

A VARIANT OF A BASE-POINT-FREE PENCIL TRICK AND LINEAR SYSTEMS ON A PLANE CURVE

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ABSTRACT. We prove two variants of a base-point-free pencil trick, which are similar in the spirit of the proof, and apply them to the study of special divisors on a smooth plane curve involving a theorem of Max Noether.

0. Introduction

Max Noether's theorem on the largest possible dimension of a special linear system with a fixed degree on a smooth plane curve is as follows:

Let X be a smooth plane curve of degree $d \geq 4$ over an algebraically closed field, and L an invertible sheaf on X of degree

$$sd - e \text{ with } 1 \leq s \leq d - 3 \text{ and } 0 \leq e < d.$$

Then we have

$$h^0(L) \leq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}s(s+1) & \text{if } s+1 \leq e < d \\ \frac{1}{2}(s+1)(s+2) - e & \text{if } 0 \leq e \leq s+1. \end{cases}$$

(Note that two bounds coincide if $e = s + 1$.)

In his paper [2], Hartshorne gave a modern proof of the theorem for any complete irreducible plane curve which may have singular points, and explicitly described the (generalized) linear systems of maximum

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dimension with respect to a fixed degree. His proof of the dimension-estimation part is kind to readers, but that of the additional statements does not seem so kind; honestly speaking, the first author couldn't reach a complete understanding of the proof of the second part. Moreover, his additional statements need a minor modification in the case $e = s + 1$, that is, the variety of special divisors $W_{sd-(s+1)}^{\frac{1}{2}s(s+1)-1}(X)$ which parametrizes linear systems of degree $sd - (s + 1)$ and projective dimension at least $\frac{1}{2}s(s + 1) - 1$ has two components if $2 \leq s \leq d - 4$.

In this paper, we will state the correct description of the linear systems of maximal dimension and give a proof of it under assuming Noether's bound, for a smooth plane curve. The idea of our proof is fairly simple; we will use a descending induction by means of the invertible sheaf $O_X(1)$ which corresponds the line sections of X in \mathbb{P}^2 . In order to work the induction well, we need a variant of a base-point-free pencil trick (Theorem 1.1), which is the topic in Section 1. In Section 2, we will do our task explained above. In Section 3, we will study the $W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X)$'s, where $r(s, e)$ is the largest possible projective dimension of a linear system of degree $sd - e$. To show the smoothness of $W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X)$ with $e \neq s + 1$, we will use another variant of a base-point-free pencil trick (Lemma 3.1).

1. A variant of a base-point-free pencil trick

The setting of this section is a little more general than that of Introduction. Let X be a smooth curve, which may not have a smooth plane model. An invertible sheaf $O_X(1)$ on X is said to be ample with normal generation if it is ample and natural morphisms

$$H^0(O_X(1))^{\otimes m} \rightarrow H^0(O_X(m)) \quad (m = 1, 2, \dots)$$

are surjective ([3]). The property is equivalent to the following two conditions:

- (i) $O_X(1)$ is very ample; and
- (ii) the image of X embedded by the linear system $|O_X(1)|$ is projectively normal.

The invertible sheaf corresponding to the line sections on a smooth plane curve is ample with normal generation.

THEOREM 1.1. *Let $O_X(1)$ be an ample invertible sheaf with normal generation on a complete smooth curve X , and M an invertible sheaf*

on X generated by its global sections. If a two-dimensional subspace V of $H^0(O_X(1))$ generates $O_X(1)$, that is, the linear system $|V|$ is a base-point-free pencil, then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) the natural morphism $H^0(M) \otimes V \rightarrow H^0(M(1))$ is surjective;
- (b) $h^1(M(-1)) = 0$.

Proof. To start with, we should explain what a base-point-free pencil trick is.

Let L and M be invertible sheaves on an irreducible smooth curve Y (which may not be complete). Let $s, t \in H^0(Y, L)$ with $(s)_0 \cap (t)_0 = \emptyset$. Here $(s)_0$ and $(t)_0$ mean divisors of the zeros of s and t on Y respectively. Let $u, v \in H^0(Y, M)$ such that $us = vt$ in $H^0(Y, M \otimes L)$. Then there exists $\delta \in H^0(Y, M \otimes L^{-1})$ so that $u = \delta t$ and $v = \delta s$.

We will refer to the argument as the *base-point-free pencil trick*.

