

⇒ By the Jacobi relation

$$\sum_{\nu} \frac{g(P_{\nu})}{J_f(P_{\nu})} = 0, \text{ where } (g=0) = E, \quad m+n-3 \leq \sum d_{\nu} - (2+1) = m+n-3$$

⇒ $g(P_{\nu})=0$, So if E passes all P_{ν} 's except P_1 ,

$$\sum_{\nu} \frac{g(P_{\nu})}{J_f(P_{\nu})} = \frac{g(P_1)}{J_f(P_1)} + \frac{g(P_2)}{J_f(P_2)} + \dots + \frac{g(P_m)}{J_f(P_m)} = \frac{g(P_1)}{J_f(P_1)} = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$g(P_1) \neq 0$ gives a contradiction. \square

It is clear that the stronger relation (*) gives a more general statement than the Cayley-Bacharach theorem when C and D may not have transverse intersections. Rather than attempt to formalize this, we shall usually go ahead and use the Cayley-Bacharach theorem in degenerate cases where the proof will be an immediate consequence of (*).

To illustrate, we give an example of a degenerate case:

Suppose that the curves C and D above have intersection

$$C \cdot D = \sum_{\nu} m_{\nu} P_{\nu},$$

where all the points P_{ν} are smooth points of C . If E is a curve of degree $m+n-3$ such that for some ν_0 ,

$$(C \cdot E)_{P_{\nu}} \geq m_{\nu}, \quad \nu \neq \nu_0,$$

$$(C \cdot E)_{P_{\nu_0}} \geq m_{\nu_0} - 1,$$

then

$$(C \cdot E)_{P_{\nu_0}} \geq m_{\nu_0}.$$