

First we will show that the only Halphen pencils with Bertini involutions are those of index 1 or 2.

Let E be a smooth elliptic curve with nine base points $P_1, \dots, P_9 \in E$. That is, that $P_1 \oplus \dots \oplus P_9 = 0 \pmod{O}$ where O is some flex point of E . Note that a point $Q \in E$ is fixed under the Bertini involution centered at P_9 if and only if $Q \in E[2]_{P_9}$. If $Q = P_9$, then we get an Halphen pencil of index 1 by blowing up P_1, \dots, P_8, Q . If $Q \in E[2]_{P_9} \setminus \{P_9\}$, then we must show that we get an Halphen pencil of index 2 by blowing up P_1, \dots, P_8, Q .

Note that $2Q = 0 \pmod{P_9}$. Therefore, the tangent line $T_Q(E)$ meets E again exactly where the tangent line $T_{P_9}(E)$ meets E again. We call this point P_9^2 . Thus when we re-mod the curve at O , we get the equality $2Q = 2P_9 = -P_9^2 \pmod{O}$.

Therefore $2P_1 \oplus \dots \oplus 2P_8 \oplus 2Q = 2P_1 \oplus \dots \oplus 2P_8 \oplus 2P_9 = 0 \pmod{O}$. So blowing up P_1, \dots, P_8, Q yields an Halphen pencil of index 2. Thus the only Halphen pencils with Bertini involutions are those of index 1 and 2, because the center of the Bertini involution must be fixed.

Now we will show that if $\beta_{P_9}(R) = S$ (that is, $R \oplus S = 0 \pmod{P_9}$), then the unique sextic curve S that has double points at P_1, \dots, P_8, Q (where again $Q \in E[2]_{P_9} \setminus \{P_9\}$) and also contains R must additionally contain S .

Since $R \oplus S = 0 \pmod{P_9}$, we know that R, S , and P_9^2 are collinear, so $R \oplus S \oplus P_9^2 = 0 \pmod{O}$. We also know that $2Q = 2P_9 = -P_9^2 \pmod{O}$. We want to show that $2P_1 \oplus \dots \oplus 2P_8 \oplus R \oplus S = 0 \pmod{O}$.

Note that

$$2P_1 \oplus \dots \oplus 2P_8 \oplus R \oplus S = 2P_1 \oplus \dots \oplus 2P_8 \oplus -P_9^2 = 2P_1 \oplus \dots \oplus 2P_9 = 0 \pmod{O}.$$

Therefore there is a sextic curve S that meets E with multiplicity 2 at P_1, \dots, P_8 and with multiplicity 1 at R and S .