Upper bounds for the dimension of moduli spaces of curves with symmetric Weierstrass semigroups

André Contiero and Karl-Otto Stöhr

Abstract

We present an explicit method to produce upper bounds for the dimension of the moduli spaces of complete integral pointed Gorenstein curves with prescribed symmetric Weierstrass semigroups. We illustrate the method by handling explicitly a family of symmetric semigroups, providing an upper bound which is better than Deligne’s bound.

1. Introduction

Let \( \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \) be the moduli space of the smooth complete integral pointed algebraic curves with a prescribed Weierstrass semigroup \( \mathcal{H} \) of genus \( g \). There are two important estimates on the dimension of \( \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \). On the one hand, Eisenbud and Harris [7], arguing that locally \( \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \) is the pullback of Schubert-cycles from a suitable Grassmannian of \((g-1)\)-planes, obtained the lower bound \( 3g - 2 - w(\mathcal{H}) \) for the dimension of any irreducible component of \( \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \), where \( w(\mathcal{H}) \) denotes the weight of \( \mathcal{H} \). As follows from their theory of limit linear series, this bound is attained for some component of \( \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \), if \( w(\mathcal{H}) \leq g/2 \), or more generally, if \( \mathcal{H} \) is a primitive semigroup of weight smaller than \( g \) (cf. [7, Theorem 3, 9]). However, if the weight is large, as in the case of symmetric semigroups, then their bound may be far from being sharp, and it may even be negative.

On the other hand, a theorem of Deligne [5, Theorem 2.27], whose proof involves an interplay between three different moduli spaces, provides the upper bound \( \dim \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \leq 2g - 2 + \lambda(\mathcal{H}) \), where \( \lambda(\mathcal{H}) \geq 1 \) stands for the number of gaps \( \ell \) such that \( \ell + n \) is a nongap for each positive nongap \( n \) (cf. [14, Section 6]). If the semigroup is symmetric, then Deligne’s upper bound is equal to \( 2g - 1 \). By using the work of Kontsevich and Zorich [10], it has been noted by Bullock [4] that for each \( g > 3 \) the upper bound is attained exactly on the three symmetric semigroups with the gap sequences \( \{1, \ldots, g - 1, 2g - 1\} \), \( \{1, \ldots, g - 2, g, 2g - 1\} \) and \( \{1, 3, 5, \ldots, 2g - 1\} \).

In this paper, we assume that \( \mathcal{H} \) is a numerical symmetric semigroup. Looking for an upper bound for the dimension of the moduli space \( \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \), we view \( \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \) as an open subspace of the compactified moduli space \( \overline{\mathcal{M}}_\mathcal{H} \) which is defined by allowing arbitrary Gorenstein singularities. By varying the construction of \( \overline{\mathcal{M}}_\mathcal{H} \) presented in [15], in Section 2 we realize \( \overline{\mathcal{M}}_\mathcal{H} \) in a rather explicit way as the weighted projectivization \( \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{X}_\mathcal{H}) \) of an affine quasi-cone \( \mathcal{X}_\mathcal{H} \), that is, of a subset \( \mathcal{X}_\mathcal{H} \) of a weighted vector space cut out by quasi-homogeneous equations. We approximate the quasi-cone \( \mathcal{X}_\mathcal{H} \) at its vertex by a quadratic one, whose weighted projectivization provides us with an upper bound for the dimension of \( \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \) (cf. Theorem 3.1). We explain that it is much easier to compute the quasi-homogeneous quadratic forms that determine the quadratic quasi-cone than the equations of the moduli space \( \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{H} \).
In the last section, we illustrate the method by handling explicitly the family of symmetric semigroups
\[ \mathcal{H}_r = \langle 6, 2 + 6\tau, 3 + 6\tau, 4 + 6\tau, 5 + 6\tau \rangle \]
of genus \( g_r = 6\tau + 1 \) (\( \tau = 1, 2, \ldots \)). The quadratic quasi-cone can be described in terms of a variety defined over a local artinian algebra (cf. Theorem 4.4). Its dimension can be read off from this description, providing the upper bound \( 8\tau + 5 \) for the dimension of \( M_{\mathcal{H}_r} \), which for each \( \tau > 1 \) is better than Deligne’s bound \( 2g_r - 1 = 12\tau + 1 \).

2. On the construction of the compactified moduli space \( \mathcal{M}_H \)

Let \( C \) be a complete integral Gorenstein curve of arithmetic genus \( g \) defined over an algebraically closed field \( k \), and let \( P \) be a smooth point of \( C \). We denote by \( \mathcal{H} \) the Weierstrass semigroup of the nongaps \( 0 = n_0 < n_1 < n_2 < \cdots \) of the pointed curve \((C, P)\). Thus, for each \( n \in \mathcal{H} \) there is a rational function \( x_n \) on \( C \) with pole divisor \( nP \). We can assume that \( x_0 = 1 \). For each nonnegative integer \( i \), the vector space of global sections of the divisor \( n_iP \) is equal to
\[ H^0(C, n_iP) = kx_{n_0} \oplus kx_{n_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus kx_{n_i}, \]
and in particular it has dimension \( i + 1 \). It follows from Riemann’s theorem for complete integral curves with singularities that
\[ n_i = g + i \quad \text{for each} \quad i \geq g, \]
and so the Weierstrass gap sequence consists of \( g \) elements, say
\[ 1 = \ell_1 < \ell_2 < \cdots < \ell_g \leq 2g - 1. \]

We suppose that the last gap \( \ell_g \) is equal to \( 2g - 1 \). This means that the semigroup \( \mathcal{H} \) is symmetric, or equivalently, it has the property that a positive integer \( \ell \) is a gap if and only if \( \ell_g - \ell \) is a nongap, that is,
\[ n_i = 2g - 1 - \ell_{g-i} \quad (i = 0, \ldots, g - 1). \]

Thus, \( n_{g-1} = 2g - 2 \) and \( H^0(C, (2g - 2)P) \) is spanned by the \( g \) functions \( x_{n_0}, x_{n_1}, \ldots, x_{n_{g-1}} \). Hence, \( \dim H^0(C, (2g - 2)P) = g \) and so \( (2g - 2)P \) is a canonical divisor. We also suppose that \( \ell_2 = 2 \), or equivalently, the Weierstrass point \( P \) is nonhyperelliptic. Therefore, by a theorem of Rosenlicht the canonical morphism of the complete integral Gorenstein curve \( C \) is an embedding
\[ (x_{n_0} : x_{n_1} : \cdots : x_{n_{g-1}}) : C \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \]
(see [8, Theorem 4.3]). Thus, \( C \) becomes a curve of degree \( 2g - 2 \) in the projective space \( \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) and the integers \( \ell_i - 1 \) (\( i = 1, \ldots, g \)) are the contact orders of the curve with the hyperplanes at \( P = (0 : \cdots : 0 : 1) \).

Conversely, the numerical symmetric nonhyperelliptic semigroup \( \mathcal{H} \) can be realized as the Weierstrass semigroup of the canonical monomial curve
\[ C^{(0)} := \{(a^{n_0}b^{e_{s-1}} : a^{n_1}b^{e_{s-1}} : \cdots : a^{n_{g-1}}b^{e_{g-1}}) \mid \langle a : b \rangle \in \mathbb{P}^1 \} \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1}, \]
at the point \( P \). The curve \( C^{(0)} \) is rational and has a unique singularity, namely the unibranched point \((1 : 0 : \cdots : 0)\) of multiplicity \( n_1 \) and singularity degree \( g \) (see [15, p. 190]).

To study relations between generators of the ideal of the canonical curve \( C \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \), we consider the spaces of global sections \( H^0(C, r(2g - 2)P) \) of the multi-canonical divisors \( r(2g - 2)P \). Following Oliveira’s procedure [12], we construct \( P \)-hermitian \( r \)-monomial bases, that is, bases consisting of \( r \)-monomial expressions in \( x_{n_0}, \ldots, x_{n_{g-1}} \) whose \( P \)-orders are pairwise different.
Since the semigroup $\mathcal{H}$ is symmetric and nonhyperelliptic, for each nongap $s \leq 4g - 4$ we can choose nongaps $a_s$ and $b_s$ such that

$$s = a_s + b_s \quad \text{and} \quad a_s \leq b_s \leq 2g - 2$$

(cf. [12, Theorem 1.3]). If $s \leq 2g - 2$, then we take $a_s = 0$ and $b_s = s$. The $3g - 3$ products $x_{a_s}x_{b_s}$ form a $P$-hermitian basis of the space of global sections $H^0(\mathcal{C}, (4g - 4)P)$ of the bi-canonical divisor $(4g - 4)P$.

**Lemma 2.1.** For each integer $r \geq 3$, a $P$-hermitian basis of $H^0(\mathcal{C}, r(2g - 2)P)$ is given by the $r$-monomial expressions

\[
x_{n_j} \quad (j = 0, \ldots, g - 1),
\]

\[
x_{a_i}x_{b_i}x_{n_{g-1}}^i \quad (i = 0, \ldots, r - 2, \ s = 2g, \ldots, 4g - 4),
\]

\[
x_{n_1}x_{2g-n_1}x_{n_{g-2}}x_{n_{g-1}}^i \quad (i = 0, \ldots, r - 3),
\]

where the powers of $x_0 = 1$ have been omitted.

