

The canonical divisor K of \mathbb{P}^2 can be computed as $\text{div}(\mathbf{d}f \wedge \mathbf{d}g)$, where f and g are rational functions on \mathbb{P}^2 in variables X, Y , and Z . Let $f = x := \frac{X}{Z}$ and let $g = y := \frac{Y}{Z}$, and $\omega = \mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y$.

First we must compute

$$-\text{ord}_P \left(\frac{\mathbf{d}f_P \wedge \mathbf{d}g_P}{\mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y} \right),$$

where f_P and g_P generate \mathfrak{m}_P (that is, f_P and g_P are linearly independent and $\text{ord}_P(f_P) = \text{ord}_P(g_P) = 1$). Then

$$\text{div}(\omega) = \sum_{P \in \mathbb{P}^2} -\text{ord}_P \left(\frac{\mathbf{d}f_P \wedge \mathbf{d}g_P}{\mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y} \right).$$

First let $P = (a, b, c)$ with $c \neq 0$. Then we can take $f_P = cx - a$ and $g_P = cy - b$. Then

$$-\text{ord}_P \left(\frac{\mathbf{d}(cx - a) \wedge \mathbf{d}(cy - b)}{\mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y} \right) = -\text{ord}_P \left(\frac{c\mathbf{d}x \wedge c\mathbf{d}y}{\mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y} \right) = -\text{ord}_P(c^2) = 0.$$

Now let $Q = (a, b, 0)$ be on the line $Z = 0$, with $a \neq 0$. Then we can take $f_Q = \frac{y}{x} - \frac{b}{a}$ and $g_Q = \frac{1}{x} = \frac{Z}{X}$. (Note: we cannot take f_Q or g_Q to be $bx - ay$, because $\text{ord}_Q(bx - ay) = 0$, not 1. Recall $bx - ay = \frac{bX - aY}{Z}$. Instead we have $f_Q = \frac{aY - bX}{aX}$.) Then

$$\begin{aligned} & -\text{ord}_Q \left(\frac{\mathbf{d}\left(\frac{y}{x} - \frac{b}{a}\right) \wedge \mathbf{d}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)}{\mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y} \right) = -\text{ord}_Q \left(\frac{\mathbf{d}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \wedge \mathbf{d}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)}{\mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y} \right) \\ & = -\text{ord}_Q \left(\frac{(x^{-1}\mathbf{d}y - x^{-2}y\mathbf{d}x) \wedge -x^{-2}\mathbf{d}x}{\mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y} \right) = -\text{ord}_Q \left(\frac{x^{-1}\mathbf{d}y \wedge x^{-2}\mathbf{d}x}{\mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y} \right) = -\text{ord}_Q(-x^{-3}) \\ & = \text{ord}_Q(x^3) = \text{ord}_Q\left(\frac{X^3}{Z^3}\right) = -3. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, let R be the point $(0, 1, 0)$. Then we can take $f_R = \frac{1}{y}$ and $g_R = \frac{x}{y}$. In the same kind of computation as for Q , we find

$$-\text{ord}_R \left(\frac{\mathbf{d}f_R \wedge \mathbf{d}g_R}{\mathbf{d}x \wedge \mathbf{d}y} \right) = -3.$$

Then we see that for $P \in \mathbb{P}^2$, we have

$$-\text{ord}_P(\omega) = \begin{cases} 0 & P \notin V(Z) \\ -3 & P \in V(Z) \end{cases}.$$

Therefore $K = \text{div}(\omega) = -3L$, where L is the line $V(Z)$.