First we show the implication (b) \Rightarrow (a). By using the base-point-free pencil trick locally, we have an exact sequence of O_X -modules:

$$(1) \quad 0 \rightarrow M(-1) \rightarrow M \otimes V \xrightarrow{(\#)} M(1) \rightarrow 0,$$

where the surjectivity of the morphism $(\#)$ comes from the base-point-freeness of $|V|$. From (1), we get an exact sequence

$$H^0(M) \otimes V \rightarrow H^0(M(1)) \rightarrow H^1(M(-1)).$$

Hence (b) implies (a), which is true without the assumption that the invertible sheaf $O_X(1)$ is ample with normal generation.

Next we show the implication (a) \Rightarrow (b). We start with an extra case; we assume that $M \cong O_X$. Since $H^0(O_X) \otimes V \rightarrow H^0(O_X(1))$ is surjective, we have $h^0(O_X(1)) \leq 2$. Hence X is of genus 0 and $O_X(1)$ is of degree 1 because $O_X(1)$ is very ample. Hence we have $h^1(O_X(-1)) = 0$.

Therefore, from now on, we can assume that $M \not\cong O_X$.

The first claim is:

$$H^0(M) \otimes H^0(O_X(m)) \rightarrow H^0(M(m))$$

is surjective for each $m \gg 0$. Since M , which is not isomorphic to O_X , is generated by its global sections, we can choose a two-dimensional subspace $W \subseteq H^0(M)$ which generates M , that is $|W|$ is a base-point-free pencil. Hence there is an exact sequence of O_X -modules

$$0 \rightarrow O_X(m) \otimes M^{-1} \rightarrow W \otimes O_X(m) \rightarrow M(m) \rightarrow 0.$$

If one chooses an integer m to be large enough, then $H^1(O_X(m) \otimes M^{-1}) = 0$. Hence $W \otimes H^0(O_X(m)) \rightarrow H^0(M(m))$ is surjective; and so is $H^0(M) \otimes H^0(O_X(m)) \rightarrow H^0(M(m))$.

Now, we choose a basis $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n\}$ for $H^0(O_X(1))$ so that $\{x_1, x_2\}$ is a basis for V . Since $O_X(1)$ is ample with normal generation, the vector space $H^0(O_X(\ell))$ is generated by the monomials in x_1, \dots, x_n of degree ℓ over the base field for any nonnegative integer ℓ . Since $H^0(M) \otimes \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle \rightarrow H^0(M(1))$ is surjective and $H^0(M)x_j \subseteq H^0(M(1))$ for each j with $1 \leq j \leq n$, we have

$$(2) \quad H^0(M)x_j \subseteq H^0(M)x_1 + H^0(M)x_2$$

for each j .

The second claim is:

$$H^0(M(\ell - 1)) \otimes V \rightarrow H^0(M(\ell))$$

is surjective for $\ell = 1, 2, \dots$. Let f be a nonzero element of $H^0(M(\ell))$. Let us fix an integer $m \gg 0$. Then we may assume that $H^0(M) \otimes H^0(O_X(\ell + m)) \rightarrow H^0(M(\ell + m))$ is surjective by the first claim. Hence the element $fx_1^m \in H^0(M(\ell + m))$ can be represented as

$$(3) \quad fx_1^m = \sum_{\substack{(e_1, \dots, e_n) \text{ with} \\ e_1 + \dots + e_n = \ell + m}} \alpha_{e_1, \dots, e_n} x_1^{e_1} \cdots x_n^{e_n},$$

where α_{e_1, \dots, e_n} 's are in $H^0(M)$. By (2), we can rewrite (3) as

$$fx_1^m = \sum_{\substack{(e_1, e_2) \text{ with} \\ e_1 + e_2 = \ell + m}} \beta_{e_1, e_2} x_1^{e_1} x_2^{e_2}.$$

Hence we have

$$(4) \quad x_1^m \left(f - \sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \beta_{m+j, \ell-j} x_1^j x_2^{\ell-j} \right) = \gamma \cdot x_2,$$

where $\gamma \in H^0(M(\ell + m - 1))$. Since $(x_1)_0 \cap (x_2)_0 = \emptyset$, the base-point-free pencil trick is applicable to (4). By using that trick successively, we get an element $\delta \in H^0(M(\ell - 1))$ so that

$$f - \sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \beta_{m+j, \ell-j} x_1^j x_2^{\ell-j} = \delta x_2,$$

which means f is in the image of the natural map

$$H^0(M(\ell - 1)) \otimes V \rightarrow H^0(M(\ell)).$$

Hence the second claim has been justified.

