

# ALGEBRAIC CURVES

## SOLUTIONS SHEET 11

**Exercise 1.** Let  $F$  be a projective plane curve.

- (1) Let  $P \in \mathbb{P}_k^2$ . Show that  $P$  is a multiple point of  $F$  if, and only if,  $F(P) = F_X(P) = F_Y(P) = F_Z(P) = 0$ .
- (2) Suppose  $F$  is irreducible. Show that  $F$  has finitely many multiple points.
- (3) Suppose  $F$  is nonsingular. Show that  $F$  is irreducible.

Now assume that  $F$  is irreducible of degree  $n$ .

- (4) Show that  $F$  has at most  $\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)$  multiple points. (Hint: combine Bezout's theorem with previous questions.)

**Solution 1.**

- (1) Wlog, let  $P = [1 : 0 : 0]$ .  $P$  is a simple point  $\iff F_*(Y, Z)$  has a simple point at  $(0, 0)$ . Denote  $F_1(Y, Z)$  its degree 1 part. Then  $F_1(Y, Z) \neq 0 \iff (F_*)_Y(0, 0) \neq 0$  or  $(F_*)_Z(0, 0) \neq 0$ . Moreover,  $(F_*)_Y = (F_Y)_*$ ,  $(F_*)_Z = (F_Z)_*$ . Note that by the formula

$$dF = XF_X + YF_Y + ZF_Z$$

$F(P) = 0$  and  $F_Y(P) = F_Z(P) = 0$  together with  $P \in \{X \neq 0\}$  implies  $F_X(P) = 0$ .

- (2) The proof is completely analogous to Exercise 4.4 on Sheet 8 (and you could deduce the version here from the version there by working in a standard affine cover). By point (1), the locus of multiple points is given by  $M = V(F, F_X, F_Y, F_Z)$ . If we assume by contradiction that this is infinite, then it must have dimension at least 1 by Exercise 2 on Sheet 7. Then, by Exercise 1.4 on Sheet 7, we obtain  $M = V(F)$ , and thus in particular  $F_X, F_Y, F_Z \in I_p(F)$ . As  $F$  is irreducible, we have  $I_p(F) = (F)$ , and as the degree of  $F_X, F_Y, F_Z$  is strictly smaller than the degree of  $F$ , we hence obtain that all the partial derivatives are equal to 0. In characteristic 0, this would imply that  $F$  is constant, contradiction. If the characteristic of  $k$  is  $p > 0$ , then we obtain that  $F = G(X^p, Y^p, Z^p)$  for some homogeneous form  $G \in k[X, Y, Z]$ . But then, if we define  $G^{1/p} := \sum_{i,j,l} G_{i,j,l}^{1/p} X^i Y^j Z^l$ , we obtain  $F = (G^{1/p})^p$ , contradicting the fact that  $F$  is irreducible.
- (3) Suppose  $F$  reducible,  $F = F_1 F_2$ . Then by Bezout  $V(F_1)$  and  $V(F_2)$  intersect at least in one point  $P$ . As we have

$$F_X = F_1(F_2)_X + (F_1)_X F_2,$$

and  $F_1(P) = F_2(P) = 0$ , it follows that  $F_X(P) = 0$ . The same holds also for the other partial derivatives, and hence we obtain that  $P$  is a multiple point, contradiction. Hence  $F$  must be irreducible.

- (4) By the proof of point (2), we must have that at least one of the partial derivatives of  $F$  doesn't vanish; without loss of generality we assume  $F_X \neq 0$ . Let  $P$  be a multiple point of  $F$ . We distinguish two cases:

- $P = [1 : 0 : 0]$ . As  $P \in F$ , we can write  $F = X^{n-1}F_1(Y, Z) + \cdots + F_n(Y, Z)$ . Then  $F_X = (n-1)X^{n-2}F_1(Y, Z) + \cdots + F_{n-1}(Y, Z)$ . In particular, we have  $m_P(F_X) \geq m_P(F)$  (with equality if and only if  $\text{char } k \nmid n-1$ ).
- $P \in \{Y \neq 0\} \cup \{Z \neq 0\}$ , wlog  $P \in \{Y \neq 0\}$ . Let  $F_*$  be the dehomogenization with respect to  $Y$ , and write  $P = [x_P : 1 : z_P]$ . Then if  $m = m_P(F)$ , we have

$$F_*(x_P + X, z_P + Z) = F_m(X, Z) + (\text{higher order terms})$$

for some homogeneous  $m$ -form  $F_m$ . Then notice that

$$(F_X)_*(x_P + X, z_P + Z) = (F_*)_X(x_P + X, z_P + Z) = (F_m)_X(X, Z) + \cdots$$

so as  $(F_m)_X$  is an  $(m-1)$ -form (or 0), we obtain that  $m_P(F_X) \geq m-1 = m_P(F) - 1$ .

In conclusion, we have  $m_P(F_X) \geq m_P(F) - 1$  for all  $P \in F$ . Using Bézout's theorem for  $F$  and  $F_X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} n(n-1) &\geq \deg F \cdot \deg F_X = \sum_P I(P, F \cap F_X) \geq \sum_P m_P(F)m_P(F_X) \\ &\geq \sum_P m_P(F)(m_P(F) - 1) \geq \sum_{P: m_P(F) > 1} 2 \end{aligned}$$

Hence the number of multiple points is bounded above by  $n(n-1)/2$ .

**Exercise 2.** Let  $F$  be an affine plane curve.

- (1) Show that a line  $L$  is tangent to  $F$  at  $P$  if, and only if,  $I(P, F \cap L) > m_P(F)$ . This justifies the definition of tangent lines for projective plane curves.

Now, let  $F$  be a projective plane curve and  $P$  a simple point on  $F$ .

- (2) Show that the tangent line to  $F$  at  $P$  has equation  $F_X(P)X + F_Y(P)Y + F_Z(P)Z = 0$ .

**Solution 2.**

- (1) From point 5) of Theorem 4.5,  $I(P, F \cap L) \geq m_P(F)m_P(L) = m_P(F)$  with equality if and only if  $L$  is not a tangent line of  $F$  at  $P$ .
- (2) Wlog assume  $P \in \{X \neq 0\}$  and write  $P = [1 : y_P : z_P]$ . In  $\{X \neq 0\}$ , the tangent line has the equation

$$(F_*)_Y(P)(Y - y_P) + (F_*)_Z(P)(Z - z_P) = 0,$$

and recall that  $(F_*)_{\bullet}(P) = (F_{\bullet})_*(P) = F_{\bullet}(P)$  (where  $F_{\bullet}$  is any partial derivative). Also, by Euler's homogeneous function theorem, we have

$$F_X(P) + y_P F_Y(P) + z_P F_Z(P) = (\deg F) \cdot F(1, y_P, z_P) = 0$$

and hence we obtain the equation of the tangent in  $\{X \neq 0\}$  is

$$F_X(P) + F_Y(P)Y + F_Z(P)Z = 0.$$

By homogenizing, we obtain, that the equation of the tangent in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  is  $F_X(P)X + F_Y(P)Y + F_Z(P)Z = 0$ .

**Exercise 3.** Show that the following projective plane curves are irreducible; find their multiple points and the tangents at multiple points with their multiplicities:

- (1)  $XY^4 + YZ^4 + XZ^4$
- (2)  $X^2Y^3 + X^2Z^3 + Y^2Z^3$
- (3)  $Y^2Z - X(X - Z)(X - \lambda Z)$ ,  $\lambda \in k$
- (4)  $X^n + Y^n + Z^n$ ,  $n > 0$

**Solution 3.** To distinguish between indeterminates and coordinates of points, we will use  $x, y, z$  for the coordinates of a point  $P = [x : y : z]$ .

- (1)  $(Y^4 + Z^4)X + YZ^4$  is irreducible by Gauss' Lemma since it is irreducible in  $k(Y, Z)[X]$  (as it is of degree 1 in  $X$ ) and primitive in  $k[Y, Z][X]$  (as  $Y, Z$  don't divide  $Y^4 + Z^4$ ).

To determine the multiple points, we compute the partial derivatives:

$$F_X = Y^4 + Z^4, \quad F_Y = 4Y^3X + Z^4, \quad F_Z = 4Z^3Y + 4Z^3X.$$

If  $P = [x : y : z]$ , then  $F(P) = F_X(P) = F_Y(P) = F_Z(P) = 0$  implies  $yz^4 = 0$  (combining  $F(P) = 0$  and  $F_X(P) = 0$ ), so  $y = 0$  or  $z = 0$ . But then  $F_X(P) = 0$  gives  $y = z = 0$  so  $P = [1 : 0 : 0]$  is the only multiple point.

To determine the tangents at  $P$ , we work in  $\{X \neq 0\}$ , where  $P$  is just the origin. Dehomogenizing, we get

$$F_* = Y^4 + Z^4 + YZ^4.$$

If  $\text{char } k = 2$ , then  $Y^4 + Z^4 = (Y + Z)^4$ , so  $F$  has the quadruple tangent  $Y + Z$ . If not, then there exists a primitive 8th root of unity  $\zeta$ , and we have

$$Y^4 + Z^4 = (Y + \zeta Z)(Y - \zeta Z)(Y + i\zeta Z)(Y - i\zeta Z)$$

So in that case,  $F$  has the 4 distinct tangents  $Y + \zeta Z$ ,  $Y - \zeta Z$ ,  $Y + i\zeta Z$ ,  $Y - i\zeta Z$ .

- (2)  $F = X^2(Y^3 + Z^3) + Y^2Z^3$  is irreducible since it is irreducible in  $k(Z, Y)[X]$  ( $-\frac{Z^3Y^2}{Z^3+Y^3}$  is not a square, and  $Z^3 + Y^3$ ,  $Z^3Y^2$  are coprime in  $k[Y, Z]$ ).

To determine the multiple points, we compute the partial derivatives:

$$F_X = 2X(Y^3 + Z^3), \quad F_Y = Y(3X^2Y + 2Z^3), \quad F_Z = 3Z^2(X^2 + Y^2).$$

From the coefficients, it is clear that we should distinguish cases according to the characteristic:

- char  $k = 2$ : From  $F_Y = 0$  we obtain  $xy = 0$ , and then from  $F_Z = 0$  we have  $z(x + y) = 0$ . This implies that precisely two of the coordinates are 0, and thus the multiple points are in  $\{[1 : 0 : 0], [0 : 1 : 0], [0 : 0 : 1]\}$ . It is straightforward to check that these are indeed multiple points.
- char  $k = 3$ : From  $F_Y = 0$  we obtain  $yz = 0$ , and  $F_X = 0$  gives  $x(y + z) = 0$ . This then gives again the solutions  $\{[1 : 0 : 0], [0 : 1 : 0], [0 : 0 : 1]\}$ , all of which are multiple points.
- char  $k \neq 2, 3$ : If  $Z \neq 0$ , then  $F_Z = 0$  gives  $y^2 = -x^2$ , and plugging this into  $F = 0$  gives  $xy = 0$ ,  $F_X$  gives  $x = 0$ ,  $F_Y$  gives  $y = 0$ , so in this case we obtain  $[0 : 0 : 1]$  which is indeed a multiple point. If  $z = 0$ , then  $F_Y$  gives  $xy = 0$  so we obtain  $[1 : 0 : 0]$  and  $[0 : 1 : 0]$ , which again are indeed multiple points.

In all three cases, the multiple points are precisely  $[1 : 0 : 0]$ ,  $[0 : 1 : 0]$  and  $[0 : 0 : 1]$ . Dehomogenizing with  $X = 1$  gives that  $[1 : 0 : 0]$  has multiplicity 3. The tangents are  $Y + \zeta^i Z$  with  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  where  $\zeta$  is a primitive 3rd root of unity if char  $k \neq 3$  and  $\zeta = 1$  if char  $k = 3$ . Dehomogenizing with  $Y = 1$  gives that  $[0 : 1 : 0]$  has multiplicity 2 with double tangent  $X$ . Dehomogenizing with  $Z = 1$  gives that  $[0 : 0 : 1]$  has multiplicity 2 with tangents  $X \pm iY$ , where  $i$  is a primitive 4th root of unity if char  $k \neq 2$  and is 1 otherwise.

- (3)  $F = Y^2 Z - X(X - Z)(X - \lambda Z)$  irreducible since irreducible in  $k(X, Z)[Y]$  and  $Z, X(X - Z)(X - \lambda Z)$  coprime in  $k[X, Z]$ .

To obtain the multiple points, we compute the partial derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned} F_X &= -(X - Z)(X - \lambda Z) - X(X - \lambda Z) - X(X - Z), \\ F_Y &= 2YZ, \quad F_Z = Y^2 + (\lambda + 1)X^2 - 2\lambda XZ. \end{aligned}$$

Looking at  $F_Y$  it is clear that the case char  $k = 2$  needs extra care.

- char  $k \neq 2$ : In this case  $F_Y$  gives  $yz = 0$ . If  $z = 0$ , then  $F$  gives  $x = 0$  and then  $F_Z$  gives  $y = 0$ , so we find no multiple points here. If  $z \neq 0$ , then we must have  $y = 0$ . Combining  $F$  and  $F_X$ , we see that  $x$  must be a double root of the polynomial  $p(T) = T(T - z)(T - \lambda z)$  (as it annihilates both  $p$  and  $p'$ ). If  $\lambda \notin \{0, 1\}$ , then  $p$  has no double root, so there are no multiple points. If  $\lambda \in \{0, 1\}$ , then  $p$  has the double root  $\lambda z$ , so we obtain the candidate  $[\lambda : 0 : 1]$  for the multiple point. It is straightforward to check that this is indeed a multiple point.

Now we determine the tangents: if  $\lambda = 0$ , the unique multiple point is  $P = [0 : 0 : 1]$ . Dehomogenizing with  $Z = 1$  gives that the multiplicity is 2 and the tangents are  $Y \pm X$ . If  $\lambda = 1$ , the unique multiple point is  $[1 : 0 : 1]$ . Dehomogenizing with  $Z = 1$  gives  $F_* = Y^2 - X(X - 1)^2$ ,

and translating to  $(1, 0)$  gives

$$F_*(X + 1, Y) = Y^2 - (X + 1)X^2.$$

Hence the multiplicity is 2. The tangents here are  $X \pm Y$ , but we have to translate them back to  $(1, 0)$  giving  $X \pm Y - 1$ . These are now the tangents in  $\{Z \neq 0\}$ , so by homogenizing we obtain the the tangents are  $X \pm Y - Z$ .

char  $k = 2$ : In this case  $F_Z$  gives  $y^2 + x^2(\lambda + 1) = 0$ . If  $x = 0$  then hence have  $y = 0$  and so we obtain the candidate  $[0 : 0 : 1]$ . It is straightforward to check that this is a multiple point if and only if  $\lambda = 0$ . If  $x \neq 0$ , then plugging in  $y^2 = (\lambda + 1)x^2$  in the original equation and using that char  $k = 2$ , we obtain  $x^2 + \lambda z^2$ . As every element in an algebraically closed field of characteristic 2 has a unique square root, we hence obtain that  $x = \sqrt{\lambda}z$  and  $y = \sqrt{\lambda}x$ . This gives the candidate  $[\sqrt{\lambda} : \sqrt{\lambda(\lambda + 1)} : 1]$ , and one can check that this is indeed a multiple point.

In conclusion, we obtain that for every  $\lambda$ ,  $F$  has the unique multiple point  $[\sqrt{\lambda} : \sqrt{\lambda(\lambda + 1)} : 1]$ . Let us compute the tangents: we dehomogenize with  $Z = 1$ , giving

$$F_* = Y^2 + X(X + 1)(X + \lambda).$$

Translating to  $(\sqrt{\lambda}, \sqrt{\lambda(\lambda + 1)})$  then gives

$$F_*\left(X + \sqrt{\lambda}, Y + \sqrt{\lambda(\lambda + 1)}\right) = Y^2 + (\lambda + \sqrt{\lambda} + 1)X^2 + X^3.$$

Hence the multiplicity is two, with double tangent  $Y + (\lambda^{1/2} + \lambda^{1/4} + 1)X$ . Translating back by replacing  $Y$  with  $Y - \sqrt{\lambda(\lambda + 1)}$  and  $X$  with  $X - \sqrt{\lambda}$ , we obtain that the equation of the double tangent is

$$Y + (\lambda^{1/2} + \lambda^{1/4} + 1)X + \lambda^{3/4}.$$

This is the equation in  $\{Z \neq 0\}$ , so to obtain the equation in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  we have to dehomogenize, giving that

$$Y + (\lambda^{1/2} + \lambda^{1/4} + 1)X + \lambda^{3/4}Z$$

is the equation of the double tangent of  $F$  at its multiple point.

**Remark.** The curve  $F$  in this point of the exercise is what is called an elliptic curve, and in characteristic  $\neq 2, 3$ , all elliptic curves are isomorphic to  $F$  above with a specific choice of  $\lambda \notin \{0, 1\}$ .

