

# WALDSCHMIDT CONSTANT OF CERTAIN SETS OF POINTS IN PROJECTIVE PLANE WITH TWO SUPPORTING LINES

## HÀNG SỐ WALDSCHMIDT CỦA TẬP ĐIỂM NẪM TRONG MẶT PHẪNG XÃ ẢNH VỚI HAI ĐƯỜNG THẲNG ĐI QUA

**Tran Manh Hung<sup>1</sup>, Nguyen Chanh Tu<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *Department of Basic Science, Quang Binh University, Quang Binh, Vietnam.*

<sup>2</sup> *Faculty of Advanced Science and Technology (FAST), University of Science and Technology,  
The University of Da Nang, Viet Nam.*

**ABSTRACT:** We computed the Waldschmidt constant for some special cases of points in projective plane with two supporting lines, each line contains at least 3 points.

**Keywords:** Waldschmidt constant, initial degree, zero-scheme, fat points.

**TÓM TẮT:** Chúng tôi đã tính toán hằng số Waldschmidt cho một số trường hợp đặc biệt của các tập điểm trong mặt phẳng xạ ảnh với 2 đường thẳng đi qua, mỗi đường thẳng chứa ít nhất 3 điểm.

**Từ khóa:** Hằng số Waldschmidt, bậc dẫn đầu, chiều không, điểm béo.

### 1. INTRODUCTION TO WALDSCHMIDT CONSTANT OF A SET OF POINTS

**Definition.** Let  $P_1, \dots, P_r$  be a set of  $r$  distinct points in  $\mathbb{P}_k^n$ , where  $k$  is an algebraically closed field. Let  $\rho_i$  be the ideal corresponding to the point  $P_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq r$ .

$$\text{Let } Z = m_1 P_1 + \dots + m_r P_r = \sum_{i=1}^r m_i P_i$$

where  $m_1, \dots, m_r$  are positive integers, be the fat point in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  corresponding to the ideal  $J = \bigcap_{i=1}^r \rho_i^{m_i}$ . Denote

$\alpha(J) = \min \{t \mid J_t \neq 0\}$  the initial degree of  $J$ . The constant  $\alpha(J)$  is the least degree of the hypersurfaces containing  $P_i$  with multiplicity at least  $m_i$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq r$ ,

$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\alpha(I^{(m)})}{m}$  is called the Waldschmidt

constant of  $I$  or of the set  $X$  and denoted by  $\gamma(I)$  or  $\gamma(X)$ .

**Lemma 1.1.**

(1)  $\gamma(I)$  is well defined and

$$1 \leq \gamma(I) \leq \frac{\alpha(I^{(m)})}{m} \leq \alpha(I), \forall m \geq 1.$$

(2)  $\gamma(I) \leq \sqrt[n]{r}$ .

Proof. See [4].

The constant is firstly introduced by Waldschmidt [18]. Since then, some results about lower bounds of this constant was achieved as in [3, 7, 10, 14, 15, 19]. Those papers also gave many interesting conjectures for lower bounds of the constants, most of them recently had been proved as in [1, 5, 6, 8]. Computation of  $\alpha(I^{(m)})$  and  $\gamma(I)$  is very hard in general, even for cases of small numbers of points in the projective plane. Some results of computation of the constants could be mentioned as for free square monomial ideals as in [2], for points in star

configuration as in [1], for some certain sets as in [16] or for set of  $r + 1$  almost collinear points in  $P^2$ , see [11]. For a set of small number of points in general position in  $P^2$ , the Waldschmidt constant was known only for  $1 \leq r \leq 9$  or  $r$  is a perfect square, as Nagata's results, see [12,13]. Recently, the constant were computer for certain sets of  $r+s$  points  $s$  points where there are  $r$  collinear points and  $1 \leq s \leq 7$ , see [17]. Note that, if  $s = 1$ , it is the case of almost collinear as in [11]. In this paper, we will continue to consider some special cases with two supporting lines. For proofs in next section, we need to use following results of Bezout.

**Theorem 1.2** ([5], I.7.7). Let  $Y$  be a variety of dimension at least 1 in  $P^n$ , and let  $H$  be a hypersurface not containing  $Y$ . Let  $Z_1, \dots, Z_r$  be the irreducible components of  $Y \cap H$ . Then

$$\sum_{j=1}^s i(H, Y, Z_j) \deg Z_j = (\deg Y)(\deg H).$$

Note that  $i(H, Y, Z_j)$  is the intersection multiplicity if  $Y$  and  $H$  along  $Z_j$ .

**Corollary 1.3** (Bezout's Theorem). Let  $Y, Z$  be distinct curves in  $P^2$  having degrees  $d, e$ . Let  $Y \cap Z = \{P_1, \dots, P_s\}$ . Then

$$\sum_{j=1}^s i(H, Z, P_j) = de.$$

Note that  $i(H, Z, P) \geq \text{mult}_P(H) \cdot \text{mult}_P(Z)$  and the equality holds if and only if  $H$  and  $Z$  have no tangent in common at  $P$ , see [4].