By the second claim, we have an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(M(\ell - 2)) \rightarrow H^0(M(\ell - 1)) \otimes V \rightarrow H^0(M(\ell)) \rightarrow 0$$

for each $\ell = 1, 2, \dots$. Therefore we have

$$h^0(M(\ell)) - h^0(M(\ell - 1)) = h^0(M(\ell - 1)) - h^0(M(\ell - 2))$$

for each ℓ , which is equivalent to the condition

$$(5) \quad h^1(M(\ell - 2)) - h^1(M(\ell - 1)) = h^1(M(\ell - 1)) - h^1(M(\ell))$$

for each ℓ . Since $h^1(M(\ell)) = 0$ for $\ell \gg 0$, we can conclude that $h^1(M(-1)) = 0$ by (5). \square

2. Linear systems of maximal dimension on a plane curve

Throughout this section, we assume that X is a smooth plane curve of degree $d \geq 4$, and denote by $O_X(1)$ the invertible sheaf associated to the line sections of $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2$. We want to describe the invertible sheaves on X which lie on Noether's boundary.

Let L be an invertible sheaf on X with $h^0(L) > 0$, $h^1(L) > 0$ and $L \not\cong O_X$. Then we can write the degree of L as

$$\deg L = sd - e \text{ with } 1 \leq s \leq d - 3 \text{ and } 0 \leq e < d.$$

THEOREM 2.1. *Under the above notation, we have:*

- (1) When $e > s + 1$, $h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}s(s + 1)$ if and only if there is a positive divisor $Q_1 + \dots + Q_{d-e}$ of degree $d - e$ on X so that $L \cong O_X(s - 1)(Q_1 + \dots + Q_{d-e})$;
- (2) When $e = s + 1$, $h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}s(s + 1)$ if and only if there is either a positive divisor $Q_1 + \dots + Q_{d-(s+1)}$ of degree $d - (s + 1)$ on X so that $L \cong O_X(s - 1)(Q_1 + \dots + Q_{d-(s+1)})$, or a positive divisor $P_1 + \dots + P_{s+1}$ of degree $s + 1$ on X so that $L \cong O_X(s)(-P_1 - \dots - P_{s+1})$;
- (3) When $0 < e < s + 1$, $h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}(s + 1)(s + 2) - e$ if and only if there is a positive divisor $P_1 + \dots + P_e$ of degree e on X so that $L \cong O_X(s)(-P_1 - \dots - P_e)$;
- (4) When $e = 0$, $h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}(s + 1)(s + 2)$ if and only if $L \cong O_X(s)$.

Proof. First we show the “if” part in each case.

- If $L = O_X(s)$, then $h^0(O_X(s)) = h^0(O_{\mathbb{P}^2}(s))$ because $\deg X > s$; so we have $h^0(O_X(s)) = \binom{s+2}{2}$.
- If $L = O_X(s-1)(Q_1 + \dots + Q_{d-e})$ with $e \geq s+1$, then $h^0(O_X(s-1)(Q_1 + \dots + Q_{d-e})) \geq h^0(O_X(s-1)) = \binom{s+1}{2}$; equality must hold because of Noether’s bound.
- If $L = O_X(s)(-P_1 - \dots - P_e)$ with $e \leq s+1$, then $h^0(O_X(s)(-P_1 - \dots - P_e)) \geq h^0(O_X(s)) - e = \binom{s+2}{2} - e$; equality must hold because of Noether’s bound.

In order to prove the “only if” parts, we divide the proof into several steps.

Let L be an invertible sheaf for which the equality of Noether’s bound holds

Step 1. First we look at the dual $\omega_X \otimes L^{-1}$ of L with respect to the canonical sheaf ω_X . Since X is a plane curve of degree d , the canonical sheaf is $O_X(d-3)$.

If L is in the case (1) of the statement of the theorem, i.e., $\deg L = sd - e$ with $e > s+1$ and $h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}s(s+1)$, then

$$\deg O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1} = (d-2-s)d - (d-e).$$

Note that $0 < d-e < (d-2-s)+1$ because $d > e > s+1$ in our case. Moreover, we have

$$h^0(O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}) = \frac{1}{2}(d-2-s+1)(d-2-s+2) - (d-e)$$

by the Riemann-Roch theorem; therefore $O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}$ is also on Noether’s boundary and is in the case (3).