**Proof.** Let $n$ be a nongap not larger then $r(2g - 2)$. We look for a monomial expression $z_n$ in $x_{n_1}, \ldots, x_{n_{g-1}}$ of degree at most $r$ with pole divisor $nP$. We proceed by induction on $r$. If $r = 2$, then the lemma holds with an empty last line. If $n \leq (r - 1)(2g - 2)$, then we apply the induction hypothesis and pick up the corresponding basis element of $H^0(\mathcal{C}, (r - 1)(2g - 2)P)$. Thus, we may assume $(r - 1)(2g - 2) < n \leq (2g - 2)$. If $n = 4g - 3$, then $r = 3$ and we take $z_n := x_{n_1}x_{2g-n_1}x_{2g-3}$. In the remaining case, we apply the induction hypothesis to $n - 2g + 2$ and take $z_n := z_{n-2g+2}x_{2g-2}$.

As becomes clear from the preceding proof, we can normalize the functions $x_n$ in a way that for each $r \geq 2$ the functions $x_n$ with $n \leq r(2g - 2)$ are the above basis elements of the vector space $H^0(\mathcal{C}, r(2g - 2)P)$.

Let $I(\mathcal{C}) = \bigoplus_{r=2}^\infty I_r(\mathcal{C}) \subset k[X_{n_0}, X_{n_1}, \ldots, X_{n_{g-1}}]$ be the homogeneous ideal of the canonical curve $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$. As an immediate consequence of the existence of a $P$-hermitian $r$-monomial basis for the space of global sections of the multi-canonical divisor $r(2g - 2)P$, the homomorphism

\[
k[X_{n_0}, X_{n_1}, \ldots, X_{n_{g-1}}]_r \longrightarrow H^0(\mathcal{C}, r(2g - 2)P)
\]

induced by the substitutions $X_{n_i} \mapsto x_{n_i}$ is surjective for each $r$ (as predicted by a theorem of Noether). Thus, by Riemann’s theorem the codimension of $I_r(\mathcal{C})$ in the $(r+g-1)$-dimensional vector space $k[X_{n_0}, X_{n_1}, \ldots, X_{n_{g-1}}]_r$ of $r$-forms is equal to $(2r-1)(g-1)$. In particular, the vector space of quadratic relations has dimension

\[
\dim I_2(\mathcal{C}) = \frac{(g-2)(g-3)}{2}.
\]

We attach to the variable $X_n$ the weight $n$. For each integer $r \geq 2$, we consider the vector space $\Lambda_r$ in $k[X_{n_0}, X_{n_1}, \ldots, X_{n_{g-1}}]$, spanned by the lifting of the above $P$-hermitian $r$-monomial basis of $H^0(\mathcal{C}, r(2g - 2)P)$. It is spanned by $r$-monomials in $X_{n_0}, X_{n_1}, \ldots, X_{n_{g-1}}$ whose weights are pairwise different and vary through the nongaps $n \leq r(2g - 2)$. Since $\Lambda_r \cap I_r(\mathcal{C}) = 0$ and

\[
\dim \Lambda_r = \dim H^0(\mathcal{C}, r(2g - 2)P) = \text{codim} I_r(\mathcal{C}),
\]

we obtain

\[
k[X_{n_0}, X_{n_1}, \ldots, X_{n_{g-1}}]_r = \Lambda_r \oplus I_r(\mathcal{C}) \quad \text{for each } r \geq 2.
\]
In general, the partition of a nongap \( s \leq 4g - 4 \) as a sum \( s = a_s + b_s \) of two nongaps not greater than \( 2g - 2 \) is not uniquely determined. We list all other such partitions, say
\[
s = a_{si} + b_{si} \quad \text{where} \quad a_{si} \leq b_{si} \leq 2g - 2 \quad (i = 1, \ldots, \nu_s),
\]
and \( a_{s1} < a_{s2} < \cdots < a_{\nu_s} \). We do not always assume that \( a_s \) is smaller than \( a_{s1} \).

For each nongap \( s \leq 4g - 4 \) and each integer \( i = 1, \ldots, \nu_s \), we have \( x_{a_{si}}x_{b_{si}} \in H^0(C, sP) \) and so we can write
\[
x_{a_{si}}x_{b_{si}} = \sum_{n=0}^{s-1} c_{\sin} x_{a_{si}} x_{b_{si}},
\]
where the coefficients \( c_{\sin} \) are uniquely determined constants and where the dash indicates that the summation index \( n \) only varies through nongaps. Multiplying the functions \( x_{n1}, \ldots, x_{n_{g-1}} \) by suitable constants, we can normalize
\[
c_{\sin} = 1 \quad \text{whenever} \quad n = s.
\]

By construction, the quadratic forms
\[
F_{si} := X_{a_{si}} X_{b_{si}} - X_{a_s} X_{b_s} - \sum_{n=0}^{s-1} c_{\sin} X_{a_n} X_{b_n}
\]
vanish identically on the canonical curve \( C \). They are linearly independent, their number is equal to \((\frac{g+1}{2}) - (3g - 3) = \frac{1}{2}(g - 2)(g - 3)\), and hence they form a basis of the vector space of quadratic relations \( I_2(C) \).

We attach to each coefficient \( c_{\sin} \) the weight \( s - n \). If we consider \( F_{si} \) as a polynomial expression, not only in the variables \( X_n \), but also in the coefficients \( c_{\sin} \), then it becomes quasi-homogeneous of weight \( s \).

To assure that the canonical ideal \( I(C) \) is generated by quadratic relations, we need assumptions on the semigroup \( \mathcal{H} \). In the following, we will always suppose that the symmetric semigroup \( \mathcal{H} \) satisfies
\[
3 < n_1 < g \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{H} \neq (4,5),
\]
that is, \( \mathcal{H} \) is different from \((2, 2g + 1), (3, g + 1), \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, \ldots, g - 1, 2g - 1\}\) and \((4, 5)\). In the excluded case where \( \mathcal{H} = (3, g + 1) \), respectively, \( \mathcal{H} = (4, 5) \), the canonical curve \( C \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) is trigonal, respectively, isomorphic to a plane quintic, and one may easily check that the intersection of the quadric hypersurfaces containing \( C \) is an algebraic surface, or more precisely, a rational normal scroll, respectively, the Veronese surface in \( \mathbb{P}^5 \).

By a theorem of Oliveira [12, Theorem 1.7], it follows from the assumptions on the symmetric semigroup \( \mathcal{H} \) that \( \nu_s \geq 1 \) whenever \( s = n_i + 2g - 2 \) and \( i = 0, \ldots, g - 3 \). Thus, we can assume that
\[
(a_{s1}, b_{s1}) = (n_i, 2g - 2) \quad \text{whenever} \quad s = n_i + 2g - 2 \quad \text{and} \quad i = 0, \ldots, g - 3.
\]

In this case, \( a_s \) is larger than \( a_{s1} \), that is, \( b_s \) is smaller than \( b_{s1} \), or more precisely, \( b_s \) is the largest nongap smaller than or equal to \( 2g - 2 - (n_{i+1} - n_i) \) (see [15, Proposition 1.7]).

The canonical curve \( C \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) is contained in the \( g - 2 \) quadric hypersurfaces \( V(F_{ni,2g-2,1}) \) \((i = 0, \ldots, g - 3)\), which intersect transversely at the Weierstrass point \( P \). Thus, in an open neighborhood of \( P \), the curve \( C \) is the intersection of these \( g - 2 \) hypersurfaces. Therefore, the \( g - 2 \) quadratic forms \( F_{ni,2g-2,1} \) determine uniquely the integral curve \( C \), and in particular determine the remaining \( \frac{1}{2}(g - 2)(g - 5) \) quadratic forms of the basis of \( I_2(C) \). We will make this explicit, by constructing syzygies of the canonical curve.

It now follows from the Enriques–Babbage theorem that the canonical integral curve \( C \) is nontrigonal and not isomorphic to a plane quintic; moreover, by Petri’s analysis, at least in
the case where \( C \) is smooth, the canonical ideal \( I(C) \) is generated by quadratic relations (see [1, pp. 124, 131]).

We will give an algorithmic proof that the ideal \( I(C) \) of the (possibly nonsmooth) canonical curve \( C \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) is generated by the quadratic forms \( F_{si} \). We first treat the canonical monomial curve \( C(0) \).

**Lemma 2.2.** The ideal \( I(C(0)) \) of the canonical monomial curve \( C(0) \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) is generated by the quadratic binomials

\[
F_{si}(0) := X_{a_s}X_{b_s} - X_{a_s}X_{b_s}.
\]

**Proof.** Let \( I(0) \) be the ideal generated by the binomials \( F_{si}(0) \). Since the ideal \( I(C(0)) \) is homogeneous and quasi-homogeneous, it is enough to show that a homogeneous and quasi-homogeneous polynomial belongs to \( I(0) \) if it belongs to \( I(C(0)) \), that is, if the sum of its coefficients is equal to zero.