## 2. MAIN RESULTS

We will compute the Waldschmidt constant for following cases:

- Sets of at least 5 points lying on 2 lines, each line contains at least 3 points; or all the points lying on an irreducible conic. This computation implies the initial degree of some relevant sets with equal multiplicity.

- Sets of 6 points, except exactly one, lying on 2 lines, each line contains 3 points. This computation implies the initial degree of sets of 6 relevant points with equal multiplicity.

We will use the following lemma as a result in [17].

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $X = (P_1, \dots, P_r, Q_1, Q_2) \subset P^2$  where  $P_1, \dots, P_r$ , for  $r \geq 2$ , are collinear and  $Q_1, Q_2$  are not on the line containing  $P_1, \dots, P_r$ . Then  $\gamma(I) = 2$ .

Proof. Let  $P_i \subset k[x, y, z]$  be the ideal corresponding to  $P_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , let  $Q_1, Q_2 \subset k[x, y, z]$  be the ideals corresponding to  $Q_1, Q_2$ . Let  $L_0 = V(z)$  be the line containing  $P_1, \dots, P_r$  and  $V(I)$  be the line connecting  $Q_1, Q_2$ . It is easy to see that  $\alpha(I^{(m)}) \leq 2m$  since  $z^m I^m \in I_{2m}^{(m)}$ , where  $I = \bigcap_{i=1, \dots, r} P_i \cap Q_1 \cap Q_2$ .

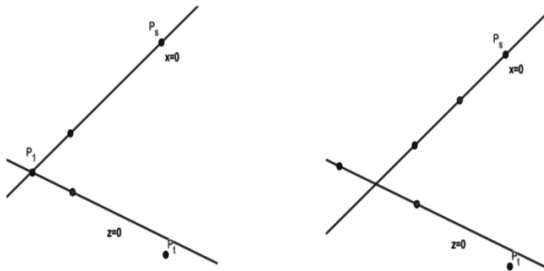
Suppose that there exists a nonzero  $f \in I_{2m-1}^m$ . We see that  $f(z=0)$  has degree at most  $2m-1$  but vanishes at  $P_1, \dots, P_r$  with multiplicity at least  $m$ , therefore by Bezout's Theorem, we have  $L_0$  is a component of  $V(f)$ . Similarly, we see that  $V(I)$  is another component of  $V(f)$ . Then  $f = z^a l^b g$ , where  $z \nmid g, l \nmid g$ ,  $\deg(g) = c$  and

$a+b+c=2m-1$ . We see that  $ra+c \geq rm$ ,  $2b+c \geq 2m$ . Then  $ra+2b+2c \geq rm+2m$ . It implies that  $(r-2)a+2(a+b+c)$  or  $= (r-2)a+2(2m-1) \geq rm+2m$   $(r-2)a \geq (r-2)m+2$  then  $a > m$ . Since  $a+b+c=2m-1$  we have  $b+c < m-1$ .

But  $2b+c = b+(b+c) \geq 2m$ , it implies that  $b > m+1$ . But then it contradicts to  $a+b+c=2m-1$ . Therefore we have  $\alpha(I^{(m)}) \geq 2m$ . It means that  $\alpha(I^{(m)})=2m$  and  $\gamma(X)=2$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $X = \{P_1, \dots, P_r\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  for  $r \geq 5$ , let  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^r \rho_i^{m_i}$  such that they lie either on 2 distinct lines, each line contains at least 3 points or on an irreducible conic. Then  $\alpha(I^{(m)})=2m$  and  $\gamma(X)=2$ .

*Proof.* Consider the case they lie on two lines, each line contains at least 3 points. Let  $\ell_1 = V(x)$ ,  $\ell_2 = V(z)$ , be the two lines, see Figure 1. It is easy to see that  $x^m z^m \in I_{2m}^{(m)}$ , thus  $\alpha(I^{(m)}) \leq 2m$  for all  $m \geq 1$ . Then  $\gamma(X) \leq 2$ .



**Figure 1.**  $r$  points on 2 lines

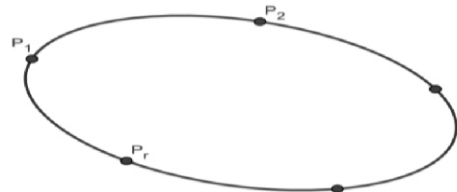
Let  $f \in I_{2m-1}^{(m)}$  for  $m \geq 1$ . When  $m=1$ ,

it is easy to see  $I_1=0$ . We see that  $x|f, z|f$ . Therefore, we can write  $f = xzf_1$ . If there is no point in the corresponding to  $Y = \{P_1, \dots, P_r\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ . If each line of  $l_1, l_2$  contains at least 3 points of  $Y$  then by the above  $I_{2(m-1)-1}^{(m-1)} = 0$ . If  $l_1$  consists of 2 points of  $Y$  then by Lemma 2.1, we have  $I_{2(m-1)-1}^{(m-1)} = 0$ . Thus  $f_1=0$  then  $f=0$  and  $\alpha(I^{(m)}) \geq 2m, \gamma(X) \geq 2$ .

