the curve B of degree $n-3$ passes through exactly

$$P_k, P_{k+1}, \dots, P_n, \quad k \leq \frac{n(n-3)+1}{2}$$

Consider a hyperplane $A_i \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ containing $P_1, P_2, \dots, \hat{P}_i, \dots, P_k$ which is a curve of degree n , i.e., $A_i \cap B \subset \mathbb{P}^2$.

$\Rightarrow A_i$ must contain P_i since $A_i + B$ must contain P_i and B can not contain P_i . \Rightarrow Since $L_n(P_1), \dots, L_n(P_k)$ lie on $H = \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$, $\{L_n(P_1), \dots, L_n(P_k), \dots, L_n(P_n)\}$ is linearly dependent. \square

We have now illustrated the application of the residue theorem to points arising as intersections of plane algebraic curves having no multiple components. Multiple components arises naturally when we wish to know not only about the position in \mathbb{P}^2 of the points of intersection, but also about high-order infinitesimal behavior.

For example, let $L \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ be a line. If we mark points P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n on L , then it is trivially possible to find an algebraic curve C of degree n passing through the