In this proof, we do not need the assumption \( a_{n_i+2g-2,1} = n_i \) \( (i = 0, \ldots, g-3) \), and so without loss of generality we can assume that \( a_{si} \) is smaller than \( a_{si} \) for each \( s \). To apply Gröbner basis techniques, we order the monomials \( \prod_{k=0}^{g-1} X_{n_k}^{i_k} \) according to the lexicographic ordering of the vectors \( (\sum i_k, \sum n_k i_k, -i_0, -i_{g-1}, \ldots, -i_1) \). Using our assumptions on the semigroup \( H \), we can enlarge the basis \( \{F_{si}(0)\} \) of \( I(0) \) to a Gröbner basis by adding certain sums of cubic binomials \( \pm X_{a_s}F_{si}(0) \) of the same weight (see [15, pp. 196–198]).

Let \( F \) be a homogeneous polynomial of degree \( r \). Dividing \( F \) by the Gröbner basis, the division algorithm provides us with a decomposition

\[
F = \sum_{si} G_{si}F_{si}(0) + R,
\]

where \( R \in \Lambda_r \) and \( G_{si} \) is homogeneous of degree \( r - 2 \) for each double index \( si \). If \( F \) is quasi-homogeneous of weight \( w \), then each \( G_{si} \) is quasi-homogeneous of weight \( w - s \), and the remainder \( R \) is the only monomial in \( \Lambda_r \) of weight \( w \) whose coefficient is equal to the sum of the coefficients of \( F \). Therefore, if \( F \in I(C(0)) \), then \( R = 0 \) and \( F \in I(0) \). \( \square \)

**Syzygy Lemma 2.3.** For each of the \( \frac{1}{2}(g-1)(g-2)(g-5) \) quadratic binomials \( F_{s'i'} \) different from \( F_{n_i+2g-2,1}(0) \) \( (i = 0, \ldots, g-3) \), there is a syzygy of the form

\[
X_{2g-2}F_{s'i'}(0) + \sum_{n'si} \varepsilon_{n'si} X_n F_{si}(0) = 0,
\]

where the coefficients \( \varepsilon_{n'si} \) are integers equal to 1, -1 or 0 (which will be specified below), and where the sum is taken over the nongaps \( n < 2g-2 \) and the double indices \( si \) with \( n + s = 2g - 2 + s' \).

A weak version of the Syzygy Lemma has been obtained in [15, Lemma 2.3] by using Petri’s analysis. We will provide an elementary purely combinatorial proof.

**Proof.** If we put \( F := F_{s'i'}(0) \) or \( F := -F_{s'i'}(0) \), then we can write

\[
F = X_qX_r - X_mX_n,
\]

where \( q, r, m \) and \( n \) are nongaps satisfying \( q + r = m + n \) and \( m < q \leq r < n < 2g-2 \). The strict inequality \( n < 2g-2 \) is due to the assumption \( b_{s1} = 2g-2 \) whenever \( s = n_i + 2g-2 \).
If \( n + 1 \) is a gap, then, by symmetry, the integer \( k := 2g - 2 - n + r \) is a nongap smaller than \( 2g - 2 \), and we have the syzygy
\[
X_{2g-2}F + X_n (X_m X_{2g-2} - X_q X_k) - X_q (X_r X_{2g-2} - X_n X_k) = 0,
\]
where the binomials in the brackets can be written as \( F_{si}^{(0)} - F_{sj}^{(0)} \), \( F_{si}^{(0)} \) or \( -F_{sj}^{(0)} \). Analogously, if \( q + 1 \) is a gap, then the integer \( k := 2g - 2 - q + m \) is a nongap smaller than \( 2g - 2 \), and we get the syzygy obtained from the previous one by interchanging \( n \) with \( q \) and \( r \) with \( m \). Now we can assume that \( n + 1 \) and \( q + 1 \) are nongaps. Then we have the syzygy
\[
X_{2g-2}F + X_m (X_n X_{2g-2} - X_{n+1} X_{2g-3}) = X_{2g-3} (X_{q+1} X_r - X_m X_{n+1})
+ X_r (X_q X_{2g-2} - X_{q+1} X_{2g-3}).
\]

In the remainder of this section, we invert the above considerations. Let \( \mathcal{H} \) be a numerical symmetric semigroup of genus \( g := \#(\mathbb{N} \setminus \mathcal{H}) \) satisfying \( 3 < n_1 < g \) and \( \mathcal{H} \neq \langle 4, 5 \rangle \). Given \( \frac{1}{2}(g - 2)(g - 3) \) quadratic forms
\[
F_{si} = F_{si}^{(0)} - \sum_{n=0}^{s-1} c_{si} n X_{a_{si}} X_{b_{si}},
\]
where for each double index \( si \) and for each nongap \( n < s \) we have chosen nongaps \( a_{si} \) and \( b_{si} \) such that
\[
n = a_{si} + b_{si} \quad \text{and} \quad a_{si} \leq b_{si} \leq 2g - 2,
\]
we ask for conditions on the constants \( c_{si} \) in order that the intersection of the quadric hypersurfaces \( V(F_{si}) \) on \( \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) is a canonical integral Gorenstein curve. As we did before, we could take \( a_{si} = b_n \) and \( b_{si} = b_n \). However, in practice the freedom in choosing convenient partitions of \( n \) turns out to be very useful.

**Lemma 2.4.** Let \( I \) be the ideal generated by the \( \frac{1}{2}(g - 2)(g - 3) \) quadratic forms \( F_{si} \). Then \( k[X_{n_0}, X_{n_1}, \ldots, X_{n_{g-1}}]_r = I_r + \Lambda_r \) for each \( r \geq 2 \).

**Proof.** Let \( F \) be a homogeneous polynomial of degree \( r \) and weight \( w \). Let \( G \) be its quasi-homogeneous component of weight \( w \), and let \( R \) be the unique monomial in \( \Lambda_r \) of weight \( w \) whose coefficient is equal to the sum of the coefficients of \( G \). Then \( G - R \in I(C^{(0)}) \), and so by Lemma 2.2 there is a decomposition
\[
G - R = \sum_{si} G_{si} F_{si}^{(0)}.
\]
Replacing each polynomial \( G_{si} \) with its homogeneous component of degree \( r - 2 \), we can assume that \( G_{si} \) is homogeneous of degree \( r - 2 \). For similar reasons, we can assume that each \( G_{si} \) is quasi-homogeneous of weight \( w - s \). Hence, the polynomial \( F - \sum G_{si} F_{si} - R \) is homogeneous of degree \( r \) and weight smaller than \( w \). Now the lemma follows by induction on \( w \). \( \square \)

Replacing the left-hand side of the Syzygy Lemma the binomials \( F_{si}^{(0)} \) and \( F_{si}^{(0)} \) with the quadratic forms \( F_{si'} \) and \( F_{si} \), we obtain for each of the \( \frac{1}{2}(g - 2)(g - 5) \) double indices \( s'i' \) a linear combination of cubic monomials of weight less than \( s'i' + 2g - 2 \), which by Lemma 2.4, or more precisely, by its algorithmic proof admits a decomposition
\[
X_{2g-2}F_{s'i'} + \sum_{n,si} \varepsilon_{n,si}^{(s'i')} X_n F_{si} = \sum_{n,si} \eta_{n,si}^{(s'i')} X_n F_{si} + R_{s'i'},
\]
where the sum on the right-hand side is taken over the nongaps \( n \leq 2g - 2 \) and the double indices \( si \) with \( n + s < s' + 2g - 2 \), where the coefficients \( \eta_{n,si}^{(s' \ell)} \) are constants, and where \( R_{s',t} \) is a linear combination of cubic monomials of pairwise different weights less than \( s' + 2g - 2 \).

For each nongap \( m < s' + 2g - 2 \), we denote by \( g_{s',t} \) the unique coefficient of \( R_{s',t} \) of weight \( m \). We do not lose information about the coefficients of \( R_{s',t} \) replacing the variables \( X_n \) by powers \( t^n \) of an indeterminate \( t \). Hence it is convenient to consider the polynomial

\[
R_{s',t}^m(t^{n_0}, t^{n_1}, \ldots, t^{n_{g-1}}) = \sum_{m=0}^{s'+2g-3} g_{s',t} m t^m.
\]

Since \( R_{s',t} \) may be obtained as a remainder in a division procedure, we can arrange that the coefficients \( g_{s',t} \) (respectively, \( \eta_{n,si}^{(s' \ell)} \)) are quasi-homogeneous polynomial expressions of weight \( s' + 2g - 2 - m \) (respectively, \( s' + 2g - 2 - n - s \)) in the constants \( c_{si} \). However, we do not specify a division procedure and we do not postulate that \( R_{s',t} \) belongs to \( \Lambda_3 \), and so the \( \frac{1}{2}(g-2)(g-5) \) remainders \( R_{s',t} \) are not uniquely determined. In practice, this freedom in the construction of \( R_{s',t} \) allows us to make shortcuts, as we will illustrate in the last section.

**Theorem 2.5.** Let \( \mathcal{H} \subset \mathbb{N} \) be a numerical symmetric semigroup of genus \( g \) satisfying \( 3 < n_1 < g \) and \( \mathcal{H} \neq (4, 5) \). Then the \( \frac{1}{2}(g-2)(g-3) \) quadratic forms \( F_{si} = F_{si}^{(0)} - \sum_{s=1}^{s-1} c_{si} X_{n_s} X_{n_{s+1}} \) cut out a canonical integral Gorenstein curve on \( \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) if and only if the coefficients \( c_{si} \) satisfy the quasi-homogeneous equations \( g_{s',t} m = 0 \). In this case, the point \( P = (0 : \cdots : 0 : 1) \) is a smooth point of the canonical curve with Weierstrass semigroup \( \mathcal{H} \).