Now consider the case all point of  $X$  lie on an irreducible conic  $C = Y(g_0)$ , see Figure 2. Since  $g_0^m \in I_{2m}^{(m)}$ , for  $m \geq 1$ , we have  $\alpha(I^{(m)}) \leq 2m$ . Thus  $\gamma(X) \leq 2$ .

Let  $f \in I_{2m-1}^{(m)}$ , for  $m \geq 1$ . When  $m=1$ , it is clear that  $I_1^{(1)} = 0$ . For  $m \geq 2$ , since  $2(2m-1) < rm$ , we have  $g_0|f$  by Bezout's. Then we can write  $f = g_0 f_1$ . Since  $g_0$  has multiplicity exactly 1 at each point, we see that  $f_1 \in I_{2(m-1)-1}^{(m-1)}$ . By induction, we have  $I_{2(m-1)-1}^{(m-1)} = 0$  then  $f=0$ . Thus  $\alpha(I^{(m)}) \geq 2m$  and  $\gamma(X) \geq 2$ .

For all the cases, we have  $\alpha(I^{(m)})=2m$  and  $\gamma(X)=2$ .

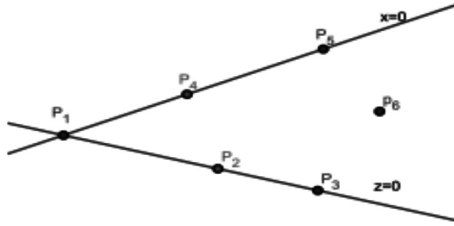


**Figure 2.**  $r$  points on an irreducible conic

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $\{P_1, \dots, P_6\}$  such that  $P_1, P_2, P_3 \in l_1$ ,  $P_1, P_4, P_5 \in l_2$ ,

$P_6 \notin l_1 \cup l_2$ . Then  $\gamma(X) = \frac{7}{3}$ .

Proof. Let  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^6 \rho_i \subset k[x, y, z]$ . Let  $l_1 = V(z), l_2 = V(x)$  and  $l$  be the linear form vanishing at  $P_1$  and  $P_6$ , see Figure 3. intersection of two lines, then  $f_1 \in I_{2(m-1)-1}^{(m-1)}$ , and by induction, we have  $f_1 = 0$ , and then  $f = 0$ . If  $P_1 \in l_1 \cap l_2$  and  $m \geq 2$ . Then,  $f_1 \in I_{2(m-1)-1}^{(m-1)}$ , where  $J$  be the ideal. Let  $C = V(f_0)$  be a conic containing 5 points  $P_2, P_3, \dots, P_6$ .



**Figure 3.** 6 points with two supporting lines

Then,  $xzf_0^2 \in I_7^{(3)}$ . Thus,  $\gamma(X) \leq 7/3$ .

For a given  $m \geq 1$ , suppose that there exists  $f \in I_{7m-1}^{(3m)}$ . Since  $3.3m = 9m > 7m-1$ , we see that  $x|f, z|f$ . Let  $f = z^a x^b g$  where  $\deg(g) = c$  and no one of  $z, x$  is a divisor

of  $g$ . Then  $a+b+c = 7m-1$ . We see that  $2c < 2(3m-a) + 2(3m-b) + 3m = 15m - 2(a+b)$  since  $2(a+b+c) = 2(7m-1) < 15m$ . Thus,  $f_0 | g$ . Let  $f = z^a x^b f_0^d h$ , where  $\deg(h) = e$  and no of  $x, z, f_0$  is a divisor of  $h$ . We have  $a+b+2d+e = 7m-1$ . Since  $f_0$  is not a divisor of  $h$ , we have  $2e \geq 2(3m-a-d) + 2(3m-b-d) + (3m-d) = 15m - 2(a+b) - 5d$ .

This implies that  $d \geq m+2 \geq 3$ . Consider the line  $V(l)$  containing  $P_1$  and  $P_6$ . We see that

$$e < (3m-a-b) + (3m-d) = 6m - (a+b+2d) + d = 6m - (7m-e) + d = e + d - m.$$

Since  $d \geq m+2$ . It implies that  $l | h$ . Now we can write  $f = z^a x^b f_0^d f_1$  where  $f_1 \in I_{7(m-1)-1}^{(3m-3)}$ . For  $m=1$  There is a contradiction since  $d \geq 3$  but  $a+b+2d+e = 6$ . Therefore,  $I_{6m}^{(3m)} = 0$ . By induction, we have  $I_{7m-1}^{(3m)} = 0$ . Thus,

$$\gamma(X) \geq \frac{7}{3}.$$

**Corollary 2.4.** Let  $X = \{P_1, \dots, P_6\}$  as in the theorem. Let  $I = \bigcap_{i=1}^6 \rho_i$ . Then  $\alpha(I^{(3m)}) = 7m$ , for any  $m \geq 1$ .

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**Contact:**

**MA. Tran Manh Hung**

Faculty of Basic Science, Quang Binh University,

Address: 312 Ly Thuong Kiet, Dong Hoi city, Quang Binh Province

Email:hungtm@quangbinhuni.edu.vn; tmhung2007@gmail.com

Ngày nhận bài:

Ngày gửi phản biện:

Ngày duyệt đăng: