J. DIFFERENTIAL GEOMETRY 81 (2009) 575-599

## POINTS IN PROJECTIVE SPACES AND APPLICATIONS

## IVAN CHELTSOV

## Abstract

We prove the factoriality of a nodal hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  of degree d that has at most  $2(d-1)^2/3$  singular points, and we prove the factoriality of a double cover of  $\mathbb{P}^3$  branched over a nodal surface of degree 2r having less than (2r-1)r singular points.

## 1. Introduction

Let  $\Sigma$  be a finite subset in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  and  $\xi \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $n \ge 2$ . Then the points of the set  $\Sigma$  impose independent linear conditions on homogeneous forms of degree  $\xi$  if and only if for every point  $P \in \Sigma$  there is a homogeneous form of degree  $\xi$  that vanishes at every point of the set  $\Sigma \setminus P$ , and does not vanish at the point P. The latter is equivalent to the equality

$$h^1(\mathcal{I}_{\Sigma}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(\xi))=0,$$

where  $\mathcal{I}_{\Sigma}$  is the ideal sheaf of the subset  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ .

In this paper we prove the following result (see Section 2).

**Theorem 1.** Suppose that there is a natural number  $\lambda \ge 2$  such that at most  $\lambda k$  points of the set  $\Sigma$  lie on a curve in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  of degree k. Then

$$h^1(\mathcal{I}_{\Sigma}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(\xi))=0$$

in the case when one of the following conditions holds:

- $\xi = |3\lambda/2 3|$  and  $|\Sigma| < \lambda \lceil \lambda/2 \rceil$ ;
- $\xi = \lfloor 3\mu 3 \rfloor$ ,  $|\Sigma| \leq \lambda \mu$  and  $\lfloor 3\mu \rfloor \mu 2 \geq \lambda \geq \mu$  for some  $\mu \in \mathbb{Q}$ ;
- $\xi = |n\mu|, |\Sigma| \leq \lambda \mu \text{ and } (n-1)\mu \geq \lambda \text{ for some } \mu \in \mathbb{Q}.$

Let us consider applications of Theorem 1.

**Definition 2.** An algebraic variety X is factorial if Cl(X) = Pic(X).

We assume that all varieties are projective, normal, and defined over  $\mathbb{C}$ . Received 12/14/2006.