(4) If  $p = \text{char } k \mid n$ , then  $F$  is reducible, because if we write  $n = mp^r$  then

$$X^n + Y^n + Z^n = (X^m + Y^m + Z^m)^{p^r}.$$

So let us assume that  $p \nmid n$ . We want to show that  $F$  is irreducible by using Eisenstein's criterion in  $k[Y, Z][X]$ . For this it is enough to find an irreducible polynomial in  $k[Y, Z]$  which divides  $Y^n + Z^n$  but whose square

doesn't. Notice that if  $\zeta \in k$  is such that  $\zeta^n = -1$ , then  $Y - \zeta Z$  is a factor of  $Y^n + Z^n$ . Let us write  $Y^n + Z^n = (Y - \zeta Z)^l G(Y, Z)$  for some  $G \in k[Y, Z]$ . If we assume by contradiction that  $l > 1$ , then taking the derivative with respect to  $Y$  and plugging in  $Y = \zeta Z$  gives that  $n(\zeta Z)^{n-1} = 0$ , contradiction (here we use  $n \nmid \text{char } k$ ). Hence  $Y - \zeta Z$  is a simple factor of  $Y^n + Z^n$ , so by Eisenstein we obtain that  $X^n + Y^n + Z^n$  is irreducible.

But then there are no multiple points: the partial derivatives of  $F$  are

$$F_X = nX^{n-1}, \quad F_Y = nY^{n-1}, \quad F_Z = nZ^{n-1},$$

and so they vanish simultaneously only for  $x = y = z = 0$ .

In the case where  $n = mp^r$  with  $r > 1$  and  $p \nmid m$ , then every point of  $F$  has multiplicity  $p^r$ , and the tangents are just  $p^r$ -fold multiples of the tangents of  $X^m + Y^m + Z^m$ .

**Exercise 4.** Find the intersection points and the intersection numbers of the following pairs of projective plane curves:

- (1)  $Y^2Z - X(X - 2Z)(X + Z)$  and  $Y^2 + X^2 - 2XZ$
- (2)  $(X^2 + Y^2)Z + X^3 + Y^3$  and  $X^3 + Y^3 - 2XYZ$
- (3)  $Y^5 - X(Y^2 - XZ)^2$  and  $Y^4 + Y^3Z - X^2Z^2$
- (4)  $(X^2 + Y^2)^2 + 3X^2YZ - Y^3Z$  and  $(X^2 + Y^2)^3 - 4X^2Y^2Z^2$

**Solution 4.** We will always denote the first curve by  $F$  and the second curve by  $G$ .

- (1) Replacing  $y^2$  with  $-x^2 + 2xz$  in the second equation gives  $x \in \{0, \pm 2z\}$ . If  $x = 0$  then also  $y = 0$  and thus we only obtain  $P_1 = [0 : 0 : 1]$ . If  $x \neq 0$ , then in particular we must have  $\text{char } k \neq 2$  and  $x = \pm 2z$ . Plugging this back into  $G$ , we obtain the three intersection points  $P_2 = [2 : 0 : 1]$  and  $P_{3,4} = [-2 : \pm\sqrt{-8} : 1]$ .

For the intersection multiplicity, if  $\text{char } k = 2$ , then as  $P_1 = [0 : 0 : 1]$  is the only intersection point, we must have  $I(P_1, F \cap G) = 6$  by Bezout's theorem. If  $\text{char } k \neq 2$ , we have to compute the individual intersection multiplicities. Notice that all of the intersection points are in  $\{Z \neq 0\}$ , so we dehomogenize with  $Z = 1$ . By abuse of notation, we will still denote by  $P_i$  the corresponding point in the affine chart. We have

$$\begin{aligned} I(P_i, F \cap G) &= I(P_i, (Y^2 - X(X - 2)(X + 1)) \cap (Y^2 + X^2 - 2X)) \\ &\stackrel{7)}{=} I(P_i, X(X - 2)(X + 2) \cap (Y^2 + X^2 - 2X)) \\ &\stackrel{6)}{=} I(P_i, (X - P_{i,X}) \cap (Y^2 + X^2 - 2X)) \\ &\stackrel{7)}{=} I(P_i, (X - P_{i,X}) \cap (Y^2 - P_{i,Y}^2)), \end{aligned}$$

where we write  $P_i = (P_{i,X}, P_{i,Y})$  (i.e.  $P_i = [P_{i,X} : P_{i,Y} : 1]$ ). So if  $P_{i,Y} = 0$  then  $I(P_i, F \cap G) = 2$  and if  $P_{i,Y} \neq 0$  then  $I(P_i, F \cap G) = 1$ . That is,

at  $P_{1,2}$ , the curves intersect with multiplicity 2, and at  $P_{3,4}$  they intersect with multiplicity 1.

