

THE REGULARITY INDEX OF s FAT POINTS IN PROJECTIVE SPACE \mathbb{P}^2 , $s \leq 6$

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Abstract. In this paper, we compute the regularity index of a set of five almost equimultiple (Theorem 3.2) and a set of six double points in general position in projective space \mathbb{P}^2 (Theorem 4.2).

1. Introduction

Let P_1, \dots, P_s be s distinct points in the projective space $P^n := P_K^n$, with K an arbitrary algebraically closed field. Let $R := K[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be a polynomial ring in $n + 1$ variables x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n with coefficients in K . Let $\wp_1, \wp_2, \dots, \wp_s$ be the homogeneous prime ideals of the polynomial ring R corresponding to the points P_1, P_2, \dots, P_s .

Let m_1, m_2, \dots, m_s be positive integers. Then the set of all homogeneous polynomials that vanish at P_i to order m_i for $i = 1, \dots, s$ is the homogeneous ideal $I = \wp_1^{m_1} \cap \wp_2^{m_2} \cap \dots \cap \wp_s^{m_s}$. We call the zero-scheme defined by I to be a set of fat points in \mathbb{P}^n , and we denote it by

$$Z = m_1P_1 + m_2P_2 + \dots + m_sP_s.$$

The homogeneous coordinate ring of Z is $A := R/I$. The ring $A = \bigoplus_{t \geq 0} A_t$ is a graded ring whose multiplicity is

$$e(A) := \sum_{i=1}^s \binom{m_i + n - 1}{n}.$$

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The Hilbert function of Z , which defined by $H_Z(t) = \dim_K A_t$, strictly increases until it reaches the multiplicity $e(A)$, at which it stabilizes. The regularity index of Z is defined to be the least integer t such that $H_Z(t) = e(A)$, and we will denote it by $\text{reg}(Z)$. It is well known that $\text{reg}(Z) = \text{reg}(A)$, the Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity of A .

The problem to exactly determine $\text{reg}(Z)$ is more fairly difficult, so one finds an upper bound for $\text{reg}(Z)$. Since 1961, many results on upper bound for $\text{reg}(Z)$ have been published.

For generic fat points $Z = m_1P_1 + \cdots + m_sP_s$ with $m_1 \geq \cdots \geq m_s$, Segre [7] showed that

$$\text{reg}(Z) \leq \max \left\{ m_1 + m_2 - 1, \left\lceil \frac{m_1 + \cdots + m_s}{2} \right\rceil \right\}.$$

Trung [8] conjectured an upper bound for the regularity index of arbitrary fat points in \mathbb{P}^n :

$$\text{reg}(Z) \leq \max \{T_j \mid j = 1, \dots, n\},$$

where

$$T_j = \max \left\{ \left\lceil \frac{\sum_{l=1}^q m_{i_l} + j - 2}{j} \right\rceil \mid P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_q} \text{ lie on a linear } j\text{-space} \right\}.$$

This upper bound generalizes Segre’s upper bound. So, we will call it the Segre bound.

The same conjecture was also given independently by Fatabbi and Lorenzini [3].

In 2020, Nagel and Trok [6] proved the hypothesis of Trung about the upper bound of $\text{reg}(Z)$ in the general case.

Currently, the calculation results $\text{reg}(Z)$ are still very modest, only some results have been published in prestigious journals as follows:

For arbitrary fat points $Z = m_1P_1 + \cdots + m_sP_s$ in \mathbb{P}^n , Davis and Geramita [5] proved that

$$\text{reg}(Z) = m_1 + \cdots + m_s - 1$$

if and only if points P_1, \dots, P_s lie on a line in \mathbb{P}^n .

For fat points $Z = m_1P_1 + \cdots + m_sP_s$ in \mathbb{P}^n with $m_1 \geq \cdots \geq m_s$, Catalisano et al. [4] showed formulas to compute $\text{reg}(Z)$ in the following two cases:

- If $s \geq 2$, $2 \leq m_1 \geq m_2 \geq \cdots \geq m_s$ and P_1, P_2, \dots, P_s are on a rational normal curve in \mathbb{P}^n , then

$$\text{reg}(Z) = \max \left\{ m_1 + m_2 - 1, \frac{\sum_{i=1}^s m_i + n - 2}{n} \right\}.$$

• If $n \geq 3$, $2 \leq s \leq n + 2$, $2 \leq m_1 \geq m_2 \geq \dots \geq m_s$ and P_1, P_2, \dots, P_s are in general position in \mathbb{P}^n , then

$$\text{reg}(Z) = m_1 + m_2 - 1.$$

In 2012, Thien [9] showed a formula to compute $\text{reg}(Z) = \max\{T_j \mid j = 1, \dots, n\}$ for $Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_{s+2}P_{s+2}$ with P_1, P_2, \dots, P_{s+2} not in a linear $(s - 1)$ -space in \mathbb{P}^n , $s \leq n$.

