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The Canonical Model of a Singular Curve

STEVEN LAWRENCE KLEIMAN AND RENATO VIDAL MARTINS

ABSTRACT. We give refined statements and modern proofs of Rosenlicht’s results about the canonical model C' of an arbitrary complete integral curve C . Notably, we prove that C and C' are birationally equivalent if and only if C is nonhyperelliptic, and that, if C is nonhyperelliptic, then C' is equal to the blowup of C with respect to the canonical sheaf ω . We also prove some new results: we determine just when C' is rational normal, arithmetically normal, projectively normal, and linearly normal.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let C be a complete integral curve of arithmetic genus $g \geq 2$ defined over an algebraically closed field of arbitrary characteristic. Its canonical model C' was introduced by Rosenlicht at the end of his paper [19] (based on his 1950 Harvard thesis under Zariski) where he introduced the dualizing sheaf ω . Here, we give modern proofs of Rosenlicht’s results about C' ; also, we determine just when C' is rational normal, arithmetically normal, projectively normal, and linearly normal.

Rosenlicht constructed the *canonical model* C' as follows. He [19, p.188 top] proved that $H^0(\omega)$ defines a base-point-free linear series on the normalization \bar{C} of C . He formed the corresponding map $\bar{\kappa}: \bar{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$, and took its image to be C' .

Rosenlicht [19, p.188 top] called C “quasihyperelliptic” if $\bar{\kappa}$ is not birational onto C' . He [19, Thm. 15, p.188] proved that C is quasihyperelliptic iff there is some map $\lambda: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ of degree 2. Nowadays, it is more common to call C *hyperelliptic* if such a map λ exists; so Rosenlicht’s result is just our Proposition 2.13. Furthermore, it is implicit in Rosenlicht’s work, and it is easy to prove, see Stöhr’s discussion [23, p.96, top] or our Proposition 2.6, that if λ exists, then it is unique. In fact, then λ is induced by the canonical map $\bar{\kappa}: \bar{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$, and its image C' is equal to the rational normal curve N_{g-1} of degree $g-1$; furthermore, $\omega \simeq \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g-1)$.

Suppose C is hyperelliptic. Then $\omega \simeq \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g-1)$; whence, ω is invertible, so C is Gorenstein. Rosenlicht [19, p.188 top] reasoned in essentially this way, as did Stöhr [23, p.96, top] and as do we in proving Proposition 2.6. On the other hand, Homma [12, Cor. 3.3, p.31] reproved that C is Gorenstein, but he proceeded differently; he obtained and used an explicit equation for a plane model of C .

As to a nonhyperelliptic C , first Rosenlicht [19, Cor. and Thm. 17, p.189] proved these three statements: (1) if C is nonhyperelliptic and Gorenstein, then $\bar{\kappa}$ induces an isomorphism $\kappa: C \xrightarrow{\sim} C'$; (2) furthermore, then C' is *extremal*; that is, its genus is maximal for its degree, which is $2g-2$; and (3) conversely, every extremal curve of degree $2g-2$ in \mathbb{P}^{g-1} is nonhyperelliptic and Gorenstein of genus g , and is

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its own canonical model. Rosenlicht's proofs involve relating global invariants. We give similar proofs of these statements in our Theorem 4.3.

Unaware of Rosenlicht's work, several authors have reproved various form of (1). The first proofs were given by Deligne and Mumford in 1969, by Sakai in 1977, and by Catanese in 1982, according to Catanese [4, p. 51]. Their work was motivated by the study of families of curves, and they allowed C to be reducible, but required it to be connected in a strong sense, and to have only mild Gorenstein singularities.

In 1973, Mumford and Saint-Donat proved (1) for a smooth C , using the Jacobian of C . In 1983, Fujita [9, p. 39] asserted their proof works virtually without change for any Gorenstein C . Then Fujita [9, Thm. (A1), p. 39] gave another proof for any Gorenstein C , involving ideas from Mumford's version of Castelnuovo Theory.

In Remark 5.6, we explain a variant of the latter proof, involving ideas from the version of Castelnuovo Theory developed by Arbarello et al. [1, pp. 114–117]. In this way, both Fujita, in his Theorem (A1), and we, in our Proposition 5.5, obtain more: namely, C' is *projectively normal*; that is, for every $n \geq 1$, the hypersurfaces of degree n cut out a complete linear series. In particular, C' is *linearly normal*; that is, the hyperplanes cut out a complete series. In fact, the converse holds in general; indeed, using Castelnuovo Theory, we prove Lemma 5.4, which asserts that, whether C is Gorenstein or not, C' is linearly normal iff it is projectively normal.

In 1986, Hartshorne [13, Thm. 1.6, p. 379] gave yet another proof of (1); he showed that the complete linear series of canonical divisors of C “separates points and tangent vectors.” We give a somewhat similar proof in Section 4, and obtain a stronger statement, Theorem 4.13, which is virtually in Rosenlicht's paper; namely, $\bar{\kappa}: \bar{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$ induces an open embedding $\kappa: G \hookrightarrow C'$ where G is the Gorenstein locus of C , the largest open set on which ω is invertible.

Rosenlicht's last result [19, Thm. 17, p. 189] is his main theorem about C' ; it asserts that, if C is nonhyperelliptic, then the birational map between C and C' is regular on C' . In fact, Rosenlicht's proof nearly yields a more refined result, which is our Theorem 6.4. It asserts that $\bar{\kappa}$ induces an isomorphism $\hat{\kappa}: \hat{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} C'$ where \hat{C} is the blowup of C with respect to ω in the sense of Definition 4.4. Instead, Rosenlicht [19, p. 191, last line] worked with the subsheaf $\omega' \subset \omega$ generated by $H^0(\omega)$, but apparently, he was unaware that $\omega' = \omega$, a fundamental discovery made by Eisenbud, Harris, Koh, and Stillman [7, p. 536, mid].

Rosenlicht's proof of his main theorem involves some hard local algebra, which reduces the general statement to (1) above. We give a similar proof. We can have no purely local proof until we find a purely local condition equivalent to the nonhyperellipticity of C . A sufficient condition is that C have a point of multiplicity at least 3 by our Proposition 2.6(1), but this multiplicity condition is hardly necessary.

Rosenlicht's proof of (1)–(3) involves his version of Clifford's Theorem [19, Thm. 16, p. 188], the first version for a singular curve. It concerns an invertible sheaf \mathcal{F} on C such that $h^0(\mathcal{F}) \geq 1$ and $h^1(\mathcal{F}) \geq 1$; it asserts *Clifford's Inequality*

$$h^0(\mathcal{F}) + h^1(\mathcal{F}) \leq g + 1,$$

and it describes when equality holds.

Correspondingly, we prove a version of Clifford's Theorem, Theorem 3.1. It is more general, as we prove the above inequality for any torsion-free sheaf \mathcal{F} of rank 1 on C . The added generality is due to Kempf [14, pp. 25, 32], and we present his proof, which is short and has not fully appeared in print before.

If equality holds, then $H^0(\mathcal{F})$ generates \mathcal{F} . This result is due to Eisenbud et

al. [7, p. 536, mid]. They derived it in a few lines from the above inequality for the subsheaf $\mathcal{F}' \subset \mathcal{F}$ generated by $H^0(\mathcal{F})$. We reproduce their proof, as the result is fundamental. Stöhr [22, Thm. 3.2, p. 123] rediscovered the case $\mathcal{F} = \omega$; his proof is different, and we discuss it in Remark 6.2.

If equality holds and if \mathcal{F} is invertible, but not isomorphic to either \mathcal{O}_C or ω , then C is hyperelliptic. This statement was proved by Rosenlicht, and we reprove it by modifying the standard proof in the case where C is smooth [13, pp. 344–345]. In this case, \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the pullback of $\mathcal{O}(n)$ under the map $\lambda: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ with $n := h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$. Conversely, if C is hyperelliptic and if $0 \leq n \leq g - 1$, then for $\mathcal{F} := \lambda^*\mathcal{O}(n)$, equality holds in Clifford's Inequality.

Surprisingly, equality can hold in Clifford's Inequality, yet \mathcal{F} is neither invertible nor isomorphic to ω . Cases were discovered and classified by Eisenbud et al. [7, Thm. A(c), p. 533]. Namely, C is rational, and \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the sheaf generated over \mathcal{O}_C by $H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}(n))$ inside the pushout of $\mathcal{O}(n)$ under the normalization map $\nu: \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow C$ with $n := h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$. Moreover, C is not hyperelliptic; in fact, the canonical map $\bar{\kappa}: \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$ is the Veronese embedding, so that C and C' are birational, and C' is the rational normal curve N_{g-1} of degree $g - 1$. Furthermore, C is *nearly normal*; that is, C has a unique multiple point P , and its maximal ideal sheaf $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$ is equal to the conductor \mathcal{C} .

In addition, Eisenbud et al. [7, Rmk. p. 533] observed that this C is isomorphic to a curve of degree $2g+1$ in \mathbb{P}^{g+1} that lies on the cone S over the rational normal curve N_g of degree g in \mathbb{P}^g and that has a unique multiple point at the vertex; moreover, the canonical map corresponds to the projection from a ruling. Conversely, if C is isomorphic to a curve of degree $2g + 1$ on S with a unique multiple point at the vertex, then C is as described in the preceding paragraph; this converse was discovered by the second author [17, Thm. 2.1, p. 461], and we reprove it differently and in a stronger form as part of Theorem 3.4.

Thus we obtain three characterizations of a C whose canonical model C' is the rational normal curve N_{g-1} : (1) a C with an \mathcal{F} , other than \mathcal{O}_C or ω , for which equality holds in Clifford's Inequality; (2) a C isomorphic to a curve of degree $2n + 1$ in \mathbb{P}^{n+1} lying on the cone S over the rational normal curve N_n of degree n in \mathbb{P}^n for some $n \geq 2$; a posteriori, $n = g$; and (3) a C that is either hyperelliptic or else rational and nearly normal.

If C is nearly normal with unique multiple point P , then the local ring of C at P is of an interesting sort, which was introduced and studied by Barucci and Fröberg. Namely, they [3, p. 418] termed a 1-dimensional local Cohen–Macaulay ring with finite integral closure *almost Gorenstein* if its Cohen–Macaulay type satisfies a certain relation, recalled below in Definition 5.7. So, in Definition 5.7, we term C *nearly Gorenstein* if the non-Gorenstein locus $C - G$ consists of a single point whose local ring is almost Gorenstein. Theorem 5.10 asserts, in particular, that if C is nearly normal, but non-Gorenstein, then it is nearly Gorenstein.

More generally, Theorem 5.10 characterizes a non-Gorenstein C , rational or not, whose canonical model C' is *arithmetically normal*; that is, its homogeneous coordinate ring is normal. Namely, if C is non-Gorenstein, then these seven conditions are equivalent: (a) C' is arithmetically normal; (b) C' is smooth and projectively normal; (c) C' is smooth and linearly normal; (d) C' is smooth and extremal; (e) C' is of degree $g + \bar{g} - 1$ where \bar{g} is the genus of \bar{C} , the normalization; (f) C is nearly normal; and (g) C is nearly Gorenstein, and \widehat{C} is smooth, where \widehat{C} is the

blowup with respect to ω . Furthermore, if these conditions hold, then, at its unique multiple point, C is of multiplicity $g - \bar{g} + 1$ and of embedding dimension $g - \bar{g} + 1$; thus C is of *maximal embedding dimension*, as the embedding is always bounded by the multiplicity according to Lipman's Corollary 1.10 [16, p. 657]. In order to prove our theorem, we use Castelnuovo Theory and some propositions due to Barucci and Fröberg [3].

Our final result, Theorem 6.5 applies to even more C . Namely, it asserts that, if C is non-Gorenstein, then these six conditions are equivalent: (a) C' is projectively normal; (b) C' is linearly normal; (c) C' is extremal; (d) C' is of degree $g + g' - 1$ where g' is the genus of C' ; (e) C is nearly Gorenstein; and (f) $C' = \text{Spec}(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}, \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}))$ where $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$ is the maximal ideal sheaf of some point P off the Gorenstein locus. Furthermore, if (f) holds, then C is of maximal embedding dimension at P iff C' is Gorenstein. In order to prove this theorem, we use Rosenlicht's Main Theorem, that if C is nonhyperelliptic, then there is a canonical isomorphism $\widehat{\kappa}: \widehat{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} C'$.

In short, Section 2 develops the preliminary theory of the canonical model C' , including the basic theory of hyperellipticity and some results about the degree d' of C' . Section 3 proves Clifford's theorem, and applies it to characterize the case where C' is the rational normal curve N_{g-1} . Section 4 characterizes the nonhyperelliptic and Gorenstein C , and proves that, for an arbitrary nonhyperelliptic C , the canonical map induces an open embedding $\kappa: G \hookrightarrow C'$, where G is the Gorenstein locus of C . Section 5 develops Castelnuovo Theory, and applies it to characterize the case where C' is arithmetically normal. Finally, Section 6 proves Rosenlicht's Main Theorem, and applies it to characterize the case where C' is projectively normal, or equivalently, linearly normal.

2. THE CANONICAL MODEL

Let C be an arbitrary complete integral curve over an algebraically closed base field k of arbitrary characteristic. Let g denote its arithmetic genus, and assume $g \geq 2$. Let ω_C , or simply ω , denote the canonical sheaf (dualizing sheaf).

Recall that $H^0(\omega)$ generates ω . In full generality, this fundamental result was discovered and proved by Eisenbud, Harris, Koh, and Stillman [7, p. 536 mid] in 1988. Their argument is recalled in the proof of Lemma 3.1; in fact, with $\mathcal{F} := \omega$, the lemma yields the result. The result was rediscovered, by Stöhr [22, Thm. 3.2, p. 123] in 1993, and proved in a different way, which is described in Remark 6.2.

In the special case that C is Gorenstein (that is, ω is invertible), this result was obtained by a number of authors. The first was Rosenlicht [19, p. 187 bot]; in fact, he proved only that $H^0(\omega)$ generates the pullback of ω to the normalization of C ; however, it follows immediately, via Nakayama's lemma, that $H^0(\omega)$ generates ω , because ω is invertible. Catanese [4, Thm. D, p. 75] rediscovered the result in 1982; in fact, he worked with a reducible C , and found conditions guaranteeing that $H^0(\omega)$ generates ω .

Fujita [9, Thm. (A1), p. 39] rediscovered the Gorenstein case in 1983. In fact, he claimed that Mumford and Saint-Donat's 1973 proof [20, Prp. (1.5), p. 160] works virtually without change, although they assumed C to be smooth. Then Fujita gave his own proof. Finally, Hartshorne [13, Thm. 1.6, p. 379] gave yet another proof in 1986; furthermore, he [13, Rmk. 1.6.2, p. 380] cited Fujita's work and Catanese's work.