**Proof.** We first assume that the \( \frac{1}{2}(g-2)(g-3) \) quadratic forms \( F_{si} \) cut out a canonical integral Gorenstein curve on \( \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \). Since each \( R_{s',t} \) belongs to the ideal \( I \) generated by the quadratic forms \( F_{si} \), we have \( R_{s',t}(x_{n_0}, x_{n_1}, \ldots, x_{n_{g-1}}) = 0 \) for each double index \( s',t \). On the other hand,

\[
R_{s',t}(x_{n_0}, \ldots, x_{n_{g-1}}) = \sum_{m=0}^{s'+2g-3} g_{s',t} m z_{s',t} m,
\]

where each \( z_{s',t} m \) is a monomial expression of weight \( m \) in the projective coordinate functions \( x_{n_0}, \ldots, x_{n_{g-1}} \), and hence has the pole divisor \( mP \). Thus, the coefficients \( g_{s',t} m \) are zero.

Let us now assume that the coefficients \( c_{si} \) satisfy the equations \( g_{s',t} m = 0 \). Since the \( g - 2 \) quadric hypersurfaces \( V(F_{n_i} + 2g-2, 1) \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) (\( i = 0, \ldots, g - 3 \)) intersect transversely at \( P \), their intersection has a unique irreducible component that passes through \( P \), and this component is a projective integral algebraic curve, say \( C \), which is smooth at \( P \) and whose tangent line at \( P \) is the intersection of their tangent hyperplanes \( V(X_{n_i}) \) (\( i = 0, \ldots, g - 3 \)).

Let \( y_{n_0}, \ldots, y_{n_{g-1}} \) be the projective coordinate functions of \( C \) with \( y_{n_{g-1}} = 1 \). Since \( n_{g-1} - n_{g-2} = \ell_2 - \ell_1 = 1 \), we conclude that \( t := y_{n_{g-2}} \) is a local parameter of \( C \) at \( P \), and \( y_{n_0}, \ldots, y_{n_{g-3}} \) are power series in \( t \) of order greater than 1. More precisely, comparing coefficients in the \( g - 2 \) equations \( F_{n_i} + 2g-2, 1(y_{n_0}, \ldots, y_{n_{g-1}}) = 0 \) we obtain

\[
y_{n_i} = t^{n_{g-1} - n_{i}} + \cdots + t^{n_{g-1} - 1} + \cdots (i = 0, \ldots, g - 1),
\]

where the dots stand for terms of higher orders. Thus, the \( g \) integers \( \ell_i - 1 \) (\( i = 1, \ldots, g \)) are the contact orders of the curve \( C \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) with the hyperplanes. In particular, the curve \( C \) is not contained in any hyperplane.

Since by assumption the \( \frac{1}{2}(g-2)(g-5) \) remainders \( R_{s',t} \) are equal to zero, we have the syzygies

\[
X_{2g-2} F_{s',t} + \sum_{n,si} c_{n,si} X_n F_{si} - \sum_{n,si} \eta_{n,si}^{(s' \ell)} X_n F_{si} = 0.
\]
Replacing the variables $X_{n_0}, \ldots, X_{n_{g-1}}$ with the projective coordinate functions $y_{n_0}, \ldots, y_{n_{g-1}}$, we get a system of $\frac{1}{2}(g-2)(g-5)$ linear homogeneous equations in the $\frac{1}{2}(g-2)(g-5)$ functions $F_{s'j}(y_{n_0}, \ldots, y_{n_{g-1}})$ with coefficients in the domain $k[[t]]$ of formal power series. Since the triple indices $nsi$ of the coefficients $\varepsilon_{nsi}^{(s',j)}$, respectively, $\eta_{nsi}^{(s',j)}$, satisfy the inequalities $n < 2g-2$ and $n + s = s' + 2g - 2$, respectively, $n \leq 2g-2$ and $n + s < s' + 2g - 2$, we conclude that the diagonal entries of the matrix of the system have constant terms equal to 1, while the remaining entries have positive orders. Thus, the matrix is invertible, and so the equation $F_{s'j}(y_{n_0}, \ldots, y_{n_{g-1}}) = 0$ holds for each double index $si$. This shows that $I \subseteq I(C)$ where $I$ is the ideal generated by the $\frac{1}{2}(g-2)(g-3)$ quadratic forms $F_{s'j}$.

By Lemma 2.4, we have $\text{codim} I_r \leq \text{dim} \Lambda_r$ for each $r \geq 2$. On the other hand, since $I_r(C) \cap \Lambda_r = 0$, we deduce $\text{dim} \Lambda_r \leq \text{codim} I_r(C)$. Since $I \subseteq I(C)$, we obtain

$$\text{codim} I_r(C) = \text{codim} I_r = (2g-2)r + 1 - g.$$ 

Thus, $I(C) = 1$ and the curve $C \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$ has Hilbert polynomial $(2g-2)r + 1 - g$. Hence, $C$ has degree $2g-2$ and arithmetic genus equal to $g$.

Intersecting the curve $C \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$ with the hyperplane $V(X_{n_{g-1}})$, we get the divisor $D := (2g-2)P$ of degree $2g-2$, whose complete linear system $|D|$ has dimension at least $g - 1$. Hence, by the Riemann–Roch theorem for complete integral (not necessarily smooth) curves the Cartier divisor $D$ is canonical, and $C$ is a canonical Gorenstein curve.

To normalize the coefficients $c_{si}$ of the quadratic forms $F_{s'j}$, we note that the coordinate functions $x_n (n \in \mathcal{H}, n \leq 2g-2)$ are not uniquely determined by their pole divisors $nP$. We assume that the characteristic of the field of constants $k$ is zero or a prime not dividing any of the differences $n - m$, where $m$ and $n$ are nongaps satisfying $m < n \leq 2g - 2$. Transforming

$$X_n \mapsto X_n + \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} d_{nm} X_m,$$

where the coefficients $d_{nm}$ are constants, we can normalize $\frac{1}{2}g(g-1)$ of the coefficients $c_{si}$ to be zero. More precisely, for each positive integer $w$ the number of the coefficients $c_{si}$ of weight $s - n = w$ that can be normalized is equal to the number of nongaps $m$ such that $m + w$ is a nongap at most $2g-2$ (see [15, Proposition 3.1]).

Due to these normalizations and the normalizations of the coefficients of weight zero (that is, $c_{si} = 1$), the only freedom left to us is to transform $x_n \mapsto c^{n_i} x_{n_i}$ ($i = 0, \ldots, g-1$) for some $c \in \mathbb{G}_m(k) = k^*$. We have shown the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.6.** Let $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathbb{N}$ be a symmetric semigroup of genus $g := \#(\mathbb{N} \setminus \mathcal{H})$ satisfying $3 < n_1 < g$ and $\mathcal{H} \neq (4, 5)$. The isomorphism classes of the pointed complete integral Gorenstein curves with Weierstrass semigroup $\mathcal{H}$ correspond bijectively to the orbits of the $\mathbb{G}_m(k)$-action

$$(c, \ldots, c_{si}, \ldots) \mapsto (\ldots, c^{s-n} c_{si}, \ldots)$$
on the affine quasi-cone of the vectors whose coordinates are the coefficients $c_{si}$ of the normalized quadratic forms $F_{s'j}$ that satisfy the quasi-homogeneous equations $q_{s'j/m} = 0$.

### 3. The method

We start this section by describing a variant of the construction of the remainders $R_{s'j}$. Instead of making induction on the weights in the variables $X_n$, we proceed by induction on the degrees in the constants $c_{si}$. We choose for each pair $s'j$ and each nongap $m \leq 6g - 6$ a cubic monic
monomial $Z_{s'i'm}$ of weight $m$ in $X_{n_0}, \ldots, X_{n_{r-1}}$, for example, the unique monic monomial in $\Lambda_3$ of weight $m$. By the Syzygy Lemma, the polynomial

$$G_{s'i'}^{(1)} := X_{2g} - 2F_{s'i'} + \sum_{n \neq s} \varepsilon_{ns}^{(s'i')} X_n F_{si}$$

is a sum of cubic monomials of weight less than $s' + 2g - 2$, whose coefficients are homogeneous of degree 1 in the constants $c_{\text{sin}}$. For each nongap $m < s' + 2g - 2$, let $g_{s'i'm}^{(1)}$ be the sum of the coefficients of its terms of weight $m$. We note that $g_{s'i'm}^{(1)}$ is homogeneous of degree 1 and quasi-homogeneous of weight $s' + 2g - 2 - m$ in the constants $c_{\text{sin}}$. By Lemma 2.2, or more precisely, by its algorithmic proof, we get an equation

$$G_{s'i'}^{(1)} - \sum_m g_{s'i'm}^{(1)} Z_{s'i'm} = \sum_{\text{sim}} \eta_{\text{sim}}^{(s'i')} X_m F_{si}^{(0)},$$

where the coefficients $\eta_{\text{sim}}^{(s'i')} (1)$ are homogeneous of degree 1 and quasi-homogeneous of weight $s' + 2g - 2 - m > 0$ in the constants $c_{\text{sin}}$. Next we consider the polynomial

$$G_{s'i'}^{(2)} := G_{s'i'}^{(1)} - \sum_{m} g_{s'i'm}^{(1)} Z_{s'i'm} - \sum_{\text{sim}} \eta_{\text{sim}}^{(s'i')} X_m F_{si} = \sum_{\text{sim}} \eta_{\text{sim}}^{(s'i')} X_m (F_{si}^{(0)} - F_{si}),$$

which is a sum of cubic monomials of weight less than $s' + 2g - 2$, whose coefficients are homogeneous of degree 2 in the constants $c_{\text{sin}}$. Let $g_{s'i'm}^{(2)}$ be the sum of the coefficients of its terms of weight $m$. Proceeding in this way, we obtain the coefficients of the remainders $R_{s'i'}$ as sums of its homogeneous components:

$$g_{s'i'm} = g_{s'i'm}^{(1)} + g_{s'i'm}^{(2)} + \cdots.$$
that, possibly up to a permutation, the coefficients $c_i$ with $i > r$ can be eliminated from the linear equations. Then $T_H$ becomes the $(r+1)$-dimensional weighted vector space

$$T_H = \{(c_0, \ldots, c_r) \mid c_0, \ldots, c_r \in k\},$$

with the weight sequence $w_0, \ldots, w_r$.

If a coefficient $c_i$ with $i > r$ has been eliminated from the linear equations $\varrho^{(1)}_j(c_0, \ldots, c_r) = 0$, then it can also be eliminated from the corresponding polynomial equation $\varrho_j(c_0, \ldots, c_r) = 0$, because by the quasi-homogeneity it does not occur in higher order terms of the same equation. Entering with these solutions into the remaining polynomials, after $\mu - (\nu - r)$ quasi-homogeneous polynomials $h_j$ in only $r + 1$ variables, which define an affine quasi-cone

$$X_H := \{(c_0, \ldots, c_r) \in k^{r+1} \mid h_j(c_0, \ldots, c_r) = 0 \forall j\} \subseteq T_H.$$

By Theorem 2.6, the quotient $X_H / \mathbb{G}_m$ parameterizes the isomorphism classes of the pointed complete integral Gorenstein curves with Weierstrass semigroup $H$. Thus, the compactified moduli space $\bar{M}_H$ can be identified with the quotient of the punctured quasi-cone $X_H \setminus \{0\}$ by the $\mathbb{G}_m$-action

$$\bar{M}_H \cong \mathbb{P}(X_H) := (X_H \setminus \{0\}) / \mathbb{G}_m \subseteq \mathbb{P}(T_H),$$

that is, $\bar{M}_H$ is isomorphic to the closed subset of the $r$-dimensional weighted projective space $\mathbb{P}(T_H) = \mathbb{P}^r(w_0, \ldots, w_r)$ cut out by the quasi-homogeneous equations $h_j = 0$. Here the pointed monomial curve $C^{(0)}$, which corresponds to the vertex $0$ of the quasi-cone $X_H$, has been excluded, and can be viewed as the ‘improper point’ of $\bar{M}_H$.

By construction, the linear components of the quasi-homogeneous polynomials $h_j$ are equal to zero. The quadratic components $h_j^{(2)}$ can be easily computed, by solving the linear equations $\varrho_j^{(1)} = 0$ for $c_{r+1}, \ldots, c_r$ and entering into the quadratic expressions $\varrho_j^{(2)}(c_0, \ldots, c_r, c_{r+1}, \ldots, c_r)$. We approximate $X_H$ at the vertex by the affine quadratic quasi-cone

$$Q_H := \{(c_0, \ldots, c_r) \in k^{r+1} \mid h_j^{(2)}(c_0, \ldots, c_r) = 0 \forall j\} \subseteq T_H.$$

**Theorem 3.1.**

$$\dim \bar{M}_H \leq \dim \mathbb{P}(Q_H),$$

that is, $\dim \bar{M}_H < \dim Q_H$.

**Proof.** Since $\bar{M}_H \cong (X_H \setminus \{0\}) / \mathbb{G}_m$, we have

$$\dim \bar{M}_H = \dim X_H - 1.$$

Due to quasi-homogeneity each irreducible component of the affine quasi-cone $X_H$ passes through the vertex $0$. Since the dimension of an integral variety coincides with its local dimension at any point (see [6, Section 13, Theorem A]), we conclude that the dimension of $X_H$ is equal to its local dimension at the vertex

$$\dim X_H = \dim_v X_H,$$

which is equal to the Krull dimension of the corresponding local ring

$$\dim_v X_H = \dim \mathcal{O}_{X_H,0}.$$

Since by local algebra the dimension of a local ring is equal to the dimension of its associated algebra [11, Theorem 13.9], we have

$$\dim \mathcal{O}_{X_H,0} = \dim G(\mathcal{O}_{X_H,0}),$$
where

\[ G(\mathcal{O}_{X_{\mathcal{H}}, o}) := \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\infty} (m_{X_{\mathcal{H}}, o})^i / (m_{X_{\mathcal{H}}, o})^{i+1}. \]

Geometrically, this means that the local dimension is equal to the dimension of the tangent cone

\[ \dim_o X_{\mathcal{H}} = \dim C_o(X_{\mathcal{H}}), \]

and can be seen by noticing that the projectivization of the tangent cone is an effective Cartier divisor in the local blowup. Since by construction the quadratic quasi-cone \( Q_{\mathcal{H}} \) contains the tangent cone \( C_o(X_{\mathcal{H}}) \), we conclude

\[ \dim C_o(X_{\mathcal{H}}) \leq \dim Q_{\mathcal{H}}. \]

It is much less expensive to obtain the equations and the dimension of the quadratic quasi-cone \( Q_{\mathcal{H}} \) than the ones of the moduli space \( \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{H}} \). With Theorem 3.1 we get an implementable method to produce an upper bound for the dimension of the moduli space of curves with a prescribed symmetric Weierstrass semigroup. Below we summarize in a table some examples we calculated on a computer, where \( E-H \) stands for the lower bound \( 3g - 2 - w(\mathcal{H}) \) of Eisenbud–Harris and Del for Deligne’s upper bound \( 2g - 1 \).

| \( \mathcal{H} \) | \( g \) | \( E-H \) | \( \dim \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{H}} \) | \( \dim \mathcal{P}(Q_{\mathcal{H}}) \) | \( \dim \mathcal{P}(T^{1,-}_{k[\mathcal{H}]|k}) \) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| \( \langle 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 \rangle \) | 7 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 16 |
| \( \langle 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 \rangle \) | 8 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 17 |
| \( \langle 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 \rangle \) | 8 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 17 |
| \( \langle 6, 8, 10, 13, 15 \rangle \) | 9 | 11 | 15 | 15 | 18 |
| \( \langle 6, 9, 10, 13, 14 \rangle \) | 9 | 12 | 15 | 15 | 18 |
| \( \langle 6, 14, 15, 16, 17 \rangle \) | 13 | 11 | 20 | 21 | 25 | 27 |

By the jacobian criterion and elimination theory, the moduli space \( \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{H}} \) is an open subspace of \( \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{\mathcal{H}} \). If the symmetric semigroup \( \mathcal{H} \) is generated by four elements, say \( \mathcal{H} = \langle m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4 \rangle \), then by using Pinkham’s equivariant deformation theory \( [13] \), complete intersection theory and a quasi-homogeneous version of Buchsbaum–Eisenbud’s structure theorem for Gorenstein ideals of codimension 3 (see \[2, p. 466]\), one can deduce that the affine monomial curve \( \text{Spec } k[\mathcal{H}] = \text{Spec } k[t^{m_1}, t^{m_2}, t^{m_3}, t^{m_4}] \) can be negatively smoothed without any obstructions (see \[3, 16, 17, \text{Satz 7.1}\]), hence \( \dim \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{H}} = \dim \mathcal{P}(T^{1,-}_{k[\mathcal{H}]|k}) \), and therefore

\[ \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{H}} = \mathcal{P}(T^{1,-}_{k[\mathcal{H}]|k}) \]

and so \( \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{H}} \) is a dense open subvariety of \( \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{\mathcal{H}} \). However, if \( \mathcal{H} \) is generated by more than four elements, then \( \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{H}} \) tends to be a proper subspace of \( \mathcal{P}(T^{1,-}_{k[\mathcal{H}]|k}) \), as documented in the above table and discussed in the next section.