By computing $\deg O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}$ and $h^0(O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1})$ in the remaining cases in the same fashion as above, we know that $O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}$ lies on Noether’s boundary in each case, more precisely,

- L is in the case (1) $\Leftrightarrow O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}$ is in the case (3)
- L is in the case (2) $\Leftrightarrow O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}$ is in the case (2)
- L is in the case (3) $\Leftrightarrow O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}$ is in the case (1)
- L is in the case (4) $\Leftrightarrow O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}$ is in the case (4).

Step 2. We show that if L is in the cases (3) or (4), then $|L|$ is free from base points. Indeed, if $|L|$ has a base point P , then $h^0(L(-P)) = h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}(s+1)(s+2) - e$; but $\deg L(-P) = \deg L - 1 = sd - (e+1)$.

Here $0 < e + 1 \leq s + 1$, because L is in the cases (3) or (4). These contradict to Noether's bound.

Step 3. In this step, we prove that our assertion is true for the case $s = d - 3$ and $0 \leq e \leq d - 2$. Since $h^1(L) > 0$, we have $h^0(O_X(d - 3) \otimes L^{-1}) > 0$, which means that there is a positive divisor $P_1 + \dots + P_e$ of degree e on X so that $O_X(d - 3) = L(P_1 + \dots + P_e)$.

Step 4. In this step, we prove the "only if" parts of the cases (3) and (4) by a descending induction on s . In Step 3, we have just treated the case $s = d - 3$, which is the first stage of the induction. Since the invertible sheaf L is in the cases (3) or (4), its degree is

$$sd - e \text{ with } 1 \leq s < d - 3 \text{ and } 0 \leq e < s + 1$$

and

$$h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}(s + 1)(s + 2) - e.$$

Let us choose a two-dimensional subspace V of $H^0(O_X(1))$ so that $|V|$ has no base points. By the base-point-free pencil trick, we have an exact sequence

$$(6) \quad 0 \rightarrow H^0(L(-1)) \rightarrow H^0(L) \otimes V \xrightarrow{(\#)} H^0(L(1)).$$

Since $|L|$ is free from base points (by Step 2) and $h^1(L(-1)) \geq h^1(L) > 0$, the map $(\#)$ is not surjective by Theorem 1.1. On the other hand, since $\deg L(-1) = (s - 1)d - e$ with $0 \leq e \leq (s - 1) + 1$, we have $h^0(L(-1)) \leq \frac{1}{2}s(s + 1) - e$ by Noether's bound. Note that the bound is effective even if $s = 1$, because $e = 0$ or 1 if $s = 1$. Therefore we have

$$(7) \quad h^0(L(1)) \geq 2\left(\frac{1}{2}(s + 1)(s + 2) - e\right) - \left(\frac{1}{2}s(s + 1) - e\right) + 1 \\ = \frac{1}{2}(s + 2)(s + 3) - e.$$

Since $\deg L(1) = (s + 1)d - e$ with $0 \leq e \leq s$, equality in (7) must hold by Noether's bound. Hence $L(1) \cong O_X(s + 1)(-P_1 - \dots - P_e)$ by the induction hypothesis; and hence $L \cong O_X(s)(-P_1 - \dots - P_e)$.

Step 5. In this step, we consider the case (1):

$$\deg L = sd - e \text{ with } s + 1 < e < d$$

and

$$h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}s(s + 1).$$

As saw in Step 1, $O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}$ is in the case (3):

$\deg O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1} = (d-2-s)d - (d-e)$ with $0 < d-e < (d-2-s)+1$
and

$$h^0(O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}) = \frac{1}{2}(d-2-s+1)(d-2-s+2) - (d-e).$$

Hence, by Step 4, we have

$$O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1} \cong O_X(d-2-s) \left(- \sum_{j=1}^{d-e} Q_j \right)$$

for some points $Q_1, \dots, Q_{d-e} \in X$; and hence $L \cong O_X(s-1) (\sum_{j=1}^{d-e} Q_j)$.