- (2) Replacing  $x^3 + y^3$  in  $F$  with  $2xyz$  gives  $z(x + y)^2 = 0$ . If  $z = 0$ , we obtain the intersection points  $[1 : -\zeta^i : 0]$ , where  $\zeta$  is a primitive 3rd root of unity (if  $\text{char } k = 3$  we only have  $[1 : -1 : 0]$ ). If  $z \neq 0$ , we obtain  $x = -y$  and thus  $2x^2 = 0$ . If  $\text{char } k = 2$  then all points of the form  $[x : -x : 1]$  are in the intersection, i.e.  $F$  and  $G$  have the common component  $X + Y$ . If  $\text{char } k \neq 2$ , then we obtain only  $[0 : 0 : 1]$ .

We divide the computation of the intersection multiplicity according to the characteristic.

$\text{char } k = 2$ : In this case we have intersection multiplicity  $\infty$  at points on  $X + Y$ . Apart from that, we only have the three intersection points  $P_i = [1 : -\zeta^i : 0]$  for  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ . We dehomogenize with  $X = 1$ , giving

$$\begin{aligned} I(P_i, F \cap G) &\stackrel{(7)}{=} I(P_i, ((1 + Y)^2 Z) \cap (1 + Y^3)) \\ &\stackrel{(6)+2)}{=} I(P_i, Z \cap (1 - Y + Y^2)) \\ &\stackrel{(6)+2)}{=} I(P_i, Z \cap (Y - \zeta^i)) \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

$\text{char } k = 3$ : In this case we obtained that the points of intersection are precisely  $P_1 = [1 : -1 : 0]$  and  $P_2 = [0 : 0 : 1]$ . For  $P_1$  we dehomogenize with  $X = 1$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I(P_1, F \cap G) &\stackrel{(7)}{=} I(P_1, ((1 + Y)^2 Z) \cap ((1 + Y)^3 - 2YZ)) \\ &\stackrel{(6)+7)}{=} 2I(P_1, (1 + Y) \cap YZ) + I(P_1, Z \cap (1 + Y)^3) \\ &\stackrel{(6)+7)}{=} 2 + 3 \\ &= 5. \end{aligned}$$

By Bezout, we obtain that  $I(P_2, F \cap G)$  is equal to  $9 - 5 = 4$ .

$\text{char } k \neq 2, 3$ : In this case we have the intersection points  $P_i = [1 : -\zeta^i : 0]$  with  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  and  $P_3 = [0 : 0 : 1]$ . For  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  we dehomogenize with  $X = 1$  and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I(P_i, F \cap G) &\stackrel{(7)}{=} I(P_i, ((1 + Y)^2 Z) \cap (1 + Y^3 - 2YZ)) \\ &\stackrel{(6)+7)}{=} 2I(P_i, (1 + Y) \cap YZ) + I(P_i, Z \cap (1 + Y^3)) \\ &\stackrel{(6)+2)}{=} 2I(P_i, (1 + Y) \cap Z) + I(P_i, Z \cap (Y + \zeta^i)) \end{aligned}$$

For  $i = 0$  we obtain 3, and for  $i = 1, 2$  we obtain 1. By Bezout, this gives that  $I(P_3, F \cap G) = 4$ .