4. Working with a family of symmetric semigroups

In this section, we apply our method to a family of symmetric semigroups of multiplicity six minimally generated by five elements. For each positive integer \( \tau \), we consider the semigroup

\[ \mathcal{H} = (6, 2 + 6\tau, 3 + 6\tau, 4 + 6\tau, 5 + 6\tau) \]

\[ = 6N \cup \bigcup_{\tau=2}^{5} (j + 6\tau + 6N) \cup (7 + 12\tau + 6N). \]
Weierstrass semigroup is equal to \( H_0 : 1 \in \mathbb{C} \) for each \( g \), and so the semigroup is symmetric. The image \( Q \) identified with its image under the canonical embedding \( \mathbb{P}^5 \) of the products \( x, y \) of the points \( D \cap \{ A \} \) defines an isomorphism of the canonical curve \( C \) onto a curve \( \mathbb{P}^5 \subset \mathbb{P}^5 \) of degree 6. For each nongap \( n \in H \) a rational function \( x_n \) on \( C \) with pole divisor \( nP \). We abbreviate

\[
x := x_6 \quad \text{and} \quad y_j := x_{j+6} \quad (j = 2, 3, 4, 5),
\]

and normalize

\[
x_{6i} = x^i, \quad x_{j+6r+6i} = x^i y_j \quad \text{and} \quad x_{7+12r+6i} = x^i y_2 y_5,
\]

for each \( i \geq 0 \) and \( j = 2, 3, 4, 5 \). Now the \( P \)-hermitian basis \( \{ x_{n_0}, x_{n_1}, \ldots, x_{n_{g-1}} \} \) of the vector space \( H^0(C, (2g-2)P) \) of global sections of the canonical divisor \( (2g-2)P = 12rP \) consists of the products

\[
x^0, \ldots, x^{2r} \quad \text{and} \quad x^0 y_j, \ldots, x^{r-1} y_j \quad (j = 2, 3, 4, 5).
\]

Since \( \ell_2 = 2 \), the complete integral Gorenstein curve \( C \) is nonhyperelliptic, and so it can be identified with its image under the canonical embedding

\[
(x_{n_0} : x_{n_1} : \ldots : x_{n_{g-1}}) : C \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g-1}.
\]

The projection map

\[
(1 : x : y_2 : y_3 : y_4 : y_5) : C \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^5
\]

defines an isomorphism of the canonical curve \( C \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \) onto a curve \( D \subset \mathbb{P}^5 \) of degree 6. The image \( Q := (0 : 0 : 0 : 0 : 0 : 1) \in D \) of the distinguished Weierstrass point \( P := (0 : \cdots : 0 : 1) \in C \) is the only point of \( D \) that does not lie on the affine space \( \mathbb{A}^5 \subset \mathbb{P}^5 \) of the points with nonzero first coordinate.

To study quadratic relations of the canonical curve \( C \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \), we consider the space of global sections of the bicanonical divisor \((4g-4)P = 24rP\). The \( P \)-hermitian basis \( \{ x_n \mid n \in H, n \leq 4g-4 \} \) of \( H^0(C, (4g-4)P) \) consists of the 3g - 3 functions

\[
x^i \quad (i = 0, 1, \ldots, 4r),
\]

\[
x^i y_j \quad (i = 0, 1, \ldots, 3r - 1, \quad j = 2, 3, 4, 5),
\]

\[
x^i y_2 y_5 \quad (i = 0, 1, \ldots, 2r - 2),
\]

which can be written as quadratic monomial expressions in the projective coordinate functions \( x_{n_0}, x_{n_1}, \ldots, x_{n_{g-1}} \). Let \( X, Y, Z, Y_3, Y_4 \) and \( Y_5 \) be indeterminates attached with the weights 6, 2 + 6r, 3 + 6r, 4 + 6r and 5 + 6r, respectively. Having in mind the normalizations of the functions \( x_n \), we define for each nongap \( n \in H \) a monomial \( Z_n \) of weight \( n \) as follows:

\[
Z_{6i} := X^i, \quad Z_{j+6r+6i} := X^i Y_j \quad \text{and} \quad Z_{7+12r+6i} := X^i Y_2 Y_5.
\]

Multiplying the functions \( x, y_2, y_3, y_4, y_5 \) by suitable constants, and writing the nine products \( y_i y_j \) with \((i, j) \neq (2, 5)\) as linear combinations of the basis elements, we obtain nine polynomials in the indeterminates \( X, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 \) that vanish identically on the affine curve \( D \cap \mathbb{A}^5 = D \setminus \{ Q \} \), say

\[
G_i = G_i^{(0)} - \sum_{j=1}^{12r+i} g_{ij} Z_{12r+i-j} \quad (i = 4, \ldots, 8),
\]

\[
F_i = F_i^{(0)} - \sum_{j=1}^{12r+i} f_{ij} Z_{12r+i-j} \quad (i = 6, 8, 9, 10),
\]
where
\[
\begin{align*}
G_4^{(0)} &= Y_2^2 - X^\tau Y_4, \\
G_5^{(0)} &= Y_2 Y_3 - X^\tau Y_5, \\
G_6^{(0)} &= Y_3^2 - X^{2\tau + 1}, \\
F_6^{(0)} &= Y_2 Y_4 - X^{2\tau + 1}, \\
G_7^{(0)} &= Y_3 Y_4 - Y_2 Y_5, \\
G_8^{(0)} &= Y_4^2 - X^{\tau + 1} Y_2, \\
F_8^{(0)} &= Y_3 Y_5 - X^{\tau + 1} Y_2, \\
F_9^{(0)} &= Y_4 Y_5 - X^{\tau + 1} Y_3, \\
F_{10}^{(0)} &= Y_5^2 - X^{\tau + 1} Y_4,
\end{align*}
\]
and where the summation index \( j \) only varies through integers with \( 12\tau + i - j \in \mathcal{H} \).

**Lemma 4.1.** The ideal of the affine curve \( D \cap \mathbb{A}^5 \) is generated by the nine polynomials \( G_i \) \((i = 4, \ldots, 8)\) and \( F_i \) \((i = 6, 8, 9, 10)\).

**Proof.** It follows by induction on descending degrees in \( Y_2, \ldots, Y_5 \) that, modulo the ideal generated by the nine polynomials, each polynomial in \( X, Y_2, \ldots, Y_5 \) is congruent to a polynomial whose terms are not divisible by the nine products \( Y_i Y_j \) with \((i, j) \neq (2, 5)\), that is, which is a linear combination of the monomials \( Z_n \) of pairwise different weights \( n \in \mathcal{H} \). Such a linear combination \( \sum_{n} c_n Z_n \) vanishes identically on the affine curve \( D \cap \mathbb{A}^5 \) if and only if the corresponding linear combination \( \sum_{n} c_n x_n \) of the rational functions \( x_n \in \mathbb{k}(\mathcal{C}) \) is equal to zero, that is, \( c_n = 0 \) for each \( n \in \mathcal{H} \).

If \( C \) is equal to the canonical monomial curve \( C^{(0)} \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1} \), then the coefficients \( g_{ij} \) and \( f_{ij} \) are equal to zero, and so the ideal of the affine monomial curve
\[
D^{(0)} \cap \mathbb{A}^5 = \{(c^6, c^{2+6\tau}, c^{3+6\tau}, c^{4+6\tau}, c^{5+6\tau}) \mid c \in \mathbb{k}\}
\]
is generated by the nine quasi-homogeneous binomials \( G_i^{(0)} \) \((i = 4, \ldots, 8)\) and \( F_i^{(0)} \) \((i = 6, 8, 9, 10)\).

In order to normalize some of the coefficients \( g_{ij} \) and \( f_{ij} \), we note that we have just the freedom to transform
\[
\begin{align*}
x &\mapsto c^6 x + c_6, \\
y_2 &\mapsto c^{2+6\tau} y_2 + \sum_{i=0}^\tau c_{2+6i} x^{\tau - i}, \\
y_3 &\mapsto c^{3+6\tau} y_3 + c_1 y_2 + \sum_{i=0}^\tau c_{3+6i} x^{\tau - i}, \\
y_4 &\mapsto c^{4+6\tau} y_4 + c'_1 y_3 + c_2 y_2 + \sum_{i=0}^\tau c_{4+6i} x^{\tau - i}, \\
y_5 &\mapsto c^{5+6\tau} y_5 + c''_1 y_4 + c''_2 y_3 + c''_3 y_2 + \sum_{i=0}^\tau c_{5+6i} x^{\tau - i},
\end{align*}
\]
where \( c \neq 0 \), \( c_j \), \( c'_j \) and \( c''_j \) are constants. We suppose that the characteristic of the field of constants is different from two and three. Then we can normalize
\[
\begin{align*}
f_{81} = g_{81} = f_{92} = f_{10,3} = 0
\end{align*}
\]
(which are the only coefficients with \( i - j \equiv 1 \mod 6 \)),
\[
\begin{align*}
g_{41} = g_{42} = g_{46} = 0
\end{align*}
\]
and
\[
\begin{align*}
f_{6.2+6i} = f_{8.3+6i} = f_{9.4+6i} = f_{9.5+6i} = 0 \quad (i = 0, \ldots, \tau).
\end{align*}
\]
Now the isomorphism class of the pointed Gorenstein curve $(\mathcal{C}, P)$ determines uniquely the coefficients up to the following $\mathbb{G}_m$-action

$$g_{ij} \mapsto c^j g_{ij} \text{ and } f_{ij} \mapsto c^j f_{ij} \text{ where } c \in \mathbb{G}_m = \mathbb{k}^\times.$$  

We attach to the coefficients $g_{ij}$ and $f_{ij}$ the weight $j$. They have to satisfy certain quasi-homogeneous polynomial equations, which we will deduce from the syzygies of the affine curve $D \cap A^5$.