Step 6. Finally we consider the case (2), that is, $\deg L = sd - (s+1)$ and $h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}s(s+1)$. If $|L|$ has a base point, say Q , then $L(-Q)$ is of degree $sd - (s+2)$ and of dimension $\frac{1}{2}s(s+1)$, which is in the case (1). Hence, by Step 5, we have

$$L(-Q) \cong O_X(s-1) \left(\sum_{j=1}^{d-(s+2)} Q_j \right)$$

for some points $Q_1, \dots, Q_{d-(s+2)} \in X$; and hence we have

$$L \cong O_X(s-1) \left(\sum_{j=1}^{d-(s+1)} Q_j \right),$$

where $Q_{d-(s+1)} = Q$.

Therefore only the remaining case is the case where $\deg L = sd - (s+1)$, $h^0(L) = \frac{1}{2}s(s+1)$ and $|L|$ has no base points. When $s = d-3$, it is done in Step 3, and when $s = 1$, it can be reduced to the case $s = d-3$ by considering the dual series like Step 5. So we may assume that $1 < s < d-3$. Since $\deg L(-1) = (s-1)d - (s+1)$, the largest possible dimension of $H^0(L(-1))$ is $\frac{1}{2}(s-1)s$. If $h^0(L(-1))$ takes this value, then $L(-1) \cong O_X(s-2) (\sum_{j=1}^{d-(s+1)} Q_j)$ by Step 5. Hence we may assume that

$$h^0(L(-1)) \leq \frac{1}{2}(s-1)s - 1.$$

On the other hand, since $|L|$ has no base points, we can consider the exact sequence (6) for our L and the map $(\#)$ is not surjective. Hence

we have

$$\begin{aligned} h^0(L(1)) &\geq 2 \left(\frac{1}{2}s(s+1) \right) - \left(\frac{1}{2}(s-1)s - 1 \right) + 1 \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(s+2)(s+3) - (s+1). \end{aligned}$$

Since $\text{deg } L(1) = (s+1)d - (s+1)$, we have

$$L(1) \cong O_X(s+1) \left(- \sum_{j=1}^{s+1} P_j \right)$$

by Step 4. □

3. The varieties of special divisors

We keep the same notation and assumption as in the previous section. Furthermore, we use the following notation:

$$r(s, e) := \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}s(s+1) - 1 & \text{if } s+1 \leq e < d \\ \frac{1}{2}(s+1)(s+2) - e - 1 & \text{if } 0 \leq e \leq s+1. \end{cases}$$

The aim of this section is to study the scheme $W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X)$ of special divisors of degree $sd - e$ and dimension at least $r(s, e)$; however, the dimension of any invertible sheaf which corresponds to a closed point of the scheme is exactly $r(s, e)$ because of Noether's bound.

To study the $W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X)$'s with $e \neq s+1$, we need a lemma, which is similar to Theorem 1.1 in the spirit of the proof.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let s be an integer with $1 \leq s \leq d - 4$, and D an effective divisor on X of degree $e \leq s$, or of degree $s+1$ with $s \geq 2$ such that $|O_X(s)(-D)|$ is base-point-free. Then the natural map*

$$H^0(O_X(s)(-D)) \otimes H^0(O_X(1)) \rightarrow H^0(O_X(s+1)(-D))$$

is surjective.

Proof. By Noether's bound, the linear system $|O_X(s)(-D)|$ is base-point-free even if D is in the former case, and $O_X(s)(-D) \not\cong O_X$ because

$\deg O_X(s)(-D) = sd - e > 0$. Hence we can apply the first claim in the proof of Theorem 1.1 to $O_X(s)(-D)$ and we know that

$$(8) \quad H^0(O_X(s)(-D)) \otimes H^0(O_X(m)) \rightarrow H^0(O_X(s+m)(-D))$$

is surjective for $m \gg 0$.

Choose a basis $\{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ of $H^0(O_X(1))$ so that $(x_1)_0 \cap (x_2)_0 = \emptyset$, and let V be its subspace generated by x_1 and x_2 . Let us consider the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^0(O_X(s)(-D)) \otimes H^0(O_X(1)) & \bar{\alpha} & \\ & \searrow & \\ & & H^0(O_X(s+1)(-D)) \\ \uparrow & & \nearrow \\ H^0(O_X(s)(-D)) \otimes V & \alpha & \end{array}$$

First suppose that $\text{Im}\alpha = \text{Im}\bar{\alpha}$, which means

$$H^0(O_X(s)(-D))x_3 \subseteq H^0(O_X(s)(-D))x_1 + H^0(O_X(s)(-D))x_2.$$

Hence, taking account of (8), we can conclude that the linear map α (and also $\bar{\alpha}$) is surjective by the same argument to the second claim of Theorem 1.1. (But, actually, it is impossible in our case because of Theorem 1.1 itself.)