In 2017, Thien and Sinh [10] showed a formula to compute $\text{reg}(Z) = \max\{T_j \mid j = 1, \dots, n\}$ for $Z = mP_1 + \dots + mP_{s+3}$ with $m \neq 2$ and P_1, \dots, P_{s+3} not in a linear $(r - 1)$ -space in \mathbb{P}^n , $s \leq r + 3$.

It's worth noting that the assumption $\text{reg}(Z) = T = \max\{T_j \mid j = 1, \dots, n\}$ for the set of arbitrary fat points in \mathbb{P}^n is no longer true because U. Nagel and B. Trok (see [6], Example 5.7) have shown that: If $Z = mP_1 + \dots + mP_s$ is a set of fat points in \mathbb{P}^n consisting of five points in arbitrary positions and $\binom{d+n}{d}$ points in the general position, $d \geq 5$ then

$$\text{reg}(Z) < T,$$

with d (or n) large enough.

A set of s fat points $Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_sP_s$ in \mathbb{P}^n is said to be almost equimultiple if $m_i \in \{m - 1, m\}$ for all $i = 1, \dots, s$ and $m \geq 2$.

A set of s fat points $Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_sP_s$ in \mathbb{P}^n is said to be double point if $m_1 = \dots = m_s = 2$ for all $i = 1, \dots, s$.

In this paper, we compute the regularity index of a set of five almost equimultiple and a set of six double points in general position in projective space \mathbb{P}^2 . These results are stated in Theorem 3.2 and Theorem 4.2.

2. Preliminaries

In proving the main results, we use the lemmas already proven in [2], [5], [9], [11]. The following lemma is used to calculate the value of $\text{reg}(Z)$ when the set of points lie on a line.

Lemma 2.1 ([5], Corollary 2.3). *Let $Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_sP_s$ be a set of arbitrary fat points in \mathbb{P}^n . Then,*

$$\text{reg}(Z) = m_1 + \dots + m_s - 1$$

if and only if the points P_1, \dots, P_s lie on a line.

Let $\{i_1, \dots, i_r\}$ be the subset of the set of indices $\{1, \dots, s\}$. We call $Y = m_{i_1}P_{i_1} + \dots + m_{i_r}P_{i_r}$ the subset of fat points of $Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_sP_s$. The following lemma helps us to compare the regularity index of a subset of a given set of fat points.

Lemma 2.2 ([9], Lemma 3.3). *Let $X = \{P_1, \dots, P_s\}$ be a set of distinct points in \mathbb{P}^n and m_1, \dots, m_s be positive integers. Put $I = \wp_1^{m_1} \cap \wp_2^{m_2} \cap \dots \cap \wp_s^{m_s}$. If $Y = \{P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_r}\}$ is a subset of X and $J = \wp_{i_1}^{m_{i_1}} \cap \wp_{i_2}^{m_{i_2}} \cap \dots \cap \wp_{i_r}^{m_{i_r}}$, then*

$$\text{reg}(R/J) \leq \text{reg}(R/I).$$

This implies that if $Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_sP_s$ is the set of fat points defining by I , and $Y = m_{i_1}P_{i_1} + \dots + m_{i_r}P_{i_r}$ is the set of fat points defining by J , then

$$\text{reg}(Y) \leq \text{reg}(Z).$$

The next two lemmas allow us to compute the regularity index for a given set of points.

Lemma 2.3 ([9], Theorem 3.4). *Let P_1, \dots, P_{s+2} be distinct points not in a linear $(s-1)$ -space in \mathbb{P}^n , $s \leq n$ and m_1, \dots, m_s are positive integers. Put $I = \wp_1^{m_1} \cap \wp_2^{m_2} \cap \dots \cap \wp_{s+2}^{m_{s+2}}$, $A = R/I$. Then,*

$$\text{reg}(A) = \max\{T_j \mid j = 1, \dots, n\},$$

where

$$T_j = \max \left\{ \left\lceil \frac{\sum_{i=1}^q m_{i_i} + j - 2}{j} \right\rceil \mid P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_q} \text{ are on a linear } j\text{-space} \right\}.$$