(3) Expanding  $(y^2 - xz)^2$  in  $F$  and replacing  $x^2z^2$  with  $y^4 + y^3z$  we obtain

$$y^2(y^3 - x(2y^2 - 2xz + yz)) = 0.$$

If  $y = 0$ , then  $G$  gives  $xz = 0$  so we obtain candidates  $P_1 = [1 : 0 : 0]$  and  $P_2 = [0 : 0 : 1]$ , and it is straightforward to see that they are indeed intersection points. If  $y \neq 0$  we may assume that  $y = 1$ , and then from the above equation we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - x(2 - 2xz + z) &= 0 \\ \implies (1 - xz)(1 - 2x) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

If  $xz = 1$  then  $G$  gives  $z = 0$ , contradiction. So we obtain  $1 - 2x = 0$ . So if  $\text{char } k = 2$  then there are no further intersection points, and if  $\text{char } k \neq 2$ , then  $G$  gives that  $z$  is a solution of  $1 + z - z^2/4$ . If we denote these solutions by  $z_{1,2}$ , then we obtain candidates  $P_{3,4} = [1/2 : 1 : z_{1,2}]$ , and it is straightforward to check that these are indeed intersection points.

To compute the intersection multiplicities, we distinguish cases along the characteristic.

$\text{char } k = 2$ : In this case we only have  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ . Let us compute the intersection multiplicity for  $P_2$ : we dehomogenize with  $Z = 1$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I(P_2, F \cap G) &= I(P_2, (Y^5 - X(Y^2 - X)^2) \cap (Y^4 + Y^3 - X^2)) \\ &\stackrel{7)}{=} I(P_2, (Y^5 - XY^3) \cap (Y^4 + Y^3 - X^2)) \\ &\stackrel{6)}{=} 3I(P_2, Y \cap (Y^4 + Y^3 - X^2)) + I(P_2, (Y^2 - X) \cap (Y^4 + Y^3 - X^2)) \\ &\stackrel{6)}{=} 6 + I(P_2, (Y^2 - X) \cap (Y^4 + Y^3 - X^2)) \\ &\stackrel{7)}{=} 6 + I(P_2, (Y^2 - X) \cap Y^3) \\ &\stackrel{6)+7)}{=} 9. \end{aligned}$$

By Bezout, we then obtain  $I(P_1, F \cap G) = 11$ .

$\text{char } k \neq 2$ : We start with  $P_2$ , so we dehomogenize with  $Z = 1$  and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I(P_2, F \cap G) &= I(P_2, (Y^5 - X(Y^2 - X)^2) \cap (Y^4 + Y^3 - X^2)) \\ &\stackrel{7)}{=} I(P_2, (Y^5 - X(Y^4 - 2XY^2 + Y^4 + Y^3)) \cap G_*) \\ &\stackrel{6)}{=} 2 \underbrace{I(P_2, Y \cap G_*)}_{=2} + I(P_2, \underbrace{(Y^3 - X(2Y^2 - 2X + Y))}_{=(Y-2X)(Y^2-X)} \cap G_*) \\ &\stackrel{6)}{=} 4 + \underbrace{I(P_2, (Y - 2X) \cap G_*)}_{\stackrel{7)+6)+2)}{=} 2 + \underbrace{I(P_2, (Y^2 - X) \cap G_*)}_{\stackrel{7)+6)}{=} 3 \\ &= 9. \end{aligned}$$



Similarly, for  $P_1$  we dehomogenize with  $X = 1$  and have

$$\begin{aligned}
I(P_1, F \cap G) &= I(P_1, (Y^5 - (Y^2 - Z)^2) \cap (Y^4 + Y^3Z - Z^2)) \\
&\stackrel{7)}{=} I(P_1, (Y^5 - (Y^4 - 2Y^2Z + Y^4 + Y^3Z)) \cap (Y^4 + Y^3Z - Z^2)) \\
&\stackrel{6)}{=} \underbrace{2 I(P_1, Y \cap (Y^4 + Y^3Z - Z^2))}_{=2} + \underbrace{I(P_1, (Y^3 - 2Y^2 - YZ + 2Z)) \cap (Y^4 + Y^3Z - Z^2))}_{=(Y-2)(Y^2-Z)} \\
&\stackrel{6)+2)}{=} 4 + \underbrace{I(P_1, (Y^2 - Z) \cap (Y^4 + Y^3Z - Z^2))}_{\stackrel{7)+6)}{=} 5 \\
&= 9.
\end{aligned}$$

By Bezout, this then implies also  $I(P_{3,4}, F \cap G) = 1$ .