By applying the Syzygy Lemma, we conclude that the five quasi-homogeneous binomials

$$Z_{2g-2}G_4^{(0)}, \quad Z_{2g-2}G_5^{(0)}, \quad Z_{2g-2}(G_6^{(0)} - F_6^{(0)}), \quad Z_{2g-2}G_7^{(0)} \quad \text{and} \quad Z_{2g-2}(G_8^{(0)} - F_8^{(0)})$$

of weight $2g - 2 + i + 12\tau = 24\tau + i$ where $i = 4, 5, 6, 7$ and $8$, respectively, are linear combinations of the binomials $Z_nG_j^{(0)}$ ($j = 4, \ldots, 8$) and $Z_nF_j^{(0)}$ ($j = 6, 8, 9, 10$) with $n = 2g - 2 + i - j < 2g - 2$ (and therefore $X^{\tau - 1}$ divides $Z_n$). More explicitly, we write up five syzygies of the affine monomial curve $D^{(0)} \cap A^5$:

$$X^{\tau+1}G_4^{(0)} - Y_4F_6^{(0)} + Y_2G_8^{(0)} = 0,$$
$$X^{\tau+1}G_5^{(0)} - Y_5F_6^{(0)} + Y_2F_9^{(0)} = 0,$$
$$X^{\tau+1}(G_6^{(0)} - F_6^{(0)}) - Y_4G_8^{(0)} + Y_5F_9^{(0)} = 0,$$
$$X^{\tau+1}G_7^{(0)} - Y_5F_8^{(0)} + Y_3F_{10}^{(0)} = 0,$$
$$X^{\tau+1}(G_8^{(0)} - F_8^{(0)}) - Y_5F_9^{(0)} + Y_4F_{10}^{(0)} = 0.$$  

**Remark 4.2.** Actually, the Syzygy Lemma assures the existence of certain $\frac{1}{2}(g - 2)(g - 5)$ syzygies of the canonical monomial curve $C^{(0)} \subset \mathbb{P}^{g-1}$. However, using the equations $Z_{n+6} = X \cdot Z_n$ and factoring out powers of $X$ we can reduce to the five syzygies listed above.

The five syzygies of the monomial curve $D^{(0)} \cap A^5$ give rise to five syzygies of the curve $D \cap A^5$:

$$X^{\tau+1}G_4 - Y_4F_6 + Y_2G_8$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\tau} X^{\tau-i}(f_{6,1+6i}F_9 + f_{6,3+6i}G_7 + (f_{6,4+6i}-g_{8,4+6i})F_6 - g_{8,5+6i}G_5 - g_{8,6+6i}G_4),$$

$$X^{\tau+1}G_5 - Y_5F_6 + Y_2F_9$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\tau} X^{\tau-i}(f_{6,1+6i}F_10 + f_{6,3+6i}F_8 - f_{9,6+6i}G_5 - f_{9,7+6i}G_4),$$

$$X^{\tau+1}(G_6 - F_6) - Y_4G_8 + Y_3F_9$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\tau} X^{\tau-i}(f_{8,4+6i}G_8 + f_{8,5+6i}G_7 - f_{9,6+6i}G_6 + f_{8,6+6i}F_6 - f_{9,7+6i}G_5),$$

$$X^{\tau+1}G_7 - Y_5F_8 + Y_3F_{10}$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\tau} X^{\tau-i}(f_{8,4+6i}F_9 + (f_{8,5+6i}-f_{10,5+6i})F_8 - f_{10,6+6i}G_7 - f_{10,7+6i}G_6 - f_{10,8+6i}G_5),$$

$$X^{\tau+1}(G_8 - F_8) - Y_5F_9 + Y_4F_{10}$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\tau} X^{\tau-i}(f_{9,6+6i}F_8 - f_{10,5+6i}F_9 - f_{10,6+6i}G_8 - f_{10,7+6i}G_7 - f_{10,8+6i}F_6).$$
Indeed, by construction each right-hand side differs from the corresponding left-hand side by a linear combination of the monomials $Z_n$, which vanishes identically on the curve $\mathcal{D} \cap A^5 \cong C \cap A^{g-1}$, and hence is identically zero.

The vanishing of the coefficients of the five linear combinations provides us with quasi-homogeneous equations between the coefficients $g_{ij}$ and $f_{ij}$. To express these equations in a concise manner, we introduce polynomials in only one variable

$$g_i := \sum_{r=1}^{12\tau+i} g_{ir} t^r = G_i(t^{-6}, t^{-2-6\tau}, t^{-3-6\tau}, t^{-4-6\tau}, t^{-5-6\tau}) t^{i+12\tau} \quad (i = 4, \ldots, 8),$$

and write each one as the sum of its partial polynomials

$$g_i^{(j)} := \sum_{r \equiv j \mod 6} g_{ir} t^r \quad (j = 1, \ldots, 6),$$

which are defined by collecting terms whose exponents are in the same residue class modulo 6. In a similar way, we define the polynomials $f_i$ ($i = 6, 8, 9, 10$) and its partial polynomials $f_i^{(j)}$.

Due to our normalizations, some of the partial polynomials are equal to zero, remaining only 41 ones. More precisely, we can write:

\begin{align*}
g_4 &= g_4^{(1)} + g_4^{(2)} + g_4^{(4)} + g_4^{(5)} + g_4^{(6)}, \quad f_6 = f_6^{(1)} + f_6^{(3)} + f_6^{(4)} + f_6^{(5)} + f_6^{(6)}, \\
g_5 &= g_5^{(1)} + g_5^{(2)} + g_5^{(3)} + g_5^{(4)} + g_5^{(5)} + g_5^{(6)}, \quad f_8 = f_8^{(1)} + f_8^{(4)} + f_8^{(5)} + f_8^{(6)}, \\
g_6 &= g_6^{(1)} + g_6^{(2)} + g_6^{(3)} + g_6^{(4)} + g_6^{(5)} + g_6^{(6)}, \quad f_9 = f_9^{(1)} + f_9^{(3)} + f_9^{(6)}, \\
g_7 &= g_7^{(1)} + g_7^{(2)} + g_7^{(3)} + g_7^{(4)} + g_7^{(5)} + g_7^{(6)}, \quad f_{10} = f_{10}^{(1)} + f_{10}^{(2)} + f_{10}^{(4)} + f_{10}^{(5)} + f_{10}^{(6)}, \\
g_8 &= g_8^{(2)} + g_8^{(3)} + g_8^{(4)} + g_8^{(5)} + g_8^{(6)}. \end{align*}

The partial polynomials $g_i^{(j)}$ and $f_i^{(j)}$ with $i = j$ and $i = j + 6$, that is, $g_4^{(4)}$, $g_4^{(5)}$, $g_4^{(6)}$, $f_6^{(6)}$, $g_5^{(2)}$, $g_5^{(3)}$, $g_5^{(4)}$, $g_5^{(6)}$, $f_8^{(6)}$, $f_9^{(1)}$, $f_9^{(3)}$, $f_9^{(6)}$, and $g_7^{(6)}$, $g_8^{(2)}$, $g_8^{(4)}$, $g_8^{(5)}$, $g_8^{(6)}$, $f_{10}^{(6)}$, are equal to $j + 6(\tau - 1)$, respectively, $j + 6(\tau + 1)$. The remaining 26 partial polynomials have formal degree $j + 6\tau$. Thus, the number of the coefficients that are still involved is equal to

$$4(2\tau + 1) + 5(2\tau + 2) + 3\tau + 3(\tau + 2) + 26(\tau + 1) - 3 = 50\tau + 43,$$

where the discount by the number 3 is due to the three normalizations $g_{41} = g_{42} = g_{46} = 0$. Now applying Theorem 2.6 and Remark 4.2, we obtain an explicit description of the compactified moduli space $\mathcal{M}$. 

**Theorem 4.3.** Let $\mathcal{H}$ be the semigroup generated by 6, 2 + 6\tau, 3 + 6\tau, 4 + 6\tau and 5 + 6\tau where $\tau$ is a positive integer. The isomorphism classes of the pointed complete integral Gorenstein curves with Weierstrass semigroup $\mathcal{H}$ correspond bijectively to the orbits of the $\mathbb{G}_m$-action on the quasi-cone of the vectors of length $50\tau + 43$ whose coordinates are the coefficients $g_{ij}$ and $f_{ij}$ of the 41 partial polynomials that satisfy the five equations:

\begin{align*}
g_4 - f_6 + g_8 &= f_6^{(1)} f_9 + f_6^{(3)} g_7 + (f_6^{(4)} - g_8^{(4)}) f_6 - g_8^{(5)} g_5 - g_8^{(6)} g_4, \\
g_6 - f_6 + f_9 &= f_6^{(1)} f_{10} + f_6^{(3)} f_8 - f_9^{(6)} g_5 - f_9^{(1)} g_4, \\
g_6 - f_6 + f_9 &= f_6^{(4)} g_8 + f_6^{(5)} g_7 - f_9^{(6)} g_6 + f_8^{(6)} f_6 - f_9^{(1)} g_5, \\
 g_7 - f_8 + f_{10} &= f_8^{(4)} f_9 + (f_8^{(5)} - f_1^{(5)} f_8) f_8 - f_{10}^{(6)} g_7 - f_{10}^{(1)} g_6 - f_{10}^{(2)} g_5, \\
g_8 - f_8 + f_{10} &= f_9^{(6)} f_8 - f_{10}^{(1)} f_9 - f_{10}^{(6)} g_8 - f_{10}^{(1)} g_7 - f_{10}^{(2)} f_6. \end{align*}
Thus, the compactified moduli space $\mathcal{M}_\tau$ admits an embedding into a weighted projective space of dimension $50\tau + 42$. To diminish the dimension of the ambient space, we project onto spaces of lower dimensions by eliminating some of the coordinates.