Lemma 2.4 ([11], Theorem 3.1). *Let $X = \{P_1, \dots, P_{s+3}\}$ be a set of distinct points in a general position on a linear s -space, not on a linear $(s-1)$ -space in \mathbb{P}^n , $s \leq n$, and m_i are positive integers. Let $Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_{s+3}P_{s+3}$ be the set of fat points. Then,*

$$\text{reg}(A) = \max\{T_j \mid j = 1, \dots, n\},$$

where

$$T_j = \max \left\{ \left\lceil \frac{\sum_{i=1}^q m_{i_i} + j - 2}{j} \right\rceil \mid P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_q} \text{ are on a linear } j\text{-space} \right\}.$$

The following lemma gives the upper bound for the set $n+3$ non-degenerate fat points in \mathbb{P}^n .

Lemma 2.5 ([2], Theorem 2.1). *Let $Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_{n+3}P_{n+3}$ be a set of $n+3$ non-degenerate fat points in \mathbb{P}^n . Then,*

$$\text{reg}(Z) \leq \max\{T_j \mid j = 1, \dots, n\},$$

where

$$T_j = \max \left\{ \left\lceil \frac{\sum_{i=1}^q m_{i_i} + j - 2}{j} \right\rceil \mid P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_q} \text{ are on a linear } j\text{-space} \right\}.$$

3. The regularity index of a set of five almost equimultiple in \mathbb{P}^2

We will begin this section with the following proposition:

Proposition 3.1. *Let $X = \{P_1, \dots, P_5\}$ be a set of five non-degenerate distinct points in \mathbb{P}^2 . Let m_1, \dots, m_5 be positive integers and a set of five fat points*

$$Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_5P_5.$$

Put

$$T_j = \max \left\{ \left[\frac{\sum_{l=1}^q m_{i_l} + j - 2}{j} \right] \mid P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_q} \text{ is on a linear } j\text{-space} \right\},$$

and

$$T = \max\{T_j \mid j = 1, 2\}.$$

If $T = T_1$ then

$$\text{reg}(Z) = T.$$

Proof. Since $T = T_1$, there is a line, denoted d , that passes through the points $P_{i_1}, P_{i_2}, \dots, P_{i_r} \in X$ such that $T_1 = m_{i_1} + m_{i_2} + \dots + m_{i_r} - 1$. Considering the set of fat points $Y = m_{i_1}P_{i_1} + m_{i_2}P_{i_2} + \dots + m_{i_r}P_{i_r}$, according to Lemma 2.2, we have

$$\text{reg}(Z) \geq \text{reg}(Y) = T_1 = T.$$

Furthermore, by Lemma 2.5, we have $\text{reg}(Z) \leq T$. Hence $\text{reg}(Z) = T$. \blacksquare

Using Proposition 3.1 we calculate the regularity index of the set of five almost equimultiple fat points in \mathbb{P}^2 , the result is presented in the following theorem:

Theorem 3.2. *Let $X = \{P_1, \dots, P_5\}$ be a set of five non-degenerate distinct points in \mathbb{P}^2 , let m_1, \dots, m_5 be positive integers satisfying $m_i \in \{m-1, m\}$, $i = 1, \dots, 5$, $m \geq 2$ and a set of almost equimultiple fat points*

$$Z = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_5P_5.$$

Put

$$T_j = \max \left\{ \left[\frac{\sum_{l=1}^q m_{i_l} + j - 2}{j} \right] \mid P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_q} \text{ are on a linear } j\text{-space} \right\},$$

and

$$T = \max\{T_j \mid j = 1, 2\}.$$

Then

$$\text{reg}(Z) = T.$$

Except for the following cases:

- 1) $m_1 = m_2 = 1, m_3 = m_4 = m_5 = 2$.
 2) $m_1 = m_2 = m_3 = m - 1, m_4 = m_5 = m, m \in \{2, 3\}$.

Proof. According to the assumption of multiples of the fat points Z , we have the following 3 cases:

i) **Case 1:** $Z = (m - 1)P_1 + mP_2 + mP_3 + mP_4 + mP_5$.

Now we consider the different positions of the set of points X :

i₁) If X is in a general position in \mathbb{P}^2 then according to Lemma 2.4,

$$\text{reg}(Z) = T = T_2 = \left\lfloor \frac{5m - 1}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

i₂) If X has 4 points on a line, then we have $4m - 2 \leq T_1 \leq 4m - 1$, $T_2 = \left\lfloor \frac{5m-1}{2} \right\rfloor$. So for $m \geq 2$, $T_1 > T_2$, thus $T = \max\{T_1, T_2\} = T_1$. According to Proposition 3.1, then $\text{reg}(Z) = T$.

i₃) If X has three points on a line, denote by d .