Definition 2.1. As a matter of notation, given any integral scheme A and any coherent sheaf \mathcal{F} on A , let $Torsion(\mathcal{F})$ denote its torsion subsheaf. And given any map $\alpha: A \rightarrow C$ and any sheaf \mathcal{G} on C , set

$$\mathcal{O}_A \mathcal{G} := \alpha^* \mathcal{G} / Torsion(\alpha^* \mathcal{G}).$$

Definition 2.2. Let $\nu: \bar{C} \rightarrow C$ denote the normalization map. Then $\mathcal{O}_{\bar{C}} \omega$ is invertible, and is generated by $H^0(\omega)$; hence, there is a natural nondegenerate map

$$\bar{\kappa}: \bar{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1}.$$

If C is Gorenstein, then ω is invertible and generated by $H^0(\omega)$. So then $\bar{\kappa}$ factors uniquely:

$$\bar{\kappa} = \kappa \nu \text{ where } \kappa: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1}.$$

Call the above maps $\bar{\kappa}$ and κ the *canonical maps* of C . Call their common image the *canonical model* of C , and denote it by C' . Set $d' := \deg C'$.

When appropriate, let $\bar{\kappa}$ and κ also denote the induced maps:

$$\bar{\kappa}: \bar{C} \rightarrow C' \text{ and } \kappa: C \rightarrow C'$$

Furthermore, denote the arithmetic genus of C' by g' , and that of \bar{C} by \bar{g} .

Remark 2.3. Under the conditions of Definition 2.2, if conversely $\bar{\kappa} = \kappa \nu$, then ω and $\kappa^* \mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)$ are equal, because both are equal to the subsheaf of $\nu_* \mathcal{O}_{\bar{C}} \omega$ generated by $H^0(\omega)$; whence, then C is Gorenstein.

Definition 2.4. As usual, call C *hyperelliptic* if there is some map of degree 2

$$\lambda: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1.$$

Otherwise, call C *nonhyperelliptic*.

Example 2.5. Suppose C is a plane quartic. Then $\omega = \mathcal{O}_C(1)$. Hence $C' = C$ and $\kappa = 1_C$. Furthermore, C is nonhyperelliptic by Proposition 2.6 (1) below.

Suppose also that C is 3-nodal. Then $\bar{C} = \mathbb{P}^1$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\bar{C}} \omega = \mathcal{O}_{\bar{C}}(4)$. Yet C depends on three moduli. Thus the position of $H^0(\omega)$ in $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\bar{C}} \omega)$ is crucial for $\bar{\kappa}$ and C' .

Proposition 2.6. *Assume C is hyperelliptic.*

- (1) *Then there is an isomorphism $\omega \simeq \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g-1)$.*
- (2) *Then C is Gorenstein with double points at worst, and $\deg \kappa = \deg \bar{\kappa} = 2$.*
- (3) *Then $\kappa = \varepsilon \lambda$ where $\varepsilon: \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$ is isomorphic to the Veronese embedding.*
- (4) *Then λ is uniquely determined, up to an automorphism of \mathbb{P}^1 .*

Proof. Given a (closed) point $P \in C$, let u be a uniforming parameter at $\lambda(P)$ on \mathbb{P}^1 . Then $\dim(\mathcal{O}_P / \langle u \rangle) \leq 2$ since $\deg \lambda = 2$. Hence P is of multiplicity at most 2.

Set $\mathcal{L} := \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g-1)$. Then (a) $\deg \mathcal{L} = 2g-2$ because $\deg \lambda = 2$, and (b) $h^0(\mathcal{L}) \geq g$ since the natural map $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g-1) \rightarrow \lambda_* \mathcal{L}$ is plainly injective. Now, (a) implies $\chi(\mathcal{L}) = g-1$. So (b) implies $h^1(\mathcal{L}) \geq 1$; whence, by duality, there is a nonzero map $w: \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \omega$. Since C is integral, w is injective; whence, $Cok(w) = 0$ since $\chi(\mathcal{L}) = \chi(\omega)$. Thus w is bijective; so (1) holds.

The remaining assertions hold just because $\omega \simeq \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g-1)$ and $\deg \lambda = 2$. \square

Definition 2.7. As a further matter of notation, set

$$\mathcal{O} := \mathcal{O}_C \text{ and } \bar{\mathcal{O}} := \nu_* \mathcal{O}_{\bar{C}}.$$

Let \mathcal{C} denote the conductor of $\overline{\mathcal{O}}$ into \mathcal{O} . Given a point $P \in C$, set

$$\delta_P := \dim(\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P/\mathcal{O}_P) \text{ and } \eta_P := \delta_P - \dim(\mathcal{O}_P/\mathcal{C}_P).$$

Furthermore, set

$$\delta := \sum_{P \in C} \delta_P = h^0(\overline{\mathcal{O}}/\mathcal{O}) \text{ and } \eta := \sum_{P \in C} \eta_P = h^0(\mathcal{O}/\mathcal{C}).$$

Finally, set

$$\overline{\omega} := \nu_*\omega_{\overline{\mathcal{C}}} \text{ and } \overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega := \nu_*(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{\mathcal{C}}}\omega).$$

In the next lemma, the main assertion is the equation $\mathcal{C}\omega = \overline{\omega}$. It was proved implicitly by Rosenlicht [19, pp. 177–180 bot] and Serre [21, § 11, p. 80], and was proved explicitly by Stöhr [22, Prp. 2.2, p. 113]. It is proved here a bit differently.

Lemma 2.8. *We have $\mathcal{C}\omega = \overline{\mathcal{C}}\omega = \overline{\omega} \subset \omega \subset \overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega$. Furthermore, given $P \in C$, there is an $x \in \omega_P$ such that $\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P x = (\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P$; any such x satisfies $\mathcal{C}_P x = \overline{\omega}_P$.*

Proof. Plainly $\omega \subset \overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega$. Now, $\overline{\omega} = \text{Hom}(\overline{\mathcal{O}}, \omega)$ by general principles [11, Ex. 7.2(a), p. 249]; so $\mathcal{C}\omega \subset \overline{\omega} \subset \omega$. Given $P \in C$ and $y \in \overline{\omega}_P$, we have to prove $y \in \mathcal{C}_P \omega_P$.

Since $\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P$ is a semilocal Dedekind domain, it's a UFD; so there is an $x \in \omega_P$ such that $\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P x = (\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P$. Fix such an x . Then $y = ax$ for some $a \in \overline{\mathcal{O}}_P$. We have to prove $a \in \mathcal{C}_P$, for then $y \in \mathcal{C}_P x \subset \mathcal{C}_P \omega_P$. So, given $b \in \overline{\mathcal{O}}_P$, we have to prove $ab \in \mathcal{O}_P$.

By general principles, $\mathcal{O} \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}(\omega, \omega)$; indeed, the natural map is injective, whence bijective since source and target have the same Euler characteristic by duality. So, given $z \in \omega_P$, we have $abz \in (\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P$ since $(\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P$ is an $\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P$ -module, and we have to prove $abz \in \omega_P$.

Say $z = cx$ where $c \in \overline{\mathcal{O}}_P$. Now, $y \in \overline{\omega}_P$, and $\overline{\omega}_P$ is an $\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P$ -module. So $bcy \in \overline{\omega}_P$. But $bcy = abcx = abz$. Thus $abz \in \overline{\omega}_P \subset \omega_P$, as desired. \square

In the next lemma, the first assertion is well known. It was proved by Rosenlicht [19, Thm. 10, p. 179] first, and his proof was repeated by Serre [21, § 11, p. 80]. The proof is repeated here, because, with one additional line, it yields Formula (2.9.1). Alternatively, this formula holds because, as observed by Eisenbud et al. [7, p. 535 mid], the residue map induces a perfect pairing on $\mathcal{O}_P/\mathcal{C}_P \times (\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P/\omega_P$.

Lemma 2.9. *Fix $P \in C$. Then $\eta_P \geq 0$, with equality iff \mathcal{O}_P is Gorenstein. Also,*

$$\eta_P = \delta_P - \dim((\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P/\omega_P). \quad (2.9.1)$$

Proof. By Lemma 2.8, there is an $x \in \omega_P$ such that $\mathcal{C}_P x = \overline{\omega}_P$. The latter equation is plainly equivalent to the injectivity of following map:

$$\mathcal{O}_P/\mathcal{C}_P \rightarrow \omega_P/\overline{\omega}_P \text{ defined by } f \mapsto fx.$$

The image is $\mathcal{O}_P x/\overline{\omega}_P$. By duality, $\dim(\omega_P/\overline{\omega}_P) = \delta$. Hence,

$$\eta_P = \dim(\omega_P/\mathcal{O}_P x). \quad (2.9.2)$$

Therefore, $\eta_P \geq 0$, and if equality holds, then \mathcal{O}_P is Gorenstein. Conversely, if \mathcal{O}_P is Gorenstein, then there is a $y \in \omega_P$ such that $\mathcal{O}_P y = \omega_P$, and so $\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P y = (\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P$; whence, by Lemma 2.8, we may take $x := y$, and so $\eta = 0$.

Finally, $\dim((\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P/\mathcal{O}_P x) = \delta_P$ as $(\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P = \overline{\mathcal{O}}_P x$. So (2.9.2) yields (2.9.1). \square

The following lemma is essentially Eisenbud et al.'s [7, Lem. 2, p. 534], and their proof is essentially the alternative proof here.

Lemma 2.10. *We have $\deg \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega = 2g - 2 - \eta$.*

Proof. The Riemann–Roch Theorem and the birational invariance of $\chi(\bullet)$ yield

$$\deg \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega = \chi(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega) - \chi(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}) = \chi(\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega) - \chi(\overline{\mathcal{O}}).$$

But Formula (2.9.1) and Definition 2.7 yield $\chi(\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega/\omega) = \delta - \eta$ and $\chi(\overline{\mathcal{O}}/\mathcal{O}) = \delta$. So the additivity of $\chi(\bullet)$ and the duality equation $\chi(\omega) = -\chi(\mathcal{O})$ yield the assertion:

$$\deg \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega = (\chi(\omega) + \delta - \eta) - (\chi(\mathcal{O}) + \delta) = 2g - 2 - \eta.$$

Alternatively, for each $P \in C$, there is an $x_P \in \omega_P$ such that $\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P x_P = (\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P$ by Lemma 2.8. Plainly, the various $\mathcal{O}_P x_P$ are the stalks of an invertible sheaf $\mathcal{L} \subset \omega$ such that $\nu^* \mathcal{L} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega$. Then $\deg \mathcal{L} = \deg \omega - \sum_{P \in C} \dim(\omega_P/\mathcal{O}_P x_P)$, and also, $\deg \mathcal{L} = \deg \nu^* \mathcal{L} = \deg \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega$; whence, (2.9.2) yields the asserted formula. \square

Lemma 2.11. *We have $\deg \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega \leq 2g - 2$, with equality iff C is Gorenstein.*

Proof. The assertion follows immediately from Lemma 2.10 and Lemma 2.9. \square

Lemma 2.12. *We have $d' \leq (2g - 2)/(\deg \overline{\kappa})$, with equality iff C is Gorenstein.*

Proof. As $d' = (\deg \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega)/(\deg \overline{\kappa})$, Lemma 2.11 yields the assertion. \square

Proposition 2.13. *If $\deg \overline{\kappa} = 1$, then C is nonhyperelliptic, and conversely.*

Proof. If $\deg \overline{\kappa} = 1$, then C is nonhyperelliptic by Proposition 2.6(1). Conversely, suppose $\deg \overline{\kappa} \geq 2$. Then $d' \leq g - 1$ by Lemma 2.12. But C' spans \mathbb{P}^{g-1} . Hence C' is the rational normal curve of degree $g - 1$ by a well-known old theorem [2, p. 18]. So Lemma 2.12 implies $\deg \overline{\kappa} = 2$ and C is Gorenstein. Hence $\kappa: C \rightarrow C'$ exists and is of degree 2. So C is hyperelliptic with $\lambda := \kappa$ since $C' \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$. \square

Proposition 2.14. *If C is nonhyperelliptic, then $d' = 2g - 2 - \eta$.*

Proof. As $d' = (\deg \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega)/(\deg \overline{\kappa})$, Proposition 2.13 and Lemma 2.10 yield the assertion. \square

Definition 2.15. Call C *nearly normal* if $h^0(\mathcal{O}/\mathcal{C}) = 1$, that is, if C has a unique multiple point P and its maximal ideal sheaf $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$ is equal to the conductor \mathcal{C} .

Proposition 2.16. *Suppose that C is nonhyperelliptic. If C is smooth, then $\overline{g} = g$ and $d' = 2g - 2$. If C is singular, then $d' \geq g + \overline{g} - 1$, with equality iff C is nearly normal.*

Proof. Proposition 2.13 yields $\deg \overline{\kappa} = 1$. Hence $d' = \deg \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega$. So Lemma 2.10 yields $d' = 2g - 2 - \eta$. But clearly, $\eta = \delta - h^0(\mathcal{O}/\mathcal{C})$ and $\delta = g - \overline{g}$. Hence

$$d' = g + \overline{g} - 2 + h^0(\mathcal{O}/\mathcal{C}).$$

If C is smooth, then $\overline{C} = C$; whence, $\overline{g} = g$ and $h^0(\mathcal{O}/\mathcal{C}) = 0$. If C is singular, then $h^0(\mathcal{O}/\mathcal{C}) \geq 1$, with equality iff C is nearly normal. \square

3. RATIONAL NORMAL MODELS

Preserve the setup introduced at the beginning of Section 2 and after Proposition 2.6. In this section, the main result is Theorem 3.4, which characterizes the case in which the canonical model C' is equal to the rational normal curve.

Rosenlicht [19, Thm. 16, p. 188] was the first to prove the next lemma, Clifford's theorem, for any C , but for an invertible \mathcal{F} . For an arbitrary \mathcal{F} , Kempf [14, p. 32] was the first to prove the bound in (1). Eisenbud, Harris, Koh, and Stillman [7, Thm. A, p. 532] used Kempf's argument (credited via [5, p. 544]) and Eisenbud's study of determinantal varieties [7, Thm. B, p. 537] to prove (1)–(5) and to generalize (5) to an arbitrary \mathcal{F} , thereby discovering a surprising new case; more about this case is said in Remark 3.5. Here, (5) is proved for any C by adapting the proof in [13, pp. 344–345], or what is virtually the same, that in [20, §1].

Lemma 3.1 (Clifford's Theorem). *Let \mathcal{F} be torsion-free sheaf of rank 1 on C such that $h^0(\mathcal{F}) \geq 1$ and $h^1(\mathcal{F}) \geq 1$.*

- (1) *Then $h^0(\mathcal{F}) + h^1(\mathcal{F}) \leq g + 1$. If equality holds, then $H^0(\mathcal{F})$ generates \mathcal{F} .*
- (2) *Equality holds in (1) and $h^0(\mathcal{F}) = 1$ iff $\mathcal{F} \simeq \mathcal{O}_C$.*
- (3) *Equality holds in (1) and $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = 1$ iff $\mathcal{F} \simeq \omega$.*
- (4) *Assume C is hyperelliptic. Then equality holds in (1) iff $\mathcal{F} \simeq \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(n)$ with $0 \leq n \leq g - 1$; if so, then $h^0(\mathcal{F}) = n + 1$.*
- (5) *Assume equality holds in (1) and \mathcal{F} is invertible. Assume either $h^0(\mathcal{F}) = 2$ or else $h^0(\mathcal{F}) \geq 3$ and $h^1(\mathcal{F}) \geq 2$. Then C is hyperelliptic.*

Proof. In (1), let us prove the bound following Kempf [14, pp. 25, 32]. Observe that the pairing

$$H^0(\mathcal{F}) \times \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega) \rightarrow H^0(\omega)$$

is nondegenerate; that is, if $(f, u) \mapsto 0$, then $f = 0$ or $u = 0$. But, given any three k -vector spaces A , B , and C of dimensions a , b , and c and given any nondegenerate pairing $A \times B \rightarrow C$, then $a + b \leq c + 1$; indeed, $A \times B$ may be viewed canonically as the set of k -points on a cone in the affine space whose k -points are $A \otimes B$, and this cone meets, only at the origin, the affine space whose k -points form the kernel of the induced map $A \otimes B \rightarrow C$. (This part of Kempf's proof has not appeared in print before. However, according to Arbarello et al. [1, p. 135], the bound $a + b \leq c + 1$ itself was “used” by H. Hopf in 1940/41.) Thus the bound holds.