Therefore, we may assume that

$$(9) \quad \dim \text{Im}\bar{\alpha} \geq \dim \text{Im}\alpha + 1.$$

Thanks to the base-point-free pencil trick, we have an exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\rightarrow H^0(O_X(s-1)(-D)) \\ &\rightarrow H^0(O_X(s)(-D)) \otimes V \xrightarrow{\alpha} H^0(O_X(s+1)(-D)). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by Noether's bound (or Theorem 2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} h^0(O_X(s)(-D)) &= \frac{1}{2}(s+1)(s+2) - e \\ h^0(O_X(s+1)(-D)) &= \frac{1}{2}(s+2)(s+3) - e \end{aligned}$$

because $0 \leq e \leq s$. Moreover we can show that

$$h^0(O_X(s-1)(-D)) = \frac{1}{2}s(s+1) - e;$$

it is obvious if $0 \leq e \leq s$ because of Noether's bound. When $e = s + 1$, a possible values of $h^0(O_X(s-1)(-D))$ is $\frac{1}{2}s(s+1) - (s+1) = \frac{1}{2}(s-1)s - 1$ or $\frac{1}{2}(s-1)s$. If the latter case occur, then $O_X(s-1)(-D) \cong$

$O_X(s-2)(E)$ for some effective divisor E of degree $d - (s + 1)$; hence $O_X(s)(-D) \cong O_X(s-1)(E)$. Hence $|O_X(s)(-D)|$ has a base point because of Noether's bound, which contradicts the assumption on D .

Therefore we have

$$h^0(O_X(s+1)(-D)) = \dim \text{Im} \alpha + 1.$$

Hence $\bar{\alpha}$ is surjective by (9). □

THEOREM 3.2. *Let s be an integer with $1 \leq s \leq d - 3$. Then the scheme of special divisors $W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X)$ with $e \neq s + 1$ is a smooth variety of dimension e if $0 \leq e < s + 1$, or of dimension $d - e$ if $s + 1 < e < d$, respectively.*

Proof. Since $L \mapsto O_X(d-3) \otimes L^{-1}$ gives an isomorphism between $W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X)$ and $W_{(d-2-s)d-(d-e)}^{r(d-2-s,d-e)}(X)$ if $e \neq 0$ (see, Step 1 of the proof of Theorem 2.1), we may assume that $0 \leq e < s + 1$.

Let $S^e(X)$ be the e -fold symmetric product of the curve X . Then the morphism

$$\varphi_- : S^e(X) \rightarrow W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X)$$

defined by $\varphi_-(D) = O_X(s)(-D)$ is surjective by Theorem 2.1. In particular, $W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X)$ is irreducible. Moreover the morphism φ_- is injective. Indeed, $\varphi_-(D) = \varphi_-(D')$ implies the isomorphism $O_X(D) \cong O_X(D')$, which means that $D = D'$ because $\deg D = e < s + 1 \leq d - 2$. Hence $\dim W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X) = e$.

Since $W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)+1}(X) = \emptyset$ by Noether's bound, the Zariski tangent space

$$T_{\varphi_-(D)}(W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X))$$

to the scheme $W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)}(X)$ at $\varphi_-(D)$ is isomorphic to $(\text{Im } \mu_0)^\perp$, where

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_0 : H^0(O_X(s)(-D)) \otimes H^0(O_X(d-3-s)(D)) &\rightarrow H^0(O_X(d-3)) \\ &= H^0(\omega_X). \end{aligned}$$

As for those matters, see [1, IV, (4.2)].