- If d passes through P_1 then $T_1 = 3m - 2$, $T_2 = \left\lfloor \frac{5m-1}{2} \right\rfloor$.

We have $3m - 2 - \frac{5m-1}{2} = \frac{m-3}{2}$. So for $m \geq 3$ then $3m - 2 \geq \left\lfloor \frac{5m-1}{2} \right\rfloor$.

If $m = 2$ then $T_1 = 4$ and $T_2 = \left\lfloor \frac{5 \cdot 2 - 1}{2} \right\rfloor = 4$. So for $m \geq 2$ we have $T_1 \geq T_2$.

- If d does not go through P_1 then $T_1 = 3m - 1$, $T_2 = \left\lfloor \frac{5m-1}{2} \right\rfloor$.

We have $3m - 1 - \frac{5m-1}{2} = \frac{m-1}{2}$. So for $m \geq 2$ then $3m - 1 \geq \left\lfloor \frac{5m-1}{2} \right\rfloor$. That is, for $m \geq 2$, then $T_1 \geq T_2$.

To summarize in all subcases of Case i_3 , with $m \geq 2$ we have $T = \max\{T_1, T_2\} = T_1$. According to Proposition 3.1 we have $\text{reg}(Z) = T$.

ii) **Case 2:** $Z = (m - 1)P_1 + (m - 1)P_2 + mP_3 + mP_4 + mP_5$.

Now we consider the different positions of the set of points X :

ii₁) If X is in the general position in \mathbb{P}^2 then according to Lemma 2.4,

$$\text{reg}(Z) = T = T_2 = \left\lfloor \frac{5m - 2}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

ii₂) If X has 4 points on a line, then

$$4m - 3 \leq T_1 \leq 4m - 2, T_2 = \left\lfloor \frac{5m - 2}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

So for $m \geq 2$, $T_1 > T_2 \Rightarrow T = \max\{T_1, T_2\} = T_1$. According to Proposition 3.1, we have $\text{reg}(Z) = T$.

ii₃) X has three points on a line, denote by d . Then:

- If d passes through P_1 and P_2 then $T_1 = 3m - 3$, $T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5m-2}{2} \right\rceil$.
We have $3m - 3 - \frac{5m-2}{2} = \frac{m-4}{2}$. So for $m \geq 4$ then $3m - 3 \geq \left\lceil \frac{5m-2}{2} \right\rceil$.
For $m = 3$ then $T_1 = 6$ and $T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5 \cdot 3 - 2}{2} \right\rceil = 6$. So for $m \geq 3$ then $T_1 \geq T_2$.

- If d only passes through either point P_1 or P_2 then

$$T_1 = 3m - 2, T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5m - 2}{2} \right\rceil.$$

We have $3m - 2 - \frac{5m-2}{2} = \frac{m-2}{2}$. So for $m \geq 3$ then $3m - 2 \geq \left\lceil \frac{5m-2}{2} \right\rceil$.
That is, with $m \geq 3$, then $T_1 \geq T_2$.

- If d does not pass through both points P_1 and P_2 then

$$T_1 = 3m - 1, T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5m - 2}{2} \right\rceil.$$

So $T_1 \geq T_2$.

To summarize in all subcases of Case ii₃), with $m \geq 3$ we have $T = \max\{T_1, T_2\} = T_1$. According to Proposition 3.1, we have $\text{reg}(Z) = T$.
Therefore

$$\text{reg}(Z) = T.$$

iii) **Case 3:** $Z = (m - 1)P_1 + (m - 1)P_2 + (m - 1)P_3 + mP_4 + mP_5$.

Now we also consider the different positions of the set of points X :

iii₁) If X is in the general position in \mathbb{P}^2 then according to Lemma 2.4,

$$\text{reg}(Z) = T = T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5m - 3}{2} \right\rceil.$$

iii₂) If X has 4 points on a line, we have

$$4m - 4 \leq T_1 \leq 4m - 3, T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5m - 3}{2} \right\rceil.$$

We have $4m - 4 - \frac{5m-3}{2} = \frac{3m-5}{2} > 0, \forall m \geq 2$. So if $m \geq 2$, then $T_1 > T_2$
 $T = \max\{T_1, T_2\} = T_1$. According to Proposition 3.1 we obtain that $\text{reg}(Z) = T$.

iii₃) If X has three points on a line, denote by d , we have:

- If d passes through P_1, P_2 and P_3 then $T_1 = 3m - 4$, $T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5m-3}{2} \right\rceil$.
We have $3m - 4 - \frac{5m-3}{2} = \frac{m-5}{2}$.
If $m \geq 5$ then $3m - 4 \geq \left\lceil \frac{5m-3}{2} \right\rceil$.
If $m = 4$ then $T_1 = 8$ and $T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5 \cdot 4 - 3}{2} \right\rceil = 8$. So for $m \geq 4$ then $T_1 \geq T_2$.