- (4) If  $\text{char } k = 2$ , then  $G$  is  $(X + Y)^6$  and  $F$  is  $(X + Y)^2((X + Y)^2 + YZ)$ , so in this case every point  $[x : -x : z]$  on  $G$  is also on  $F$  and we have intersection multiplicity  $\infty$ . So let us assume  $\text{char } k \neq 2$  from now on. If  $xy = 0$  then  $G$  gives  $x = y = 0$  so the candidate  $P_1 = [0 : 0 : 1]$  which is indeed in the intersection. If  $z = 0$  then we obtain  $x^2 + y^2 = 0$  which gives the candidates  $P_{2,3} = [1 : \pm i : 0]$ , which are indeed in the intersection. If  $x^2 + y^2 = 0$ , then  $G$  gives  $4x^2y^2z^2 = 0$  which is already covered by the above. Hence we may assume  $x, y, z \neq 0$  and  $x^2 + y^2 \neq 0$  from now on.

From  $F$ , we then obtain  $y(3x^2 - y^2) \neq 0$  and  $z = \frac{(x^2 + y^2)^2}{y(3x^2 - y^2)}$ . Plugging this into  $G$  we obtain

$$(x^2 + y^2)^3 y^2 (3x^2 - y^2)^2 - 4x^2 y^2 (x^2 + y^2)^4 = 0$$

and thus, as  $y^2, x^2 + y^2 \neq 0$ ,

$$(3x^2 - y^2)^2 - 4x^2(x^2 + y^2) = 0.$$

Simplifying, we obtain

$$5x^4 - 10x^2y^2 + y^4 = 0.$$

As  $x \neq 0$  we may assume  $x = 1$ . Notice that if  $\text{char } k = 5$ , then  $y = 0$  but this was already covered above. If  $\text{char } k \neq 5$ , then as the discriminant of  $\lambda^2 - 10\lambda + 5 = 0$  is 80 and as we also suppose  $\text{char } k \neq 2$ , we obtain that this quadratic equation has precisely two roots  $\lambda_{1,2}$ . We then have  $y = \pm\sqrt{\lambda_{1,2}}$ , and all of these values give us solutions to  $F = G = 0$ . Hence we obtain the 4 intersection points

$$P_{4,5,6,7} = \left[ 1 : \pm\sqrt{\lambda_{1,2}} : \pm\frac{(1 + \lambda_{1,2})^2}{\sqrt{\lambda_{1,2}}(\lambda_{1,2} - 3)} \right]$$

Notice that the intersection multiplicity at  $[0 : 0 : 1]$  was computed in Exercise 3 on Sheet 10 (it is the multiplicity of  $E \cap F$  at the origin): we

have  $I(P_1, F \cap G) = 18$  if  $\text{char } k = 5$  and 14 otherwise. Now let us compute  $I(P_{2,3}, F \cap G)$ : we dehomogenize with  $X = 1$ , giving

$$\begin{aligned}
I(P_{2,3}, F \cap G) &= I(P_{2,3}, ((1 + Y^2)^2 + 3YZ - Y^3Z) \cap ((1 + Y^2)^3 - 4Y^2Z^2)) \\
&\stackrel{7)}{=} I(P_{2,3}, ((1 + Y^2)^2 + 3YZ - Y^3Z) \cap (-YZ(4YZ - (Y^2 + 1)(Y^2 - 3)))) \\
&\stackrel{6)+2)}{=} 2 + I(P_{2,3}, ((1 + Y^2)^2 + 3YZ - Y^3Z) \cap (4YZ - (Y^2 + 1)(Y^2 - 3))) \\
&\stackrel{7)}{=} 2 + I(P_{2,3}, ((1 + Y^2)(1 + Y^2 - (Y^2 - 3)/4)) \cap (4YZ - (Y^2 + 1)(Y^2 - 3))) \\
&\stackrel{6)+2)}{=} 2 + I(P_{2,3}, (1 + Y^2) \cap (4YZ - (Y^2 + 1)(Y^2 - 3))) \\
&\stackrel{7)}{=} 2 + I(P_{2,3}, (1 + Y^2) \cap 4YZ) \\
&\stackrel{6)+2)}{=} 2 + I(P_{2,3}, (1 + Y^2) \cap Z) \\
&= 3.
\end{aligned}$$

If  $\text{char } k = 5$  then with the multiplicity at  $P_1$  this adds up to 24, confirming Bezouts theorem in this instance. If  $\text{char } k \neq 2, 5$ , then the sum of multiplicities at  $P_{1,2,3}$  is 20. By Bezouts theorem, we then obtain that the intersection multiplicity at  $P_{4,5,6,7}$  must be equal to 1.