In (1), assume equality holds. Following Eisenbud et al. [7, p. 536, mid], form the subsheaf $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F}$ generated by $H^0(\mathcal{F})$. Consider the induced sequence

$$H^0(\mathcal{G}) \xrightarrow{u} H^0(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{G}) \xrightarrow{v} H^1(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}).$$

By construction, u is an isomorphism; so $h^0(\mathcal{G}) = h^0(\mathcal{F})$. Now, $h^0(\mathcal{F}) \geq 1$ and \mathcal{F} is torsion-free sheaf of rank 1; hence, \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G} has finite support. So $H^1(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) = 0$. Hence v is surjective, and so $h^1(\mathcal{G}) \geq h^1(\mathcal{F})$. Hence

$$h^0(\mathcal{G}) + h^1(\mathcal{G}) \geq h^0(\mathcal{F}) + h^1(\mathcal{F}).$$

The left side is at most $g + 1$ by the bound with \mathcal{G} for \mathcal{F} . The right side is equal to $g + 1$ by assumption. Hence $h^1(\mathcal{G}) = h^1(\mathcal{F})$. Hence v is an isomorphism. Therefore, $H^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) = 0$. Hence $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{F}$. Thus $H^0(\mathcal{F})$ generates \mathcal{F} .

To prove (2) and (3), assume equality holds in (1). If $h^0(\mathcal{F}) = 1$, then there is a nonzero map $\mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$; it is plainly injective, so bijective as $\chi(\mathcal{O}_C) = \chi(\mathcal{F})$. If $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = 1$, then similarly, there is a bijection $\mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{\sim} \omega$. The converses plainly hold.

To prove (4), assume C is hyperelliptic. First, also assume equality holds in (1). Set $n := h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$. Then $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = g - n$. So, by hypothesis, $g - n \geq 1$. So $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g - n - 1)$ has a section that vanishes nowhere on the image under λ of the singular locus Σ of C . Let D be the section's divisor of zeros, and form the corresponding sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g - n - 1) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_D \rightarrow 0. \quad (3.1.1)$$

Set $\mathcal{G} := \mathcal{F} \otimes \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g - n - 1)$. Pull (3.1.1) back to C , and then tensor with \mathcal{F} . The result is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\lambda^{-1}D} \rightarrow 0,$$

because \mathcal{F} is invertible along $\lambda^{-1}D$ since $\lambda(\Sigma) \cap D = \emptyset$. Hence

$$\chi(\mathcal{G}) = \chi(\mathcal{F}) + \deg(\lambda) \cdot \deg(D) = n + 1 - (g - n) + 2(g - n - 1) = g - 1. \quad (3.1.2)$$

Consider the natural pairing

$$H^0(\mathcal{F}) \times H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g - n)) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{G}).$$

Plainly, it is nondegenerate. So $h^0(\mathcal{G}) \geq (n + 1) + (g - n) - 1 = g$. Hence $h^1(\mathcal{G}) \geq 1$ owing to (3.1.2). So

$$h^0(\mathcal{G}) + h^1(\mathcal{G}) \geq g + 1.$$

But the opposite inequality holds by (1) for \mathcal{G} . Hence equality holds, and $h^1(\mathcal{G}) = 1$. Therefore, $\mathcal{G} \simeq \omega$ by (3). But $\omega = \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g - 1)$ by Proposition 2.6(2). Thus $\mathcal{F} \simeq \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(n)$, and plainly $0 \leq n \leq g - 1$.

Conversely, also assume $\mathcal{F} \simeq \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(n)$ with $0 \leq n \leq g - 1$. Then

$$h^0(\mathcal{F}) \geq h^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(n)) = n + 1.$$

Now, $\omega \simeq \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g - 1)$ by Proposition 2.6(2). So $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega) \simeq \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g - 1 - n)$. Therefore, $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega) \supset H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g - 1 - n))$; whence, $h^1(\mathcal{F}) \geq g - n$. So

$$h^0(\mathcal{F}) + h^1(\mathcal{F}) \geq g + 1,$$

But the opposite inequality holds by (1). So equality holds in (1). Thus (4) holds.

To prove (5), assume equality holds in (1) and \mathcal{F} is invertible. Then $H^0(\mathcal{F})$ generates \mathcal{F} by (1). Set $n := h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$. Then there is a map $\rho: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ such that $\mathcal{F} = \rho^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1)$ and ρC spans \mathbb{P}^n . Moreover, the equality in (1) yields $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = g - n$.

First, also assume $h^0(\mathcal{F}) = 2$. Then $n = 1$ and $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = g - 1$. So the Riemann-Roch theorem yields $\deg \mathcal{F} = 2$. So $\rho: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ has degree 2. Thus C is hyperelliptic.

Finally, also assume $h^0(\mathcal{F}) \geq 3$ and $h^1(\mathcal{F}) \geq 2$. Let Σ be the singular locus of C . Fix a point P of C off $\rho^{-1}\rho\Sigma$. Since $h^1(\mathcal{F}) \geq 2$, there is a nonzero map $u: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \omega$ that vanishes at P . Now, $n \geq 2$ and ρC spans \mathbb{P}^n ; so ρC is not a line. So there is a point Q of C such that (1) ρQ does not lie on the line through ρP and ρS for any $S \in \Sigma$ and such that (2) u is not bijective at Q . Then the line through ρP and ρQ does not contain ρS for any $S \in \Sigma$. So there is a hyperplane H containing ρP and ρQ , but not ρS for any $S \in \Sigma$.

Set $D := \rho^{-1}H$. Then D is an effective divisor, which contains P and Q , but no point of Σ ; furthermore, $\mathcal{O}_C(D) = \mathcal{F}$. Fix a map $f: \mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ whose locus of zeros is D . Then f induces a map $h: \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega) \rightarrow \omega$. Form the map

$$(u, -h): \mathcal{F} \oplus \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega) \rightarrow \omega.$$

Denote its kernel and image by \mathcal{F}' and \mathcal{G} , and form the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}' \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \oplus \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \rightarrow 0. \quad (3.1.3)$$

Plainly, \mathcal{F}' and \mathcal{G} are torsion-free sheaf of rank 1.

Let $R \in \Sigma$ be arbitrary. Then $R \notin D$. So $f: \mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ is bijective at R . Hence $h: \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega) \rightarrow \omega$ is bijective at R . Therefore, $\mathcal{F}' \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ is bijective at R . It follows that \mathcal{F}' is invertible and that $\mathcal{F}' \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ is injective. Furthermore, $\mathcal{F}' \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ is not bijective at Q because u is not bijective at Q . Therefore, $h^1(\mathcal{F}') \geq h^1(\mathcal{F}) \geq 2$ and $\deg \mathcal{F}' < \deg \mathcal{F}$.

The map $u: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \omega$ induces a map $v: \mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega)$. With it, form the map

$$\begin{pmatrix} f \\ v \end{pmatrix}: \mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \oplus \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega).$$

It is injective as f is (or as v is). Plainly, the composition $(u, -h) \begin{pmatrix} f \\ v \end{pmatrix}$ vanishes. Hence $\begin{pmatrix} f \\ v \end{pmatrix}$ factors through \mathcal{F}' , so induces a section of \mathcal{F}' . This section is nonzero, and it vanishes at P since both f and v do. Hence \mathcal{F}' is nontrivial and $h^0(\mathcal{F}') \geq 1$.

On the category of torsion-free \mathcal{O}_C -modules \mathcal{M} , the functor $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{M}, \omega)$ is dualizing; see, for example, from [6, Thm. 21.21]. Now, by definition, $h = \text{Hom}(f, \omega)$ and $v = \text{Hom}(u, \omega)$. Hence there are canonical isomorphisms $f = \text{Hom}(h, \omega)$ and $u = \text{Hom}(v, \omega)$. Therefore, the functor turns the map $\begin{pmatrix} f \\ v \end{pmatrix}$ into the map

$$(u, h): \mathcal{F} \oplus \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega) \rightarrow \omega.$$

Plainly, the image of (u, h) is equal to that of $(u, -h)$, namely, \mathcal{G} .

Since $\begin{pmatrix} f \\ v \end{pmatrix}$ factors through \mathcal{F}' , dually (u, h) factors through $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}', \omega)$. The map into $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}', \omega)$ is surjective, because the dual of Sequence (3.1.3) is exact, as \mathcal{G} is torsion free. The map out of $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}', \omega)$ is injective, as this sheaf is torsion free. Hence $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}', \omega)$ is equal to the image of (u, h) , so to \mathcal{G} . Therefore, $h^1(\mathcal{F}') = h^0(\mathcal{G})$.

Since the sequence (3.1.3) is exact, we therefore have

$$h^0(\mathcal{F}) + h^1(\mathcal{F}) \leq h^0(\mathcal{F}') + h^1(\mathcal{F}').$$

By hypothesis, the left-hand side is equal to $g + 1$. By (1), the right-hand side is at most $g + 1$. Hence the right-hand side is equal to $g + 1$. But \mathcal{F}' is nontrivial and $h^0(\mathcal{F}') \geq 1$. Hence (2) implies $h^0(\mathcal{F}') \geq 2$. But $h^1(\mathcal{F}') \geq 2$ and \mathcal{F}' is invertible. Thus the hypotheses of (5) are fulfilled with \mathcal{F}' in place of \mathcal{F} . But $\deg \mathcal{F}' < \deg \mathcal{F}$. Therefore, by induction on $\deg \mathcal{F}$, we may conclude that C is hyperelliptic. Thus (5) holds. \square

Proposition 3.2. *Assume $g = 2$. Then C is hyperelliptic iff C is Gorenstein.*

Proof. If C is Gorenstein, then Clifford's Theorem 3.1(5) with $\mathcal{F} := \omega$ implies that C is hyperelliptic. The converse holds by Proposition 2.6(1). \square

Lemma 3.3. *Let $S \subset \mathbb{P}^{n+1}$ be the cone, say with vertex P , over the rational normal curve N_n of degree n in \mathbb{P}^n with $n \geq 2$. Let D be a curve on S of degree $2n + 1$. Then D contains P , and has arithmetic genus n ; furthermore, the canonical map of D is isomorphic to the projection from a ruling of S . If P is simple on D , then D is hyperelliptic. If P is multiple, then its multiplicity is $n + 1$, it is resolved by blowing up, and it is the only multiple point of D ; moreover, then the maximal ideal sheaf of P is equal to the conductor of D , and D is rational, but not Gorenstein.*

Proof. Let \widehat{S} be the blowup of S at P , and E the exceptional divisor. Then \widehat{S} is a rational ruled surface, and E is a section with $E^2 = -n$, according to [11, Ch. V, Sec. 2]. Let f be a ruling. Let H be the pullback of a hyperplane section. Then $H \equiv E + nf$; indeed, $H \cdot f = 1$ as f maps isomorphically onto a line, and $H \cdot E = 0$

as E contracts to P . Let \widehat{D} be the strict transform of D . Say $\widehat{D} \equiv aE + bf$. Then $b = 2n + 1$ since $\widehat{D} \cdot H = \deg D$. But $b \geq an$ by [11, Cor. 2.18(b)]; hence, $a = 1, 2$.

Suppose $a = 2$. Then $\widehat{D} \cdot E = 1$; hence, the map $\widehat{D} \rightarrow D$ is an isomorphism, and $P \in D$ is simple. And $\widehat{D} \cdot f = 2$; hence, the projection of \widehat{S} onto the base \mathbb{P}^1 induces a map $\widehat{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ of degree 2. So D is hyperelliptic, with the projection from P as the map $\lambda: D \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ of degree 2. But the projection of D from a ruling is equal to λ followed by the projection of the rational normal curve N_n from a point; hence, the projection from a ruling is isomorphic to the canonical map by Proposition 2.6(2). Furthermore, the arithmetic genus of D is equal to $1 + (D + K) \cdot D/2$ where K is a canonical divisor on \widehat{S} . But $K \equiv -2E - (2 + n)f$ by [11, Cor. V, 2.11]. Therefore, D is of genus n .

Finally, suppose $a = 1$. Then $\widehat{D} \cdot E = n + 1$; hence, the multiplicity of P on D is $n + 1$. And $\widehat{D} \cdot f = 1$; hence, the projection of \widehat{S} onto the base \mathbb{P}^1 induces an isomorphism $\widehat{D} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{P}^1$, and so P is resolved by blowing up, P is the only multiple point of D , and D is rational.

Denote by A the local ring of D at P , by M its maximal ideal, and by \overline{A} its normalization. Then $\dim(\overline{A}/M\overline{A})$ is equal to the multiplicity of A , so to $n + 1$. Denote by n^\dagger the arithmetic genus of D . Then $\dim(\overline{A}/M) = n^\dagger + 1$ since D is rational and P is its only multiple point. Hence $n^\dagger \geq n$, with equality iff $M = M\overline{A}$.

Set $h_i := h^i(\mathcal{O}_D(1))$. Then $h_0 \geq n + 2$ because D lies in no hyperplane H of \mathbb{P}^{n+1} ; else, D lies in $H \cap S$, so is a union of lines. Hence the Riemann–Roch Theorem yields the inequality: $n + 2 \leq (2n + 1) + 1 - n^\dagger + h_1$, or $n^\dagger \leq n + h_1$. If $h_1 > 0$, then Clifford’s Inequality, Lemma 3.1(1), yields the opposite inequality: $n + 2 + h_1 \leq n^\dagger + 1$, or $n + h_1 < n^\dagger$. Thus $h_1 = 0$ and so $n^\dagger \leq n$.

Combined, the above two paragraphs yield the equations: $n^\dagger = n$ and $M = M\overline{A}$. Therefore, M is an ideal in \overline{A} , so is the conductor of \overline{A} into A . As P is the only multiple point, the maximal ideal sheaf of P is equal to the conductor of D .