- If d only passes through either point P_4 or P_5 then

$$T_1 = 3m - 3, T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5m - 3}{2} \right\rceil.$$

We have $3m - 3 - \frac{5m-3}{2} = \frac{m-3}{2}$. So for $m \geq 3$ we obtain that $3m - 3 \geq \left\lceil \frac{5m-3}{2} \right\rceil$. That is, if $m \geq 3$, then $T_1 \geq T_2$.

- If d passes through both points P_4 and P_4 then

$$T_1 = 3m - 2, T_2 = \left\lceil \frac{5m - 3}{2} \right\rceil.$$

We have $3m - 2 - \frac{5m-3}{2} = \frac{m-1}{2}$. So for $m \geq 2$ we obtain that $T_1 \geq T_2$.

To summarize in all subcases of Case iii₃, with $m \geq 4$ we obtain that $T = \max\{T_1, T_2\} = T_1$.

According to Proposition 3.1 we have $\text{reg}(Z) = T$.

Theorem 3.2 is proved. ■

4. The regularity index of a set of six double points in the general position in \mathbb{P}^2

Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ be a zero-dimensional subscheme and I_X be the ideal defined by X . We say that X has maximal Hilbert function in degree t if

$$H_{R/I_X}(t) = \min \left\{ e(R/I_X), \binom{n+t}{t} \right\}.$$

To prove the main result of this section, we use the following lemma:

Lemma 4.1 (Alexander–Hirschowitz, [1]). *Let n, t be positive integers. Let X be a general set of r double points in \mathbb{P}^n . Then X has maximal Hilbert function in degree t with the following exceptions:*

- (1) $t = 2$ and $2 \leq r \leq n$;
- (2) $t = 3, n = 4$ and $r = 7$;
- (3) $t = 4, 2 \leq n \leq 4$ and $r = \binom{n+2}{2} - 1$.

Next, we consider the set of 6 double points in general positions in P^2 and use Lemma 4.1 to get the following result:

Theorem 4.2. *Let $Z = 2P_1 + \dots + 2P_6$ be a set of 6 double points in general position in projective space \mathbb{P}^2 . Put*

$$T_j = \max \left\{ \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^q m_{i_1} + j - 2}{j} \right] \mid P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_q} \text{ are on a linear } j\text{-space} \right\}$$

and

$$T = \max\{T_j \mid j = 1, 2\}.$$

Then

$$\text{reg}(Z) = T - 1.$$

Proof. Apply Lemma 4.1 to a set of 6 double points in the general position

$$Z = 2P_1 + \dots + 2P_6$$

in \mathbb{P}^2 , then Z has maximal Hilbert function in degree t , denote by $H_Z(t)$.

Furthermore, if X is a set of r double points in a general position in the projective space \mathbb{P}^n then $e(A) = e(R/I) = \sum_{i=1}^r \binom{2+n-1}{n} = r(n+1)$. Thus, a set of r double points in the general position in \mathbb{P}^n has maximal Hilbert function in degree t if and only if

$$H_Z(t) = \min \left\{ \binom{n+t}{n}, r(n+1) \right\}.$$

For $n = 2, r = 6$, i.e. with a set of 6 double points in general positions in \mathbb{P}^2 , we have

$$H_Z(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t = 0, \\ 3 & \text{if } t = 1, \\ 6 & \text{if } t = 2, \\ 10 & \text{if } t = 3, \\ 15 & \text{if } t = 4, \\ 18 & \text{if } t \geq 5. \end{cases}.$$

Thus, when $t = 5$ then $H_Z(t) = e(A) = 18$, at which it stabilizes. Hence

$$\text{reg}(Z) = 5.$$

In this case, $T_1 = 2 * 2 - 1 = 3, T_2 = \lceil \frac{6 * 2}{2} \rceil = 6$.

So $T = \max\{T_1, T_2\} = 6$.

Hence

$$\text{reg}(Z) = T - 1.$$

Theorem 4.2 is proved. ■

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