Let us consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^0(O_X(s)(-D)) \otimes H^0(O_X(d-3-s)) & \xrightarrow{\mu_1} & H^0(O_X(d-3)(-D)) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \iota \\ H^0(O_X(s)(-D)) \otimes H^0(O_X(d-3-s)(D)) & \xrightarrow{\mu_0} & H^0(O_X(d-3)) \end{array}$$

where two vertical maps in the diagram come from the natural injective morphism of sheaves $O_X(-D) \hookrightarrow O_X$. Since

$$H^0(O_X(s)(-D)) \otimes H^0(O_X(1))^{\otimes(d-3-s)} \rightarrow H^0(O_X(d-3)(-D))$$

is surjective by Lemma 3.1, so is μ_1 . On the other hand, $h^0(O_X(d-3)(-D)) = g - e$ by Noether's bound, where $g = \frac{1}{2}(d-1)(d-2)$ is the genus of the curve X . Therefore, since ι is injective, we have

$$\dim \operatorname{Im} \mu_0 \geq g - e,$$

which means

$$\dim T_{\varphi_-(D)}(W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)(X)}) = \dim(\operatorname{Im} \mu_0)^\perp \leq e.$$

But we already know that $\dim W_{sd-e}^{r(s,e)(X)} = e$. Hence the irreducible scheme is smooth at $\varphi_-(D)$. \square

For the case $e = s + 1$, we have

PROPOSITION 3.3. *The underlying topological space $W_{d-2}^0(X)$ (which is the case $s = 1$) and that of $W_{(d-3)d-(d-2)}^{\frac{1}{2}(d-3)(d-2)-1}(X)$ (which is the case $s = d - 3$) are irreducible of dimension $d - 2$, but for $2 \leq s \leq d - 4$, that of $W_{sd-(s+1)}^{\frac{1}{2}s(s+1)-1}(X)$ has exactly two components; one is of dimension $s + 1$, the other is of dimension $d - (s + 1)$ and the intersection of these two components is of dimension 2.*

Proof. Let us consider two natural morphisms

$$\varphi_+ : S^{d-(s+1)}(X) \rightarrow W_{sd-(s+1)}^{\frac{1}{2}s(s+1)-1}(X)$$

$$D \mapsto O_X(s)(D)$$

and

$$\varphi_- : S^{s+1}(X) \rightarrow W_{sd-(s+1)}^{\frac{1}{2}s(s+1)-1}(X)$$

$$D \mapsto O_X(s)(-D)$$

which are injective. By Theorem 2.1 (2), $W_{sd-(s+1)}^{\frac{1}{2}s(s+1)-1}(X)$ is covered with the images of φ_+ and φ_- , which are irreducible of dimension $d - (s + 1)$ and $s + 1$, respectively. If $L \in \operatorname{Im} \varphi_+ \cap \operatorname{Im} \varphi_-$, then we can choose points

$$P_1, \dots, P_{s+1}; Q_1, \dots, Q_{d-(s+1)} \in X$$

so that

$$L \cong O_X(s) \left(- \sum_{i=1}^{s+1} P_i \right) \cong O_X(s-1) \left(\sum_{j=1}^{d-(s+1)} Q_j \right).$$

Hence the divisor $\sum_{i=1}^{s+1} P_i + \sum_{j=1}^{d-(s+1)} Q_j$ must be a line section of $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2$. Conversely, for each line section $\sum_{i=1}^{s+1} P_i + \sum_{j=1}^{d-(s+1)} Q_j$,

$$O_X(s) \left(- \sum_{i=1}^{s+1} P_i \right) \cong O_X(s-1) \left(\sum_{j=1}^{d-(s+1)} Q_j \right)$$

and

$$h^0(O_X(s) \left(- \sum_{i=1}^{s+1} P_i \right)) = h^0(O_X(s)) - (s+1)$$

by Noether's bound, which means those two invertible sheaves correspond to a point of $\text{Im}\varphi_+ \cap \text{Im}\varphi_-$. Therefore, we have that

$$\text{Im}\varphi_- \subset \text{Im}\varphi_+ \quad \text{if } s = 1;$$

$$\text{Im}\varphi_+ \subset \text{Im}\varphi_- \quad \text{if } s = d - 3;$$

$$\text{Im}\varphi_- \not\subset \text{Im}\varphi_+ \text{ and } \text{Im}\varphi_+ \not\subset \text{Im}\varphi_- \quad \text{if } 1 < s < d - 3.$$

REMARK.

(1) It is easy to show that $W_{d-2}^0(X)$ and $W_{(d-3)d-(d-2)}^{\frac{1}{2}(d-3)(d-2)-1}(X)$ are smooth varieties, which are isomorphic to each other.

(2) By using Lemma 3.1, we can show that $W_{sd-(s+1)}^{\frac{1}{2}s(s+1)-1}(X)$ with $2 \leq s \leq d - 4$ is smooth at each point of the outside of $\text{Im}\varphi_+ \cap \text{Im}\varphi_-$, like Theorem 3.2.

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