The definition of η now yields $\eta = n - 1$. But $n \geq 2$. So $\eta \geq 1$. Hence D is not Gorenstein by Lemma 2.9. Therefore, D is nonhyperelliptic by Proposition 2.6(1). Denote by D' the canonical model of D . Then $\deg D' = n - 1$ by Proposition 2.16 since D is rational and nonhyperelliptic. But D' spans \mathbb{P}^{n-1} . Hence D' is the rational normal curve N_{n-1} by a well-known old theorem [2, p.18]. Since the projection of D from a ruling of S is also birational onto the the rational normal curve N_{n-1} , the projection is isomorphic to the canonical map. \square

Theorem 3.4. *The following three conditions are equivalent:*

- (a) *either C is hyperelliptic, or C is rational and nearly normal;*
- (b) *C is isomorphic to a curve of degree $2n + 1$ in \mathbb{P}^{n+1} that lies on the cone S over the rational normal curve N_n of degree n in \mathbb{P}^n for some n at least 2;*
- (c) *C' is equal to the rational normal curve N_{g-1} of degree $g - 1$ in \mathbb{P}^{g-1} .*

If (b) holds, then $n = g$, and the canonical map corresponds to the projection from a ruling.

Proof. Condition (b) implies (a) and (c) and the final assertion by Lemma 3.3.

Assume that (c) holds and that C is nonhyperelliptic. Then $\deg \overline{\kappa} = 1$ by Lemma 2.13. Hence $\overline{\kappa}: \overline{C} \rightarrow C'$ is an isomorphism since C' is smooth. So $\overline{g} = 0$. But $d' = g - 1$. So (a) holds by Proposition 2.16. Thus (c) implies (a).

Finally, assume (a), and let’s prove (b). First, suppose C is hyperelliptic, and

let $\lambda: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be the map of degree 2. Pick a simple point $P \in C$, and set $\mathcal{L} := \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g) \otimes \mathcal{O}_C(P)$. Then $\deg(\mathcal{L}) = 2g + 1$. So \mathcal{L} is very ample and $h^1(\mathcal{L}) = 0$ by Lemma 5.1. The Riemann–Roch Theorem yields $h^0(\mathcal{L}) = g + 2$. So \mathcal{L} provides an embedding $\gamma: C \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g+1}$ with $\deg(\gamma(C)) = 2g + 1$. Since $\mathcal{L} := \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g) \otimes \mathcal{O}_C(P)$, projection from $\gamma(P)$ is the map provided by $\lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(g)$. So its image is the rational normal curve N_g . Hence $\gamma(C)$ lies on the cone over N_g with vertex at $\gamma(P)$.

Second, suppose C is rational, C has a unique multiple point P , and $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}} = \mathcal{C}$. Then $\overline{C} \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$. Take a coordinate function x on \overline{C} that is finite on $\nu^{-1}P$. Set $\overline{A} := k[x]$. Let A be the ring of $\nu(\text{Spec}(\overline{A})) \subset C$. Form the conductor of \overline{A} into A , say it's the principal ideal $f\overline{A}$. Then $f\overline{A}$ is equal to the maximal ideal of P in A since $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}} = \mathcal{C}$. Hence $A = k + f\overline{A}$. Further, $\deg(f) = g + 1$ since $\dim(\overline{A}/A) = g$ as C is rational of genus g . Say $f = x^{g+1} + a_1x^g + \dots$. Then $x^{g+1} = f - a_1x^g - \dots$. It follows that A is generated as a k -algebra by $f, xf, \dots, x^g f$.

Consider the map $\overline{\gamma}: \overline{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g+1}$ given by

$$\overline{\gamma}(x) := (f, xf, \dots, x^g f, 1).$$

Then $\overline{\gamma}$ factors through a map $\gamma: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g+1}$ because $x^i f \in A$. Further, γ is an embedding on $\text{Spec}(A)$ because A is generated as a k -algebra by $f, xf, \dots, x^g f$, and γ is an embedding at infinity because $f/xf = 1/x$. Clearly, $\gamma(P) = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$ and projection from $\gamma(P)$ maps $\gamma(C)$ birationally onto N_g . Hence $\gamma(C)$ lies on the cone over N_g with vertex at $\gamma(P)$. Thus (b) holds with $n := g$. \square

Remark 3.5. Part of Theorem 3.4 was known already. Eisenbud et al. [7, Rmk. p. 533] noted that, if C is rational, if C has a unique multiple point P , and if $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}} = \mathcal{C}$, then C is isomorphic to a curve of degree $2g + 1$ in \mathbb{P}^{g+1} that lies on the cone S over the rational normal curve N_g of degree g in \mathbb{P}^g and C is multiple at the vertex. The converse was discovered by the second author [17, Thm. 2.1, p. 461], who sketched an elementary computational proof.

Interest stems from Clifford's Theorem. Indeed, Eisenbud et al. proved that these C are just the curves that possess a noninvertible torsion-free sheaf \mathcal{F} of rank 1 such that $h^0(\mathcal{F}) \geq 2$ and $h^1(\mathcal{F}) \geq 2$ and $h^0(\mathcal{F}) + h^1(\mathcal{F}) = g + 1$. Further, as in the hyperelliptic case, for each integer n with $1 \leq n \leq g - 1$, there is a unique such \mathcal{F} with $h^0(\mathcal{F}) = n + 1$; namely, in terms of the normalization map $\nu: \overline{C} \rightarrow C$, the \mathcal{O}_C -module \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the submodule of $\nu_* \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}(n)$ generated by the vector space $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}(n))$.

4. THE GORENSTEIN LOCUS

Preserve the general setup introduced at the beginning of Section 2 and after Proposition 2.6. In this section, the main result is Theorem 4.13, which asserts that, if C is nonhyperelliptic, then its canonical map $\overline{\kappa}: \overline{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$ induces an open embedding of its Gorenstein locus $G \subset C$ into its canonical model C' . The proof involves the blowup \widehat{C} of C with respect to ω , which is introduced in Definition 4.4.

First, Theorem 4.3 treats the special case in which C is nonhyperelliptic and Gorenstein; in this case, $\overline{\kappa}$ induces an isomorphism, $\kappa: C \xrightarrow{\sim} C'$. This result was proved by Rosenlicht [19, Thm. 17, p. 189], who used the Riemann–Roch Theorem and Clifford's Theorem on C' much as here. In addition, Theorem 4.3 gives three necessary and sufficient numerical conditions for this case to occur.

Furthermore, Theorem 4.3 asserts that, in this case, C' is *extremal*; that is, its genus is maximal for its degree, which is $2g - 2$. The theorem also asserts the

converse: every extremal curve of degree $2g-2$ in \mathbb{P}^{g-1} is Gorenstein of genus g , and is its own canonical model. These statements too were discovered by Rosenlicht [19, Cor., p.189], and proved much as here.

Neither Theorem 4.3 nor Theorem 4.13 depends logically on the other, and their proofs are rather different in nature; the first is global, the second local.

Lemma 4.1. *Assume that there is a nondegenerate embedding of C in \mathbb{P}^r with degree d . Set $h_i := h^i(\mathcal{O}_C(1))$. If $d < 2r$, then $g \leq d - r$ and $h_1 = 0$. If $d = 2r$, then either $h_1 = 0$ and $g \leq r$, or else $h_1 = 1$ and $g = r + 1 = h_0$ and $\mathcal{O}_C(1) \simeq \omega$.*

Proof. Since $C \subset \mathbb{P}^r$ is nondegenerate, $r \leq h_0 - 1$. By the Riemann–Roch Theorem, $h_0 - 1 = d - g + h_1$. Hence $g \leq d - r + h_1$. And so $g < r + h_1$ if $d < 2r$.

If $h_1 > 0$, then Clifford’s Theorem 3.1(1) yields $h_0 + h_1 \leq g + 1$. But $r \leq h_0 - 1$. So if $h_1 > 0$, then $r + h_1 \leq g$. Thus if $d < 2r$, then $h_1 = 0$ and so $g \leq d - r$.

Assume therefore $d = 2r$. Then $r \leq h_0 - 1 = 2r - g + h_1$. So $g \leq r + h_1$. Thus $g \leq r$ if $h_1 = 0$. Assume therefore $h_1 \geq 1$ also. Then $r + h_1 \leq g$. Hence $g = r + h_1$. So $h_0 - 1 = 2r - (r + h_1) + h_1 = r$ and $h_0 + h_1 = g + 1$.

Thus, if $h_1 = 1$, then $g = r + 1 = h_0$, and by Lemma 3.1(3), then $\mathcal{O}_C(1) \simeq \omega$.

Finally, if $h_1 \geq 2$, then the proof of Lemma 3.1(5) implies $H^0(\mathcal{O}_C(1))$ defines a map $C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^r$ of degree 2, contrary to hypothesis. Thus this case does not occur. \square

Definition 4.2. A nondegenerate (reduced and irreducible) curve in \mathbb{P}^r is said to be *extremal* if its (arithmetic) genus is maximal among all curves of its degree.

Theorem 4.3. *The following six conditions are equivalent:*

- (a) C is nonhyperelliptic and Gorenstein;
- (b) $d' = 2g - 2$;
- (c) $g' = g$.
- (d) $d' = g' + g - 2$;
- (e) $\kappa: C \rightarrow C'$ exists, and is an isomorphism.
- (f) C is isomorphic to a curve $C^\dagger \subset \mathbb{P}^r$ that is nondegenerate, of degree $2r$, and extremal, for some $r \geq 2$.

If (f) holds, then the isomorphism is equal to κ ; in particular, $C^\dagger = C'$ and $r = g - 1$.

Proof. Lemma 2.11 implies $d' = 2g - 2$ iff $\deg \bar{\kappa} = 1$ and C is Gorenstein. So Proposition 2.13 implies (a) and (b) are equivalent.

Set $h_i := h^i(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1))$. Then $g \leq h_0$ because C' is nondegenerate in \mathbb{P}^{g-1} by construction.

Suppose (a) and (b) hold. Apply the Riemann–Roch Theorem to $\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)$, getting

$$g \leq (2g - 2) + (1 - g') + h_1, \text{ or } g' + 1 \leq g + h_1.$$

Now, (a) implies $\kappa: C \rightarrow C'$ exists, and by Proposition 2.13, is birational; whence, $g \leq g'$. Hence $h_1 \geq 1$. So $h_0 + h_1 \leq g' + 1$ by Clifford’s Theorem, 3.1(1). Thus

$$g' + 1 \leq g + h_1 \leq h_0 + h_1 \leq g' + 1;$$

whence, $g = h_0$ and $h_0 + h_1 = g' + 1$. But $g \geq 2$, so $h_0 \geq 2$. So, if $h_1 \geq 2$, then C' is hyperelliptic by Clifford’s Theorem, 3.1(5); hence, C is hyperelliptic too, contrary to (a). Hence $h_1 = 1$. Thus (c) holds.

Conversely, suppose (c) holds. By hypothesis, $g \geq 2$. So $g' \neq 0$. Hence C is nonhyperelliptic by Proposition 2.6(3). So $\deg \bar{\kappa} = 1$ by Proposition 2.13. So

$d' \leq 2g - 2$, with equality iff C is Gorenstein by Lemma 2.11. Apply the Riemann–Roch Theorem to $\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)$: since $g \leq h_0$, and since $g' = g$ by (c), we get

$$g \leq (2g - 2) + (1 - g) + h_1, \text{ or } 1 \leq h_1,$$

with equality only if C is Gorenstein. Hence, $g + h_1 \leq g' + 1$ by Clifford’s Theorem, 3.1(1). But $g' = g$. Hence $h_1 = 1$, and so C is Gorenstein. Thus (a) holds.

Plainly, (b) and (c) imply (d). Conversely, suppose (d) holds. Then C is nonhyperelliptic; otherwise, Proposition 2.6(3) implies $g' = 0$ and $d' = g - 1$, contradicting (d). So $\deg \bar{\kappa} = 1$ by Proposition 2.13. So $d' \leq 2g - 2$, with equality iff C is Gorenstein by Lemma 2.11; whence, (d) implies $g' \leq g$, with equality iff C is Gorenstein. Apply the Riemann–Roch Theorem to $\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)$: since $g \leq h_0$, we get

$$g \leq (g' + g - 2) + (1 - g') + h_1, \text{ or } 1 \leq h_1.$$

Hence $g + h_1 \leq g' + 1$ by Clifford’s Theorem 3.1(1), and so $g \leq g'$. Hence $g = g'$, and so C is Gorenstein. Thus (a) and (c) hold.

Suppose (a) and (c) hold. Then, as noted above, $\kappa: C \rightarrow C'$ exists and is birational. But $g' = g$ by (c); hence, κ is an isomorphism. Thus (e) holds. Conversely, (e) trivially implies (c). Thus (a)–(e) are equivalent.

Suppose (a)–(e) hold, and set $r := g - 1$. Then C is isomorphic to $C' \subset \mathbb{P}^r$ by (e). Also, C' is nondegenerate by construction, and C' is of degree $2r$ by (b). If $r = 1$, then C' is equal to \mathbb{P}^1 , and so C' is of degree 1; hence, $r \geq 2$. Furthermore, C' is of genus $r + 1$ by (c); hence, C' is extremal, because any nondegenerate curve of degree $2r$ in \mathbb{P}^r is of genus at most $r + 1$ by Lemma 4.1. Thus (f) holds.

Finally, suppose (f) holds; that is, $C^\dagger \subset \mathbb{P}^r$ is extremal of degree $2r$. But, we just proved that, given any Gorenstein curve of genus $r + 1$, its canonical model is an extremal curve of degree $2r$ and of genus $r + 1$ in \mathbb{P}^r . So C^\dagger is of genus $r + 1$. Hence $\mathcal{O}_{C^\dagger}(1) \simeq \omega$ by Lemma 4.1. Hence the given isomorphism $C \xrightarrow{\sim} C^\dagger$ is defined by $H^0(\omega)$, so coincides with κ . Thus the final assertion holds, and it implies (e). The proof is now complete. \square

Definition 4.4. For each integer $n \geq 0$, set

$$\omega^n := (\text{Sym}^n \omega) / \text{Torsion}(\text{Sym}^n \omega).$$

Plainly, $\bigoplus \omega^n$ is a quasi-coherent sheaf of finitely generated \mathcal{O}_C -domains. Form

$$\widehat{C} := \text{Proj}(\bigoplus \omega^n) \text{ and } \beta: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C,$$

with β the structure map. In keeping with the notation $\mathcal{O} := \mathcal{O}_C$ and $\overline{\mathcal{O}} := \nu_* \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}$ and with the notation $\overline{\omega} := \nu_* \omega_{\overline{C}}$ and $\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega := \nu_*(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega)$, set

$$\widehat{\mathcal{O}} := \beta_* \mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}} \text{ and } \widehat{\omega} := \beta_*(\omega_{\widehat{C}}) \text{ and } \widehat{\mathcal{O}}\omega := \beta_*(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega).$$

Call \widehat{C} the *blowup* of C with respect to ω , and β the *blowup map*.

Proposition 4.5. *The blowup \widehat{C} is an integral curve, the blowup map $\beta: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C$ is birational, and the sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is invertible and generated by $H^0(\omega)$. Furthermore, given any integral scheme A and any nonconstant map $\alpha: A \rightarrow C$, the sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{A\omega}$ is invertible iff there is a map $a: A \rightarrow \widehat{C}$ such that $\alpha = \beta a$; if so, then $\mathcal{O}_{A\omega} = a^* \mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$.*

Proof. Plainly, \widehat{C} is an integral scheme, and $\beta: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C$ is of finite type. Now, the smooth locus of C is a nonempty open set U on which ω is invertible. Fix any U on which ω is invertible. On U , the sum $\bigoplus \omega^n$ is locally isomorphic to the polynomial algebra in one variable over \mathcal{O}_C ; whence, β restricts to an isomorphism over U .

Thus $\beta: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C$ is birational, and so \widehat{C} is an integral curve.

Since \widehat{C} is integral and $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}(1)$ is invertible, $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}(1)$ is torsion free. Now, ω is invertible on U ; so, on $\beta^{-1}U$, the tautological surjection $\beta^*\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}(1)$ is an isomorphism. Hence, this surjection induces a global isomorphism $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}(1)$. Thus $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is invertible. And it is generated by $H^0(\omega)$ because ω is.

Suppose $\alpha = \beta a$. Then $\alpha^*\omega = a^*\beta^*\omega$. Now, the surjection $\beta^*\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is an isomorphism on $\beta^{-1}U$. Hence it induces a surjection $\alpha^*\omega \rightarrow a^*\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$, which is an isomorphism on $\alpha^{-1}U$; and $\alpha^{-1}U$ is nonempty since α is nonconstant. Since $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is invertible, so is $a^*\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$. Hence $a^*\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is torsion free since A is integral. Therefore, there is an induced isomorphism $\mathcal{O}_A\omega \xrightarrow{\sim} a^*\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$. Thus $\mathcal{O}_A\omega$ is invertible.

Conversely, assume $\mathcal{O}_A\omega$ is invertible. Then the surjection $\alpha^*\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_A\omega$ defines a C -map $p: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\omega)$ by general principles [10, Prp. (4.2.3), p. 73]. Plainly, p factors through $\widehat{C} \subset \mathbb{P}(\omega)$ if, for each $n \geq 0$, the induced map $w_n: \alpha^* \text{Sym}^n \omega \rightarrow (\mathcal{O}_A\omega)^{\otimes n}$ factors through $\alpha^*\omega^n$. But w_n does factor because, on the one hand, the surjection $\alpha^* \text{Sym}^n \omega \rightarrow \alpha^*\omega^n$ is an isomorphism on $\alpha^{-1}U$, so its kernel is torsion, and on the other hand, $(\mathcal{O}_A\omega)^{\otimes n}$ is torsion free since $\mathcal{O}_A\omega$ is invertible and A is integral. \square

Definition 4.6. Denote by G the largest open subset of C where ω is invertible — that is, where the local rings of C are Gorenstein — and call G the *Gorenstein locus*.

Corollary 4.7. *The Gorenstein locus G of C is the largest open subset A such that the blowup map β restricts to an isomorphism $\beta^{-1}A \xrightarrow{\sim} A$.*

Proof. Taking $U := G$ in the first paragraph of the proof of Proposition 4.5, we find that β restricts to an isomorphism $\beta^{-1}G \xrightarrow{\sim} G$. On the other hand, given an A such that β restricts to an isomorphism $\beta^{-1}A \xrightarrow{\sim} A$, plainly ω is invertible on A as $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is invertible on \widehat{C} by Proposition 4.5; whence, A lies in G . \square

Definition 4.8. Owing to Proposition 4.5, the normalization map $\nu: \overline{C} \rightarrow C$ and the canonical map $\overline{\kappa}: \overline{C} \rightarrow C'$, both factor uniquely through normalization map $\widehat{\nu}: \overline{C} \rightarrow \widehat{C}$; that is,

$$\nu = \beta\widehat{\nu} \text{ and } \overline{\kappa} = \widehat{\kappa}\widehat{\nu}.$$

In view of Corollary 4.7, it is natural to set $\kappa := \widehat{\kappa} \circ (\beta|_G)^{-1}$, thereby extending the definition of κ for a Gorenstein C to an arbitrary C . In addition to $\overline{\kappa}: \overline{C} \rightarrow C'$, call $\widehat{\kappa}: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C'$ and $\kappa: G \rightarrow C'$ the *canonical maps* of C .

Corollary 4.9. *The invertible sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is of degree $2g - 2 - \eta$.*

Proof. Proposition 4.5 implies $\widehat{\nu}^*\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega = \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega$; so $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}\omega$ are of the same degree. Hence Lemma 2.10 yields the assertion. \square

Lemma 4.10. *Let \mathcal{F} be a coherent sheaf on C . Let $P \in C$ be a (closed) point at which \mathcal{F} is invertible and generated by $H^0(\mathcal{F})$. Assume either*

- (a) *there exists a (closed) point $Q \in C$ such that $Q \neq P$, such that \mathcal{F} is invertible at Q too, and such that $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) = H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{F})$, or*
- (b) *the natural map $v: H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}^2\mathcal{F})$ is not surjective.*

Then there exists a coherent subsheaf $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F}$ such that

$$h^0(\mathcal{G}) = h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1 \text{ and } h^1(\mathcal{G}) = h^1(\mathcal{F}) + 1$$

and such that $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G})$ is $\{P\} \cup \{Q\}$ if (a) holds or is $\{P\}$ if (b) holds.

Proof. Suppose (a) holds. Take $\mathcal{G} := \mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}$. Then $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G})$ consists of $P \cup Q$. And $h^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) = 2$ since \mathcal{F} is invertible at both P and Q ; whence, $\chi(\mathcal{G}) = \chi(\mathcal{F}) - 2$. So it remains to prove $h^0(\mathcal{G}) = h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$.

As \mathcal{F} is invertible at Q , we have $h^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{F}) = 1$. So the inclusion $\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{F} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}$ yields $h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{F}) \geq h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$. By hypothesis, $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) = H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{F})$. Hence $h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) \geq h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$. But $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) \subset H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F})$. And $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) \subsetneq H^0(\mathcal{F})$ because \mathcal{F} is generated by $H^0(\mathcal{F})$ at P . Therefore, $h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{F}) \leq h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$. Thus $h^0(\mathcal{G}) = h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$, and the proof is complete when (a) holds.

Suppose (b) holds. Take a vector subspace V of $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}^2\mathcal{F})$ such that V contains the image of $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F})$ and V is of codimension 1. Then take a subsheaf \mathcal{H} of $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}^2\mathcal{F}$ such that $H^0(\mathcal{H}) = V$. Let \mathcal{G} be the preimage of \mathcal{H} in $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}$. Then $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) = \{P\}$. Now, $h^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) = h^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) + h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G})$. But $h^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) = 1$ as \mathcal{F} is invertible at P , and $h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) = 1$ by construction. So $h^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) = 2$; whence, $\chi(\mathcal{G}) = \chi(\mathcal{F}) - 2$. So it remains to prove $h^0(\mathcal{G}) = h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$.

Form this natural commutative diagram with exact rows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & H^0(\mathcal{G}) & \longrightarrow & H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) & \xrightarrow{w} & H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow v & & \parallel \\ 0 & \rightarrow & H^0(\mathcal{G}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}^2\mathcal{F}) & \xrightarrow{u} & H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}^2\mathcal{F}) & \rightarrow & H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{G}) \end{array}$$

By construction, $\mathcal{G}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}^2\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{H}$. Hence $\text{Im}(u) = V$. By construction, $V \supset \text{Im}(v)$. Therefore, $w = 0$. Hence $H^0(\mathcal{G}) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F})$. However, $h^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) = 1$. And $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) \subsetneq H^0(\mathcal{F})$ because \mathcal{F} is generated by $H^0(\mathcal{F})$ at P . Therefore, the inclusion $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}$ gives $h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) = h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$. Thus $h^0(\mathcal{G}) = h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$, and the proof is complete. \square

Lemma 4.11. *Let $\mathcal{G} \subset \omega$ be a coherent subsheaf. Assume that $\text{Supp}(\omega/\mathcal{G})$ lies in the Gorenstein locus G and that $h^0(\mathcal{G}) = g - 1$ and $h^1(\mathcal{G}) = 2$. Then C is hyperelliptic.*

Proof. Set $\mathcal{L} := \text{Hom}(\mathcal{G}, \omega)$. Then $h^0(\mathcal{L}) = 2$ by duality. So there is an f in $H^0(\mathcal{L})$ that is not a multiple of the inclusion $h: \mathcal{G} \hookrightarrow \omega$. Set $\mathcal{H} := \mathcal{G} + f\mathcal{G} \subset \omega$. Then $H^0(\mathcal{G}) \subseteq H^0(\mathcal{H})$.

For a moment, suppose $H^0(\mathcal{G}) = H^0(\mathcal{H})$. Then f induces a k -linear endomorphism of $H^0(\mathcal{G})$. View f as multiplication by an element of the function field of C . Then, by the Cayley–Hamilton theorem, f is integral over k , so lies in k , since k is algebraically closed. Therefore, f is a multiple of $h: \mathcal{G} \hookrightarrow \omega$, contrary to the choice of f . Thus $H^0(\mathcal{G}) \subsetneq H^0(\mathcal{H})$.

By hypothesis, $h^0(\mathcal{G}) = g - 1$. So $h^0(\mathcal{H}) = g$. Hence $H^0(\mathcal{H}) = H^0(\omega)$. But $H^0(\omega)$ generates ω . Hence $\mathcal{H} = \omega$.

Set $S := \text{Supp}(\omega/\mathcal{G})$. By hypothesis, $S \subset G$. So ω is invertible along S . It follows that $f\mathcal{G} = \omega$ along S , since $\mathcal{G} + f\mathcal{G} =: \mathcal{H}$ and $\mathcal{H} = \omega$. Hence \mathcal{G} is invertible along S . But \mathcal{G} is equal to ω off S . Therefore, \mathcal{L} is invertible. Furthermore, \mathcal{L} is generated by its two global sections f and h .

By duality, $h^0(\mathcal{L}) = 2$ and $h^1(\mathcal{L}) = g - 1$. Hence, by the Riemann–Roch Theorem, $\deg(\mathcal{L}) = 2$. Therefore, the pair $(\mathcal{L}, H^0(\mathcal{L}))$ defines a map $C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ of degree 2. Thus C is hyperelliptic, as asserted. \square

Lemma 4.12. (1) Let $P \in C$ be a (closed) point. Then $h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega) = 1$.

(2) Let $P, Q \in C$ be distinct (closed) points, with Q multiple. Then

$$(a) \quad h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) = 1, \text{ and}$$

$$(b) \quad h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) < \min\{h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega), h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega)\}.$$

Proof. Consider (1). First, suppose P is simple. Then ω is invertible at P . Hence the inclusion $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega \hookrightarrow \omega$ yields this long exact sequence:

$$H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega) \xrightarrow{u} H^0(\omega) \rightarrow k \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega) \rightarrow H^1(\omega) \rightarrow 0.$$

Now, $H^0(\omega)$ generates ω . Hence u isn't surjective. So $H^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega) \xrightarrow{\simeq} H^1(\omega)$. But $h^1(\omega) = 1$. Thus (1) holds when P is simple.

Suppose P is multiple. Then $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$. Hence $\mathcal{C}\omega \subset \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega \subset \omega$. But $\mathcal{C}\omega = \nu_*(\omega_{\overline{C}})$ by Lemma 2.8; whence, $h^1(\mathcal{C}\omega) = 1$. Therefore,

$$1 = h^1(\mathcal{C}\omega) \geq h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega) \geq h^1(\omega) = 1.$$

Thus (1) also holds when P is multiple, and so (1) always holds.

Consider (2). Again, first suppose P is simple. Then the normalization map $\nu: \overline{C} \rightarrow C$ is an isomorphism over P . Set $\overline{P} := \nu^{-1}P$, and let $\mathcal{M}_{\{\overline{P}\}}$ denote its maximal ideal sheaf. Then $h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{\overline{P}\}}\omega_{\overline{C}}) = 1$ by (1) applied to $\overline{P} \in \overline{C}$. However, $\nu_*(\mathcal{M}_{\{\overline{P}\}}\omega_{\overline{C}}) = \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\overline{\omega}$, and $\overline{\omega} = \mathcal{C}\omega$ by Lemma 2.8. Hence $h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{C}\omega) = 1$.

Since Q is multiple, $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}$. Hence $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{C}\omega \subset \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega \subset \omega$. Therefore,

$$1 = h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{C}\omega) \geq h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) \geq h^1(\omega) = 1.$$

Thus (2)(a) holds when P is simple.

Suppose that P is multiple. Then $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}$ since P and Q are distinct. So $\mathcal{C}\omega \subset \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega$. But $\mathcal{C}\omega = \nu_*(\omega_{\overline{C}})$ by Lemma 2.8, and $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega \subset \omega$. Therefore,

$$1 = h^1(\mathcal{C}\omega) \geq h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) \geq h^1(\omega) = 1.$$

Thus (2)(a) also holds when P is multiple, and so (2)(a) always holds.

Finally, the inclusion $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega \hookrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega$ yields this long exact sequence:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) &\rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) \\ &\rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence (1) and (2)(a) imply $h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) < h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega)$. Similarly, the inclusion $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega \hookrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega$ yields $h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) < h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega)$ as $h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) = 1$ by (1) with $P := Q$. Thus (2)(b) holds, and the proof is complete. \square

Theorem 4.13. If C is nonhyperelliptic, then $\kappa: G \rightarrow C'$ is an open embedding.

Proof. Set $\widehat{G} := \beta^{-1}G$. Then β restricts to an isomorphism $\beta^{-1}G \xrightarrow{\simeq} G$ by Corollary 4.7. So it suffices to prove $\widehat{\kappa}$ restricts to an isomorphism $\widehat{G} \xrightarrow{\simeq} \widehat{\kappa}\widehat{G}$.

Let $\widehat{P} \in \widehat{G}$ be an arbitrary (closed) point. For a moment, assume (a) that $H^0(\omega)$ separates \widehat{P} from every other point $\widehat{Q} \in \widehat{C}$ and (b) that $H^0(\omega)$ separates tangent vectors at \widehat{P} . More precisely, (a) means that there is an $f \in H^0(\omega)$ whose image in $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$ lies in $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{\widehat{Q}\}}\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$, but not in $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{\widehat{P}\}}\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$. And (b) means that $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{\widehat{P}\}}\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$ maps onto $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{\widehat{P}\}}\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega/\mathcal{M}_{\{\widehat{P}\}}^2\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$.

Condition (a) implies that $\widehat{\kappa}\widehat{Q} \neq \widehat{\kappa}\widehat{P}$, because f defines a hyperplane in \mathbb{P}^{g-1}

that contains $\widehat{\kappa}\widehat{Q}$, but not $\widehat{\kappa}\widehat{P}$. Taking $\widehat{Q} \in \widehat{G}$ shows that the restriction $\widehat{G} \rightarrow C'$ is injective. Taking $\widehat{Q} \notin \widehat{G}$ shows that $\widehat{G} = \widehat{\kappa}^{-1}\widehat{\kappa}\widehat{G}$; whence, $\widehat{G} \rightarrow \widehat{\kappa}\widehat{G}$ is finite since $\widehat{\kappa}: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C'$ is finite. Condition (b) now implies that $\widehat{G} \rightarrow \widehat{\kappa}\widehat{G}$ is an isomorphism owing to a simple lemma of Commutative Algebra [11, Lem. II-7.4, p. 153]. Thus it remains to prove (a) and (b).

Set $P := \beta\widehat{P}$ and $Q := \beta\widehat{Q}$. To prove (a), it suffices to prove the inequality

$$h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega) < h^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega). \quad (4.13.1)$$

Indeed, (4.13.1) implies that there is an f in $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\omega)$ not in $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega)$. But $\mathcal{M}_{\{Q\}}\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}} \subset \mathcal{M}_{\{\widehat{Q}\}}$, and $\beta: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C$ is an isomorphism at \widehat{P} by Corollary 4.7. Hence (a) holds. Now, (4.13.1) holds if Q is multiple by Lemma 4.12(2), and if Q is simple by Lemma 4.10 with $\mathcal{F} := \omega$ and by Lemma 4.11.

Finally, $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega)$ maps onto $H^0(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\omega/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}^2\omega)$ owing to Lemma 4.10 with $\mathcal{F} := \omega$ and to Lemma 4.11. But $\beta: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C$ is an isomorphism at \widehat{P} by Proposition 4.7. Thus (b) holds, and the proof is complete. \square

5. ARITHMETICALLY NORMAL MODELS

Preserve the general setup introduced at the beginning of Section 2, after Proposition 2.6, and before Definition 4.4 and Definition 4.8. In this section, the main result is Theorem 5.10, which gives necessary and sufficient conditions for the canonical model C' to be arithmetically normal. The main new tool is Castelnuovo Theory. It also yields a third proof, given in Remark 5.6, that, if C is nonhyperelliptic and Gorenstein, then the canonical map yields an isomorphism $\kappa: C \xrightarrow{\sim} C'$.

Lemma 5.1. *Let \mathcal{F} be a torsion-free sheaf of rank 1 on C , and $P \in C$.*

- (1) *If $\chi(\mathcal{F}) \geq g$, then $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = 0$.*
- (2) *If $\chi(\mathcal{F}) \geq g + h^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F})$, then $H^0(\mathcal{F})$ generates \mathcal{F} at P .*
- (3) *If \mathcal{F} is invertible and $\deg(\mathcal{F}) \geq 2g + 1$, then \mathcal{F} is very ample and $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = 0$.*

Proof. To prove (1), suppose $h^1(\mathcal{F}) \neq 0$. Then, by duality, there is a nonzero map $\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \omega$. It is injective as \mathcal{F} is torsion-free of rank 1. Hence $\chi(\mathcal{F}) \leq \chi(\omega)$, contrary to hypothesis. Thus (1) holds.

To prove (2), note that $\chi(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) = \chi(\mathcal{F}) - h^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) \geq g$; so (1) implies that $h^1(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F}) = 0$. Hence $H^0(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}\mathcal{F})$ is surjective. Thus (2) holds.

To prove (3), note that $\chi(\mathcal{F}) \geq g + 2$ by the Riemann–Roch theorem. Hence (1) implies that $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = 0$, and (2) implies that $H^0(\mathcal{F})$ generates \mathcal{F} at every point. Suppose \mathcal{F} is not very ample. Then either $H^0(\mathcal{F})$ does not separate points or it does not separate tangent directions; either way, Lemma 4.10 implies that there is a coherent subsheaf $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F}$ such that $h^0(\mathcal{G}) = h^0(\mathcal{F}) - 1$ and $h^1(\mathcal{G}) = h^1(\mathcal{F}) + 1$. Then $h^1(\mathcal{G}) \geq 1$, and $\chi(\mathcal{G}) = \chi(\mathcal{F}) - 2 \geq g$, contrary to (1) applied with $\mathcal{F} := \mathcal{G}$. Thus (3) holds, and the proof is complete. \square

Proposition 5.2. *Assume C is not Gorenstein. Then $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is very ample, and $h^1(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega^{\otimes n}) = 0$ for $n \geq 1$.*

Proof. Fix a (closed) point $P \in C$. Set $\xi_P := \dim(\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_P/\mathcal{O}_P)$. Recall $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}\omega := \beta_*(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$. Set $\mu_P := \dim((\widehat{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P/\omega_P)$. Lemma 2.8 yields an $x \in \omega_P$ so that $\overline{\mathcal{O}}_Px = (\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P$. Then $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_Px = (\widehat{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P$ since $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is invertible. Hence $\dim((\widehat{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P/\mathcal{O}_Px) = \xi_P$. Hence

$$\xi_P = \eta_P + \mu_P$$

owing to Equation 2.9.2. If C is not Gorenstein at P , then $\eta_P \geq 1$ by Lemma 2.9, and $\mu_P \geq 1$ by the proof of Proposition 28 in [3, p. 438].

Let \widehat{g} denote the arithmetic genus of \widehat{C} . Then $\widehat{g} = g - \sum_{P \in C} \xi_P$. Set $\mu := \sum \mu_P$. Then $\widehat{g} = g - \eta - \mu$. However, $\deg \mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}} \omega = 2g - 2 - \eta$ by Corollary 4.9. Therefore, $\deg \mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}} \omega = 2\widehat{g} - 2 + \eta + 2\mu$. But $\eta \geq 1$ and $\mu \geq 1$ since C is not Gorenstein. Hence $\deg(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}} \omega^{\otimes n}) \geq 2\widehat{g} + 1$ for $n \geq 1$. So Lemma 5.1(3) yields the assertion. \square

Definition 5.3. Call the canonical model $C' \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$ *linearly normal* if the linear series of hyperplane sections is complete, in other words, if $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) = g$.

Call C' *projectively normal* if the linear series of hypersurface sections of degree n is complete for every $n \geq 1$, in other words, if the natural map

$$\mathrm{Sym}^n H^0(\omega) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(n))$$

is surjective for every $n \geq 1$.

Lemma 5.4. (1) *The model C' is linearly normal iff it is projectively normal.*

(2) *If C is Gorenstein, then C' is linearly normal.*

(3) *If C is not Gorenstein, then $h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) = 0$ for $l \geq 1$; furthermore, then C' is linearly normal iff $d' = g + g' - 1$.*

Proof. Trivially, C' is linearly normal if it is projectively normal. In other words, sufficiency holds in (1).

If C is Gorenstein, then $\kappa: C \rightarrow C'$ exists and $\kappa^* \mathcal{O}_{C'}(1) = \omega$. Hence, then $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) \leq h^0(\omega) = g$. But $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) \geq g$ always. Thus (2) holds.

Assume C is hyperelliptic. Then C' is equal to the rational normal curve of degree $g - 1$ in \mathbb{P}^{g-1} by Theorem 3.4 or by Proposition 2.6(3). So $g' = 0$ and $h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) = 0$; furthermore, C' is linearly normal and projectively normal. Thus (1) and (2) hold in this case. And (3) does not apply, since C is Gorenstein by Proposition 2.6(2). So from now on, assume C is nonhyperelliptic.

To prove necessity in (1) and to prove (3), let's apply Castelnuovo Theory as presented in [1, pp. 114–117]. First, note that, by the General Position Theorem [1, p. 109], a general hyperplane H meets C' in a set Γ of d' distinct points any $g - 1$ of which are linearly independent. Second, for $l \geq 1$, form the linear series of hypersurfaces of degree l in H containing Γ , and note that, by the lemma on p. 115 in [1], the series has (projective) dimension at least $\min\{d' - 1, l(g - 2)\}$.

Consider the following standard left exact sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l-1)) \xrightarrow{u} H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) \xrightarrow{v} H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma}(l)). \quad (5.4.1)$$

Let V_l denote the image of $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^{g-1}}(l))$ in $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l))$, and set $W_l := v(V_l)$. Then $\dim(W_l) \geq \min\{d', l(g - 2) + 1\}$ by the second note above. Hence

$$h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) - h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l-1)) \geq \min\{d', l(g - 2) + 1\}. \quad (5.4.2)$$

Also, if equality holds in (5.4.2), then $v(H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l))) = W_l$ since both sides have the same dimension. So $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l))$ is spanned by V_l and $\mathrm{Im}(u)$. But $u(V_{l-1}) \subset V_l$. And, if C' is linearly normal, then $V_1 = H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1))$. Hence, if in addition, equality holds in (5.4.2) for $l \geq 2$, then induction on l yields $V_l = H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l))$ for $l \geq 1$; in other words, then C' is projectively normal. Thus to complete the proof of (1), we have to prove that equality holds in (5.4.2) for $l \geq 2$.

Set $h(l) := h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l))$. Then $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) = ld' + 1 - g' + h(l)$ by the Riemann–Roch Theorem. Hence the bound (5.4.2) is equivalent to this bound:

$$d' - (h(l-1) - h(l)) \geq \min\{d', l(g-2) + 1\}. \quad (5.4.3)$$

Here $h(l-1) - h(l) \geq 0$ because the sequence (5.4.1) continues, ending with

$$H^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l-1)) \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) \rightarrow 0.$$

Since C is nonhyperelliptic, $d' = 2g - 2 - \eta$ by Proposition 2.14. So

$$(l(g-2) + 1) - d' = (l-2)(g-2) - 1 + \eta.$$

For $l \geq 2$, the right side is nonnegative unless $\eta = 0$ and either $l = 2$ or $g = 2$. But Lemma 2.9 implies $\eta = 0$ iff C is Gorenstein. So, since C is nonhyperelliptic, by Proposition 3.2, the right side of (5.4.3) is nonnegative unless $\eta = 0$ and $l = 2$.

Hence, for $l \geq 3$, the right side of (5.4.3) is equal to d' . But $h(l-1) - h(l) \geq 0$. Therefore, equality holds in (5.4.3), and $h(l-1) = h(l)$. But, by Lemma 5.1(1) or by Serre's Theorem, $h(l) = 0$ for $l \gg 0$. So $h(l) = 0$ for $l \geq 2$.

Suppose $\eta > 0$. Then similarly, equality holds in (5.4.3) for $l = 2$ too, and $h(1) = 0$. So equality holds in (5.4.2) for $l \geq 2$, as desired. Thus (1) holds. And $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) = d' + 1 - g'$ by the Riemann–Roch Theorem. Thus (3) holds.

Finally, instead suppose $\eta = 0$. Then $d' = 2g - 2$. And $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) = g$ by (2). So the Riemann–Roch Theorem yields $g = (2g - 2) + 1 - g' + h(1)$. But $g' \geq g$ as $\kappa: C \rightarrow C'$ exists. Hence $h(1) \geq 1$. Now, take $l = 2$ in (5.4.3), getting $2g - 2 - h(1)$ on the left as $h(2) = 0$, and $2g - 3$ on the right. Hence, $h(1) = 1$ and equality holds in (5.4.3) for $l = 2$. So equality holds in (5.4.2) for $l \geq 2$, as desired. Thus (1) always holds. The proof is now complete. \square

Proposition 5.5. *If C is Gorenstein, then C' is projectively normal.*

Proof. The assertion is immediate from Lemma 5.4(1), (2). \square

Remark 5.6. Assume C is nonhyperelliptic and Gorenstein. Then Castelnuovo Theory yields a third proof that $\kappa: C \rightarrow C'$ is an isomorphism (the other two are the proof of Theorem 4.3 by computing global invariants and the proof of Theorem 4.13 by separating points and tangent directions).

Indeed, take a nonzero section in $H^0(\omega)$, and use it to form, for each $l \geq 2$, the rows in the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & H^0(\omega^{\otimes(l-1)}) & \longrightarrow & H^0(\omega^{\otimes l}) \\ & & w_{l-1} \uparrow & & w_l \uparrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l-1)) & \longrightarrow & H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) \end{array}$$

The w 's are induced by κ , so are injective. We have to prove they are bijective, as $C = \text{Proj}(\bigoplus H^0(\omega^{\otimes l}))$ since ω is ample, and as $C' = \text{Proj}(\bigoplus H^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)))$.

Let's proceed by induction on l . First off, w_1 is bijective because C' is linearly normal by Lemma 5.4(2). Suppose w_{l-1} is bijective. Then w_l is bijective iff

$$h^0(\omega^{\otimes l}) - h^0(\omega^{\otimes(l-1)}) = h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) - h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l-1)). \quad (5.6.1)$$

Now, Proposition 2.13 implies $\deg \kappa = 1$; whence, $\deg(\omega^{\otimes l}) = \deg(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l))$. Hence, owing to the Riemann–Roch Theorem, Equation 5.6.1 holds iff

$$h^1(\omega^{\otimes l}) - h^1(\omega^{\otimes(l-1)}) = h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) - h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l-1)). \quad (5.6.2)$$

But $h^1(\omega^{\otimes l}) = 0$ for $l \geq 2$ by Lemma 5.1, and $h^1(\omega) = 1$ by duality. Furthermore, it was shown in the course of the proof of Lemma 5.4 that $h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) = 0$ for $l \geq 2$ and that $h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) = 1$. Thus Equation 5.6.2 holds, and the proof is complete.

Definition 5.7. Call C *nearly Gorenstein* if the complement of the Gorenstein locus consists of a single point P and if the local ring \mathcal{O}_P is almost Gorenstein in the sense of Barucci and Fröberg [3, p. 418], namely, if

$$\eta_P := \dim(\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P/\mathcal{O}_P) - \dim(\mathcal{O}_P/\mathbb{C}_P) = \dim(\text{Ext}^1(k, \mathcal{O}_P)) - 1$$

where k is the algebraically closed ground field.

Lemma 5.8. *Assume C is not Gorenstein. Then these conditions are equivalent:*

- (a) $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega) = g$;
- (b) $H^0(\omega) = H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$;
- (c) C is nearly Gorenstein.

If (a)–(c) hold, then $\widehat{\kappa}: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C'$ is an isomorphism, and C' is linearly normal.

Proof. Note that $h^0(\omega) = g$ and $H^0(\omega) \subset H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$. So (a) and (b) are equivalent.

Preserve the notation of the proof of Proposition 5.2. Form the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \omega \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{O}}\omega \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{O}}\omega/\omega \rightarrow 0.$$

It yields $g - 1 + \mu = h^0(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$ since $h^1(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega) = 0$ by that proposition. Hence $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega) = g$ iff $\mu = 1$. But $\mu := \sum \mu_P$ and $\mu_P \geq 0$. Hence $\mu = 1$ iff there is one and only one P such that $\mu_P = 1$. But $\mu_P = 1$ iff \mathcal{O}_P is almost Gorenstein, but not Gorenstein, by Proposition 28 in [3, p. 438]. Thus (a) holds iff (c) holds.

The sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is very ample by Proposition 5.2; so $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$ defines an embedding of \widehat{C} into projective space. Assume also that $H^0(\omega) = H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$. Then this embedding is essentially the canonical map $\widehat{\kappa}: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C'$.

Alternatively, we can prove that $\widehat{\kappa}$ is an isomorphism via Castelnuovo Theory proceeding as in Remark 5.6, but with \widehat{C} and $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ in place of C and ω . This time, $h^1(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega^{\otimes l}) = 0$ for $l \geq 1$ by Proposition 5.2; furthermore, it was shown in the course of the proof of Lemma 5.4 that now $h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) = 0$ for $l \geq 1$.

Since $H^0(\omega) = H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega)$ and since $\widehat{\kappa}$ is an isomorphism, $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) = g$; in other words, C' is linearly normal, and the proof is complete. \square

Definition 5.9. Say that C' is *arithmetically normal* if its homogeneous coordinate ring is normal.

Theorem 5.10. *If C is not Gorenstein, then these seven conditions are equivalent:*

- (a) C' is arithmetically normal;
- (b) C' is smooth and projectively normal;
- (c) C' is smooth and linearly normal;
- (d) C' is smooth and extremal;
- (e) $d' = g + \bar{g} - 1$;
- (f) C is nearly normal;
- (g) C is nearly Gorenstein, and \widehat{C} is smooth.

If these conditions hold, then at its unique multiple point, C is of multiplicity $g - \bar{g} + 1$ and of (maximal) embedding dimension $g - \bar{g} + 1$.

Proof. Let A be the homogeneous coordinate ring of C' . Then A is normal iff C' is smooth and A is of depth 2 at the irrelevant ideal by Serre's criterion. But this depth condition holds iff C' is projectively normal by a well-known theorem due to Grothendieck [15, (2.2.4)]. Thus (a) and (b) are equivalent.

Conditions (b) and (c) are equivalent by Lemma 5.4.

Suppose (c) holds. Then C' is linearly normal and C is not Gorenstein; hence, Lemma 5.4(3) yields $d' = g + g' - 1$. In addition, C' is smooth. Hence $\bar{\kappa}: \bar{C} \rightarrow C'$ is an isomorphism. So $g' = \bar{g}$. Thus (e) holds.

Conversely, suppose (e) holds. Then the Riemann–Roch Theorem yields

$$h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) = (g + \bar{g} - 1) + 1 - g' + h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)).$$

Since C is not Gorenstein, $h^1(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) = 0$ by Lemma 5.4(3). And $g \leq h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1))$ as $C' \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$ is nondegenerate. Therefore, $g \leq g + \bar{g} - g'$, so $g' \leq \bar{g}$; whence, $\bar{\kappa}: \bar{C} \rightarrow C'$ is an isomorphism. So C' is smooth, and $g' = \bar{g}$. The latter yields $d' = g + g' - 1$; so C' is linearly normal by Lemma 5.4(3). Thus (c) holds.

Conditions (e) and (f) are equivalent by Proposition 2.16. Thus (a)–(c) and (e)–(f) are equivalent.

Again, suppose (c) holds. Then C' is smooth. Hence $\hat{\kappa}: \hat{C} \rightarrow C'$ is an isomorphism. So \hat{C} is smooth. In addition, C' is linearly normal, or $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1)) = g$. But $\hat{\kappa}^*\mathcal{O}_{C'}(1) = \mathcal{O}_{\hat{C}}\omega$. So $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{\hat{C}}\omega) = g$. By hypothesis, C is not Gorenstein. By Lemma 5.8, therefore, C is nearly Gorenstein. Thus (g) holds.

Conversely, suppose (g) holds. Then C is nearly Gorenstein. By Lemma 5.8, therefore, $\hat{\kappa}: \hat{C} \rightarrow C'$ is an isomorphism, and C' is linearly normal. In addition, \hat{C} is smooth. So C' is smooth. Thus (c) holds. Thus (a)–(c), (e)–(g) are equivalent.

The last assertion concerns the unique multiple point $P \in C$. Denote its maximal ideal in its local ring \mathcal{O}_P by \mathfrak{m} . Then by general principles, the multiplicity of P is just $h^0(\bar{\mathcal{O}}_P/\mathfrak{m}\bar{\mathcal{O}}_P)$; moreover, $h^0(\bar{\mathcal{O}}_P/\mathcal{O}_P) = g - \bar{g}$. But $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}} = \mathcal{C}$ by (f); so $\mathfrak{m}\bar{\mathcal{O}}_P = \mathfrak{m}$. Thus the multiplicity is $g - \bar{g} + 1$ at P .

By (f) and (g), the ring \mathcal{O}_P is almost Gorenstein, but not Gorenstein. Hence the endomorphism ring of $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$ is equal to $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_P$ by Proposition 28 in [3, p. 438]. But $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_P$ is smooth, so Gorenstein. Hence \mathcal{O}_P is of maximal embedding dimension by Proposition 25 in [3, p. 436].

It remains to prove that (d) is equivalent to the other conditions. Clearly, we may assume C' is smooth. Then $\bar{\kappa}: \bar{C} \rightarrow C'$ is an isomorphism, and so $g' = \bar{g}$. Hence (e) holds if and only if $g' = d' - r$ with $r := g - 1$.

Since C is not Gorenstein, Lemma 2.11 yields $d' < 2r$. Hence, by Lemma 4.1, any curve of degree d' in \mathbb{P}^r is of genus at most $d' - r$. But there exist curves in \mathbb{P}^r of degree d' and genus exactly $d' - r$; see Example 5.11 below. Hence any extremal curve of degree d' in \mathbb{P}^r is of genus $d' - r$. Therefore, C' is extremal if and only if (e) holds. The proof is now complete. \square

Example 5.11. In Theorem 5.10, if (a)–(g) hold, then the preimage of the unique multiple point is an effective divisor on \bar{C} of degree $g - \bar{g} + 1$. Conversely, Serre [21, Chap. IV, n°4, p. 70] explains how to construct such a C : start with any smooth curve \bar{C} of genus \bar{g} and with any effective divisor D on \bar{C} of degree $g - \bar{g} + 1$ and then contract D .

6. PROJECTIVELY NORMAL MODELS

Preserve the general setup introduced at the beginning of Section 2, after Proposition 2.6, and before Definition 4.4 and Definition 4.8. In this section, we prove Rosenlicht's Main Theorem, [19, Thm. 17, p. 189], which essentially asserts that, if C is nonhyperelliptic, then the canonical map $\widehat{\kappa}: \widehat{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} C'$ is an isomorphism. We then apply this result to characterize the non-Gorenstein curves C whose canonical model C' is projectively normal. We begin by proving two lemmas.

Lemma 6.1. *Given an $x \in H^0(\omega)$, set $W_x := \{f \in k(C) \mid fx \in H^0(\omega)\}$. Then, given a point $P \in C$, there exists an $x \in H^0(\omega)$ with these four properties:*

- (a) $(\widehat{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P = \widehat{\mathcal{O}}_P x$;
- (b) $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_P = \mathcal{O}_P[W_x]$;
- (c) $k[W_x]$ is the ring of an affine open subset of C' , which contains $\widehat{\kappa}\beta^{-1}P$;
- (d) $\mathcal{O}_P \subset W_x + \mathcal{C}_P$.

Proof. By Proposition 4.5, the sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}}\omega$ is invertible and generated by $H^0(\omega)$. So, as the base field k is infinite, there exists an $x \in H^0(\omega)$ with Property (a).

Let's now prove that any $x \in H^0(\omega)$ having (a) also has (b)–(d). First, let's prove that any $y \in \omega_P$ can be expressed as a sum $y = y' + y''$ with $y' \in H^0(\omega)$ and $y'' \in \mathcal{C}_P x$. Indeed, form the long exact sequence

$$H^0(\omega) \xrightarrow{u} H^0(\omega/\overline{\omega}) \rightarrow H^1(\overline{\omega}) \rightarrow H^1(\omega) \rightarrow 0. \quad (6.1.1)$$

Plainly, $h^1(\omega) = 1$ and $h^1(\overline{\omega}) = 1$. Hence u is surjective. But it is clear that $H^0(\omega/\overline{\omega}) = \bigoplus_Q (\omega_Q/\overline{\omega}_Q)$. So there is a $y'' \in \overline{\omega}_P$ such that $y - y'' \in H^0(\omega)$. But $\overline{\omega}_P = \mathcal{C}_P x$ by Lemma 2.8 as $\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P x = (\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P$ owing to (a). So $y'' \in \mathcal{C}_P x$.

To prove (b), set

$$V_x := \{f \in k(C) \mid fx \in \omega_P\}.$$

Then $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_P = \mathcal{O}_P[V_x]$ owing to the construction of \widehat{C} and to (a). Now, given $f \in V_x$, take $y := fx$ above. Say $y = y' + y''$ with $y' \in H^0(\omega)$ and $y'' \in \mathcal{C}_P x$. Then $y' = f'x$ with $f' \in W_x$, and $y'' = f''x$ with $f'' \in \mathcal{C}_P \subset \mathcal{O}_P$. And $f = f' + f''$. Therefore, $\mathcal{O}_P[V_x] = \mathcal{O}_P[W_x]$. Thus (b) holds.

To prove (c), note that, by construction, $C' = \bigcup_{v \in H^0(\omega)} \text{Spec}(k[W_v])$. Now, x vanishes nowhere on $\beta^{-1}P$ owing to (a). Hence (c) holds.

Finally, to prove (d), let $f \in \mathcal{O}_P$. Then $f \in V_x$. So the proof of (b) yields a decomposition $f = f' + f''$ with $f' \in W_x$, and $f'' \in \mathcal{C}_P$. Thus (d) holds. \square

Remark 6.2. Stöhr [22, Thm. 3.2, p. 123] proved that $H^0(\omega)$ generates ω by introducing the ideas used in the proof of Lemma 6.1 and developing them essentially as follows. Consider the map u in the sequence (6.1.1). It is surjective, and its target is equal to $\bigoplus_Q (\omega_Q/\mathcal{C}_Q \omega_Q)$ as $\overline{\omega} = \mathcal{C}\omega$ by Lemma 2.8. Hence, by Nakayama's lemma, $H^0(\omega)$ generates ω_Q when Q is multiple.

Finally, when Q is simple, then $H^0(\omega)$ generates ω_Q by the usual argument. Namely, $h^0(\mathcal{O}_C(Q)) = 1$ since $g > 0$. So $h^1(\omega(-Q)) = 1$ by duality. Hence $H^0(\omega) \rightarrow H^0(\omega/\omega(-Q))$ is surjective, as desired.

Lemma 6.3. *Let \mathcal{F} be a nonzero proper ideal of $\overline{\mathcal{O}}$. View $H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega))$ and $H^0(\omega)$ as subsets of $H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{O}, \omega))$ via the injections induced by the inclusions of $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{O}$ into \mathcal{F} and into \mathcal{O} . Then the first subset lies in the second iff $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{O}$ is equal to the maximal ideal sheaf $\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$ of some point $P \in C$.*

Proof. In any Abelian category, consider two subobjects A and B of an object C ; their intersection is characterized as the kernel of the sum map $A \oplus B \rightarrow C$. Thus, as \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{O} are subsheaves of $\overline{\mathcal{O}}$, there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \oplus \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O} \rightarrow 0.$$

To it, apply the left exact functor $H^0(\text{Hom}(\bullet, \omega))$. Thus we obtain the equation

$$H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega)) \cap H^0(\omega) = H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O}, \omega)),$$

relating the three subsets of $H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{O}, \omega))$.

Therefore, $H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega)) \subset H^0(\omega)$ iff $H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega)) = H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O}, \omega))$. But $H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega)) \supset H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O}, \omega))$. So to complete the proof, it suffices to prove that $h^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \omega)) = h^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O}, \omega))$, or $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = h^1(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O})$.

Consider the following exact cohomology sequence:

$$H^0(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O}) \rightarrow H^0((\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O})/\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O}) \rightarrow 0.$$

By hypothesis, \mathcal{F} is a nonzero proper ideal; so $H^0(\mathcal{F}) = 0$. Plainly, $\mathcal{O} \subset \mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O} \subset \overline{\mathcal{O}}$, so $h^0(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O}) = 1$. Hence $h^1(\mathcal{F}) = h^1(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O})$ iff $h^0((\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O})/\mathcal{F}) = 1$. But $(\mathcal{F} + \mathcal{O})/\mathcal{F}$ is equal to $\mathcal{O}/(\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{O})$. And $h^0(\mathcal{O}/(\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{O})) = 1$ iff $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{O} = \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$ for some $P \in C$. \square

Theorem 6.4 (Rosenlicht's Main Theorem). *Assume C is nonhyperelliptic. Then the canonical map is an isomorphism, $\widehat{\kappa}: \widehat{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} C'$.*

Proof. Fix $\widehat{P} \in \widehat{C}$, and set $P' := \widehat{\kappa}\widehat{P}$. Then $\widehat{\kappa}$ provides an inclusion $\mathcal{O}_{C', P'} \subset \mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}, \widehat{P}}$, and we have to prove equality holds. Now, $\beta: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C$ is an isomorphism over the Gorenstein locus $G \subset C$ by Corollary 4.7, and κ induces an open embedding of G into C' by Theorem 4.13. Hence, setting $P := \beta\widehat{P}$, we may assume $P \notin G$.

For convenience, let A denote the local ring of $P \in C$, and A' the semilocal ring of $\widehat{\kappa}\beta^{-1}P$. Lemma 6.1 provides an $x \in H^0(\omega)$ with the listed properties (a)–(d). Property (b) implies that $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}, \widehat{P}}$ is a localization of $A[W_x]$. Property (c) implies that A' is a localization of $k[W_x]$. Therefore, to prove the assertion, it suffices to prove that $A \subset A'$, as then $\mathcal{O}_{\widehat{C}, \widehat{P}} \subset \mathcal{O}_{C', P'}$. Property (d) asserts, however, that $A \subset W_x + \mathcal{C}_P$. Since $W_x \subset A'$, therefore

$$A \subset A' + \mathcal{C}_P \tag{6.4.1}$$

Thus it suffices to prove that $\mathcal{C}_P \subset A'$.

Let $\mathfrak{m} \subset A$ be the maximal ideal, and set $\overline{A} := \overline{\mathcal{O}}_P$, which is the integral closure of A . Let's first find an element $m_0 \in A'$ such that $m_0\overline{A} = \mathfrak{m}\overline{A}$.

Since \overline{A} is a semilocal Dedekind domain, it's a UFD; hence, there is an $m_1 \in \mathfrak{m}$ such that $\overline{A}m_1 = \overline{A}\mathfrak{m}$. Let $P_1, \dots, P_s \in \overline{C}$ be the points of $\nu^{-1}P$, and v_1, \dots, v_s the corresponding valuations. Take $n \in \mathcal{C}_P$ such that $\overline{A}n = \mathcal{C}_P$. For $1 \leq i \leq s$, set $a_i := v_i(n)$ and $b_i := v_i(m_1)$; then $a_i \geq b_i \geq 1$. Owing to Equation (6.4.1), there exist $m_2 \in A'$ and $n_1 \in \mathcal{C}_P$ such that $m_1 = m_2 + n_1$. Then, for each i , we have $v_i(m_2) \geq b_i$ with equality if $a_i > b_i$.

We have $\delta_P = \eta_P + h^0(\mathcal{O}_P/\mathcal{C}_P)$ by definition of η_P . But $P \notin G$. So $\eta_P \geq 1$ by Lemma 2.9, and $h^0(\mathcal{O}_P/\mathcal{C}_P) \geq 1$ as P is multiple. Hence $\delta_P \geq 2$.

Set $b := h^0(\overline{\mathcal{O}}_P/\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}})$. Then $b \geq \delta_P + 1$. So $b \geq 3$. Moreover, plainly, $b = \sum b_i$.

Set $B := \sum b_i P_i$, which is a divisor on \overline{C} . Fix i , and set $\mathcal{B} := \omega_{\overline{C}}(B - P_i)$. Then

for all j , we have $\deg(P_j + P_i - B) < 0$ since $b \geq 3$. So $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}(P_j + P_i - B)) = 0$. Hence $H^1(\mathcal{B}(-P_j)) = 0$ by duality. So the long exact cohomology sequence becomes

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{B}(-P_j)) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow k \rightarrow 0.$$

So for each j , there is an x_i in $H^0(\mathcal{B})$, not in $H^0(\mathcal{B}(-P_j))$. Since k is infinite, some linear combination of those x_i is a single x_i that works simultaneously for all j .

Set $\mathcal{F} := \nu_* \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}(P_i - B)$. Then $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C}\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega) = \nu_* \mathcal{B}$. So $x_i \in H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C}\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega))$. But $\mathcal{F} \supset \nu_* \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}(-B)$, so $\mathcal{F} \supset \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$. Plainly, $1 \notin \mathcal{F}$. Hence $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{O} = \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$. Therefore, Lemma 6.3 yields $x_i \in H^0(\omega)$.

But $x_i \in H^0(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{C}\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega))$ as $\mathcal{C}\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega = \overline{\omega}$ by Lemma 2.8. And Lemma 6.1(a) implies $(\overline{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P = \overline{\mathcal{O}}_P x$. So $x_i \in \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}_P, \mathcal{C}_P x)$. So there is an $f_i \in \text{Hom}(\mathcal{F}_P, \mathcal{C}_P)$ such that $x_i = f_i x$. Then $f_i \in W_x$ as $x_i \in H^0(\omega)$. Hence $f_i \in A'$.

Since $\mathcal{F} := \nu_* \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}(P_i - B)$, plainly

$$v_j(f_i) \geq \begin{cases} a_i - b_i + 1 & \text{if } j = i, \\ a_j - b_j & \text{if } j \neq i. \end{cases} \quad (6.4.2)$$

In fact, equality holds since $x_i \notin H^0(\mathcal{B}(-P_j))$ for all j .

Set $m_3 := f_1^{a_1} \cdots f_s^{a_s}$. Then $v_j(m_3) = \sum_i a_i(a_j - b_j) + a_j$ as equality holds in (6.4.2). Hence $v_j(m_3) \geq a_j$, with equality iff $a_j = b_j$.

Take $a \in k$, and set $m_0 := m_2 + am_3$. Given j , if $a_j > b_j$, then $v_j(m_2) = b_j$ and $v_j(m_3) \geq a_j$; so then $v_j(m_0) = b_j$ for any a . If $a_j = b_j$, then $v_j(m_2) \geq b_j$ and $v_j(m_3) = a_j = b_j$; so then $v_j(m_0) = b_j$ for most a . Thus $m_0 \overline{A} = \mathbf{m} \overline{A}$ as desired.

Second, set $\widehat{\mathcal{C}} := \text{Hom}(\widehat{\mathcal{O}}, \widehat{\mathcal{O}})$ and $\widehat{A} := \widehat{\mathcal{O}}_P$. Then $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_P$ is the conductor of \overline{A} into \widehat{A} . Let's prove that $\mathcal{C}_P \subsetneq \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_P$. Indeed, $\nu_* \omega_{\overline{C}} = \mathcal{C}\omega$ by Lemma 2.8. Similarly, $\widehat{\nu}_* \omega_{\widehat{C}} = \widehat{\mathcal{C}}\omega_{\widehat{C}}$. By way of contradiction, suppose $\mathcal{C}_P = \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_P$. Both sides are free \overline{A} -modules as \overline{A} is a UFD. Hence $\overline{A}\omega_P = \widehat{A}\widehat{\omega}_P$. Take $f \in \widehat{\omega}_P$ so that $\overline{A}f = \widehat{A}\widehat{\omega}_P$. Then $f \in \omega_P$ and $\overline{A}f = \overline{A}\omega_P$. Hence $\widehat{A}f = \widehat{A}\omega_P$ as $\widehat{A}\omega_P$ is free. Therefore,

$$\widehat{A}f \subset \widehat{\omega}_P \subset \omega_P \subset \widehat{A}\omega_P = \widehat{A}f.$$

Hence $\widehat{\omega}_P = \omega_P$. But $\widehat{\omega} = \text{Hom}(\widehat{\mathcal{O}}, \omega)$. So, by duality, $\mathcal{O}_P = \widehat{\mathcal{O}}_P$. Hence $P \in G$, contrary to assumption. Thus $\mathcal{C}_P \subsetneq \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_P$, as desired.

Third, fix $\phi_0 \in \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_P \setminus \mathcal{C}_P$. Since \mathcal{C}_P is an \overline{A} -module, $v_i(\phi_0) < a_i$ for some i . Reordering, we may assume $i = 1$. Replacing ϕ_0 by $\phi_0 t$ for a suitable $t \in \overline{A}$, we may assume

$$v_1(\phi_0) = a_1 - 1 \text{ and } v_j(\phi_0) \geq a_j \text{ for } j \geq 2. \quad (6.4.3)$$

Fix a k -basis y_1, \dots, y_g of $H^0(\omega)$, and set $\phi_j := y_j/x$ for all j . Then ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_g form a k -basis of W_x . Now, $\phi_0 \in \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_P$, so $\phi_0 \in \widehat{A}$. Hence ϕ_0 is a polynomial in ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_g with coefficients in A by Lemma 6.1(b). Say $\phi_0 = \sum c_l M_l$ where the c_l belong to A and the M_l are monomials in ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_g . Fix l . Then $M_l \in A'$ by Lemma 6.1(c). Further, $c_l = c'_l + c''_l$ with $c'_l \in W_x$ and $c''_l \in \mathcal{C}_P$ by Lemma 6.1(d). So $c'_l \in A'$ by Lemma 6.1(c). So $c'_l M_l \in A'$. Further, $c''_l M_l \in \mathcal{C}_P$ as \mathcal{C}_P is an \overline{A} -module, so an A' -module. Set $\phi'_0 := \sum c'_l M_l$ and $\phi''_0 := \sum c''_l M_l$. Then $\phi'_0 \in A'$ and $\phi''_0 \in \mathcal{C}_P$. So $\phi'_0 \in \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_P \setminus \mathcal{C}_P$. Replace ϕ_0 by ϕ'_0 . Then $\phi_0 \in A'$.

Set $\mathcal{G} := \nu_* \mathcal{O}_{\overline{C}}(-B)$. Then $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{G}, \overline{\omega}) = \nu_* \omega_{\overline{C}}(B)$. Plainly, $\mathcal{G} \supset \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$ and $1 \notin \mathcal{G}$; hence, $\mathcal{G} \cap \mathcal{O} = \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}$. Therefore, $H^0(\omega_{\overline{C}}(B)) \subset H^0(\omega)$ owing to Lemma 6.3. So we may take y_1, \dots, y_g and $\beta \leq g$ so that y_1, \dots, y_β belong to $H^0(\omega_{\overline{C}}(B))$, and yield a basis modulo $H^0(\omega_{\overline{C}})$.

To compute β , form the long exact cohomology sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}) \rightarrow H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}(B)) \rightarrow H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}(B)/\omega_{\bar{C}}) \rightarrow H^1(\omega_{\bar{C}}) \rightarrow H^1(\omega_{\bar{C}}(B)).$$

Now, $h^1(\omega_{\bar{C}}(B)) = 0$ because $\deg(B) \geq 1$. Furthermore, plainly, $h^1(\omega_{\bar{C}}) = 1$ and $h^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}(B)/\omega_{\bar{C}}) = b$. Hence $\beta = b - 1$.

As noted above, $\bar{\omega} = \mathcal{C}\bar{\mathcal{O}}\omega$ by Lemma 2.8. And $(\bar{\mathcal{O}}\omega)_P = \bar{\mathcal{O}}_P x$ by Lemma 6.1(a). Hence $\phi_i \in \text{Hom}(\mathcal{G}_P, \mathcal{C}_P)$ for $1 \leq i \leq \beta$. So $v_j(\phi_i) \geq a_j - b_j$ for all j . But $v_j(m_0) = b_j$, so $v_j(m_0\phi_i) \geq a_j$ for all j . Therefore, $m_0\phi_i \in \mathcal{C}_P \cap A'$ for $1 \leq i \leq \beta$.

Recall that $b_1 \geq 1$. So (6.4.3) yields $v_j(m_0\phi_0) \geq a_j$ for all j . So $m_0\phi_0 \in \mathcal{C}_P \cap A'$.

Furthermore, $\phi_0 x \notin H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}(B))$. Else $\phi_0 x$ has no pole outside of the P_i . But equality holds in (6.4.2). So $\phi_0 x$ has a pole of order 1 at P_1 and no other pole.

But no such differential exists. Indeed, consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}) \rightarrow H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}(P_1)) \rightarrow H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}(P_1)/\omega_{\bar{C}}) \rightarrow H^1(\omega_{\bar{C}}) \rightarrow H^1(\omega_{\bar{C}}(P_1)).$$

Here $h^1(\omega_{\bar{C}}(P_1)) = 0$, and $h^1(\omega_{\bar{C}}) = 1$ and $h^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}(P_1)/\omega_{\bar{C}}) = 1$. Hence $H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}})$ is equal to $H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}(P_1))$. So no such differential exists. Thus $\phi_0 x \notin H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}}(B))$.

Therefore, $\phi_0 x, \phi_1 x, \dots, \phi_\beta x$ are linearly independent modulo $H^0(\omega_{\bar{C}})$. Hence $\phi_0, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_\beta$ are linearly independent modulo \mathcal{C}_P . Hence $m_0\phi_0, m_0\phi_1, \dots, m_0\phi_\beta$ belong to $\mathcal{C}_P \cap A'$, and are linearly independent modulo $\mathcal{C}_P m_0$. But $\mathcal{C}_P/\mathcal{C}_P m_0$ is isomorphic to $\bar{A}/\bar{A}m_0$, so is of dimension b . And $b = \beta + 1$. So $m_0\phi_0, m_0\phi_1, \dots, m_0\phi_\beta$ yield a basis for $\mathcal{C}_P/\mathcal{C}_P m_0$.

For each $n \geq 1$, form the products $m_0^i \phi_j$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$ and $0 \leq j \leq \beta$. These products, therefore, yield a basis for $\mathcal{C}_P/\mathcal{C}_P m_0^n$. But for $n \gg 0$, the ideal $\mathcal{C}_P m_0^n$ is contained in the conductor of \bar{A} into A' since $m_0 \bar{A} = \mathfrak{m} \bar{A}$ and the conductor is an ideal in \bar{A} . But this conductor is also an ideal in A' ; so $\mathcal{C}_P m_0^n \subset A'$. But $m_0^i \phi_j \in A'$ for all i, j . Thus $\mathcal{C}_P \subset A'$, as desired, and the proof is finally complete. \square

Theorem 6.5. *If C is not Gorenstein, then these six conditions are equivalent:*

- (a) C' is projectively normal;
- (b) C' is linearly normal;
- (c) C' is extremal;
- (d) $d' = g' + g - 1$;
- (e) C is nearly Gorenstein;
- (f) $C' = \text{Spec}(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}, \mathcal{M}_{\{P\}}))$ for some point P off the Gorenstein locus.

If (e)–(f) hold, then C is of maximal embedding dimension at P iff C' is Gorenstein. Furthermore, if (e)–(f) hold, then C' is cut out by quadrics and cubics; quadrics suffice if $\eta \geq 2$, where η is the invariant of Definition 2.7.

Proof. Conditions (a), (b), and (d) are equivalent by Lemma 5.4(1), (3).

Suppose (b) holds. Now, $\hat{\kappa}$ is an isomorphism by Rosenlicht's Main Theorem, Theorem 6.4; also $\hat{\kappa}^* \mathcal{O}_{C'}(1) = \mathcal{O}_{\bar{C}} \omega$. Hence $h^0(\mathcal{O}_{\bar{C}} \omega) = g$. So (e) holds by Lemma 5.8. Conversely, by the same proposition, (e) implies (b). Thus (a), (b), (d), and (e) are equivalent.

To prove that (c) and (d) are equivalent, repeat the argument at the end of the proof of Theorem 5.10, mutatis mutandis.

Given $P \in C$, let B denote the endomorphism ring of its maximal ideal. Then \mathcal{O}_P is almost Gorenstein, but not Gorenstein, iff $B = \hat{\mathcal{O}}_P$ by Proposition 28 in [3, p. 438]. And if so, then $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_P$ is also Gorenstein iff \mathcal{O}_P is also of maximal embedding dimension by Proposition 25 in [3, p. 436].

Since $\beta: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C$ is finite, $\widehat{C} = \text{Spec}(\widehat{\mathcal{O}})$. Furthermore, β is an isomorphism precisely over the Gorenstein locus $G \subset C$ by Corollary 4.7. Moreover, $\widehat{\kappa}$ is an isomorphism by Theorem 6.4. Hence (e) implies (f) and the next-to-last assertion. Conversely, assume (f) holds. Then β is an isomorphism off P . So P is the unique point off G . Furthermore, \mathcal{O}_P is almost Gorenstein. So (e) holds.

To prove the last assertion, note that $d' = 2g' + \eta$ because of (d) and Proposition 2.14. Hence, if $\eta \geq 2$, then C' is cut out by quadrics owing to Fujita's Corollary 1.14 on p. 168 in [9].

Let \mathcal{J} be the ideal of C' in \mathbb{P}^{g-1} ; fix $l, q \geq 0$; and form the long exact sequence

$$H^{q-1}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^{g-1}}(l)) \rightarrow H^{q-1}(\mathcal{O}_{C'}(l)) \rightarrow H^q(\mathcal{J}(l)) \rightarrow H^q(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^{g-1}}(l)).$$

For $q = 1$, the first map is surjective by (a). For $q = 2$, the second term vanishes for $l \geq 1$ by Lemma 5.4(3) (but not for $l = 0$ since $g \geq 2$); for $q \geq 3$, this term vanishes as C' is a curve. For $q \geq 1$, the last term vanishes by Serre's Theorem. Hence $H^q(\mathcal{J}(3-q)) = 0$ for $q \geq 1$. Therefore, C' is cut out by quadrics and cubics by Castelnuovo–Mumford Theory [18, Prp., p. 99]. The proof is now complete. \square

Example 6.6. Cubics may be needed to cut out C' . For example, there is a nearly Gorenstein curve C with $g = 4$, with C' smooth, and with $g' = 2$; see Example 5.11. Then $d' = 5$. So C' cannot lie on two distinct quadrics, since their intersection is of degree 4 by Bezout's Theorem.

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, MIT, 77 MASS. AVE., CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139, USA
E-mail address: `kleiman@math.mit.edu`

DEPARTAMENTO DE MATEMÁTICA, ICEx, UFMG Av. ANTÔNIO CARLOS 6627, 30123-970 BELO HORIZONTE MG, BRAZIL
E-mail address: `renato@mat.ufmg.br`