The five equations of Theorem 4.3 can be rewritten in terms of 30 polynomial equations between the 41 partial polynomials. Among these equations, there are five linear ones, which we use to eliminate five partial polynomials as follows:

$$
f_6^{(4)} = 0, \quad g_8^{(3)} = f_6^{(3)}, \quad f_8^{(5)} = 0, \quad f_1^{(1)} = f_9^{(1)}, \quad f_8^{(6)} = f_8^{(6)}.
$$

There remain 25 inhomogeneous equations of degree 2 between 36 partial polynomials. Among them there are five equations, whose formal degrees are equal to the formal degrees of their linear parts. From these equations, we can eliminate the five partial polynomials $f_6^{(6)}$, $g_8^{(2)}$, $f_8^{(2)}$, $f_9^{(3)}$ and $f_1^{(4)}$. As can be read off from the formal degrees, the remaining 20 equations between 31 partial polynomials can be rephrased in terms of $45\tau + 40$ quasi-homogeneous equations between $35\tau + 28$ coefficients. We can continue in eliminating coefficients, until the remaining quasi-homogeneous equations do not admit linear terms. However, if we would do this procedure in an explicit way, then our discussion would become very involved.

We first determine the weighted vector space $T^1_{k[q^\tau]}k$, which is (up to an isomorphism) the locus of the linearizations of the 30 equations between the partial polynomials. We can solve this system of linear equations as follows:

$$
f_6^{(1)} = g_4^{(1)}, \quad f_9^{(1)} = g_4^{(1)} - g_5^{(1)}, \quad g_6^{(1)} = g_5^{(1)}, \quad g_7^{(1)} = g_5^{(1)} - g_4^{(1)}, \quad f_1^{(1)} = g_4^{(1)} - g_5^{(1)},
$$

$$
f_8^{(2)} = g_6^{(2)}, \quad f_1^{(2)} = g_6^{(2)} + g_5^{(2)}, \quad g_9^{(2)} = 0, \quad g_7^{(2)} = -g_4^{(2)}, \quad g_8^{(2)} = -g_4^{(2)},
$$

$$
f_9^{(3)} = f_6^{(3)}, \quad g_5^{(3)} = 0, \quad g_6^{(3)} = 0, \quad g_7^{(3)} = 0, \quad g_8^{(3)} = f_5^{(3)},
$$

$$
f_6^{(4)} = 0, \quad g_4^{(4)} = -g_7^{(4)}, \quad f_8^{(4)} = g_6^{(4)}, \quad g_8^{(4)} = g_7^{(4)}, \quad f_1^{(4)} = g_6^{(4)} - g_7^{(4)},
$$

$$
f_8^{(5)} = 0, \quad f_1^{(5)} = g_4^{(5)}, \quad g_5^{(5)} = 0, \quad g_7^{(5)} = -g_4^{(5)}, \quad g_8^{(5)} = -g_4^{(5)},
$$

$$
f_1^{(6)} = f_8^{(6)}, \quad f_6^{(6)} = g_4^{(6)} + g_5^{(6)}, \quad f_9^{(6)} = g_6^{(6)}, \quad g_7^{(6)} = g_4^{(6)}, \quad g_8^{(6)} = g_5^{(6)}, \quad g_9^{(6)} = g_6^{(6)} + f_8^{(6)}.
$$

Here, we had to make choices; however, we had to take care that the formal degrees on the left are not smaller than the corresponding ones on the right. Now $T^1_{k[q^\tau]}k$ can be identified with the space of the vectors whose entries are the coefficients of the remaining eleven partial polynomials

$$
g_4^{(1)}, \quad g_5^{(1)}, \quad g_6^{(2)}, \quad f_6^{(3)}, \quad g_7^{(4)}, \quad g_4^{(5)}, \quad g_8^{(6)} \quad \text{and} \quad f_8^{(6)}.
$$

The only conditions the entries have to satisfy are the three normalizations

$$
g_{41} = g_{42} = g_{46} = 0.
$$

Counting the coefficients that are still involved, we obtain

$$
\dim T^1_{k[q^\tau]}k = 11\tau + 6.
$$

More precisely, counting the coefficients of a given weight $j$, we obtain the dimension of the graded component of $T^1_{k[q^\tau]}k$ of negative weight $-j$:

$$
\dim T^1_{-j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = 0, \\
2 & \text{if } i = 1, \ldots, \tau, \end{cases} \quad \dim T^1_{2-6i} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = 0, \\
2 & \text{if } i = 1, \ldots, \tau, \end{cases}
$$

$$
\dim T^1_{3-6i} = 1 (i = 0, \ldots, \tau), \quad \dim T^1_{4-6i} = 2 (i = 0, \ldots, \tau),
$$

$$
\dim T^1_{5-6i} = 1 (i = 0, \ldots, \tau - 1), \quad \dim T^1_{6-6i} = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } i = 0, \\
3 & \text{if } i = 1, \ldots, \tau - 1, \\
2 & \text{if } i = \tau. \end{cases}
$$
In the remaining cases, the dimension of $T^1_{\mathcal{H}}$ is equal to zero.

Thus, the compactified moduli space $\mathcal{M}_H$ has been realized as a closed subspace of the $(11\tau + 5)$-dimensional weighted projective space $\mathbb{P}(T_{k[H]}^{1,-})$. It is cut out by $21\tau + 28$ quasi-homogeneous equations, which have no linear terms. Some of these equations may be identically zero.

As discussed below, it will be much less expensive to obtain the equations and the dimension of the quadratic quasi-cone $Q_H$ than the ones of the moduli variety $\mathcal{M}_H$. In particular, we can make the eliminations in an explicit way.

To determine the quadratic quasi-cone $Q_H$, we just enter with our solution of the system of 30 linear equations into the quadratic terms of the original 30 equations of degree at most 2, and eliminate the same partial polynomials as in the linear case. We obtain only five equations

\[
\begin{align*}
f_9^{(1)} &= g_4^{(1)} - g_5^{(1)} + g_4^{(1)}(f_8^{(6)} - g_4^{(6)}) - g_5^{(1)}(g_8^{(6)} - g_4^{(6)}) + f_6^{(3)} g_6^{(4)}, \\
f_{10}^{(2)} &= g_4^{(2)} + g_6^{(2)} + g_6^{(2)}(g_8^{(6)} - g_4^{(6)}) + g_4^{(2)}(f_8^{(6)} - g_4^{(6)}) - g_6^{(4)} g_7^{(4)}, \\
f_3^{(3)} &= -g_4^{(2)} g_5^{(1)} - g_5^{(1)} g_6^{(2)} - g_6^{(4)} g_4^{(5)}, \\
g_8^{(5)} &= -g_4^{(5)} - g_4^{(5)}(g_8^{(6)} - g_4^{(6)}) - g_7^{(4)} (g_4^{(1)} - f_6^{(3)} g_4^{(2)}), \\
f_{10}^{(5)} &= g_4^{(5)} + g_4^{(5)}(f_8^{(6)} - g_4^{(6)}) + g_7^{(4)} g_5^{(1)} - f_6^{(3)} g_6^{(2)},
\end{align*}
\]

where the formal degrees on the left-hand side are smaller than the corresponding formal degrees of the right-hand side, while in the remaining 25 equations the formal degrees on the left are sufficiently large. Thus, the quadratic quasi-cone $Q_H$ is the subvariety of $T_{k[H]}^{1,-}$ given by the five congruences

\[
\begin{align*}
\pi_{7+6\tau}(g_4^{(1)} f_8^{(6)} - g_5^{(1)} g_8^{(6)} + f_6^{(3)} g_6^{(4)}) &= 0, \\
\pi_{8+6\tau}(g_6^{(2)} g_8^{(6)} + g_4^{(2)} f_8^{(6)} - g_6^{(4)} g_7^{(4)}) &= 0, \\
\pi_{8+6\tau}(g_4^{(1)} g_5^{(1)} + g_4^{(1)} g_6^{(2)} + g_6^{(4)} g_4^{(5)}) &= 0, \\
\pi_{5+6\tau}(g_4^{(5)} g_8^{(6)} + g_7^{(4)} (g_4^{(1)} + f_6^{(3)} g_4^{(2)})) &= 0, \\
\pi_{5+6\tau}(g_5^{(5)} f_8^{(6)} + g_7^{(4)} g_5^{(1)} - f_6^{(3)} g_6^{(2)}) &= 0,
\end{align*}
\]

where

\[
\begin{align*}
f_8^{(6)} := f_8^{(6)} - g_4^{(6)} \quad \text{and} \quad g_8^{(6)} := g_8^{(6)} - g_4^{(6)},
\end{align*}
\]

and where $\pi_i$ denotes the projection operator on the polynomials in $t$ that annihilates the terms of degree not larger than $i$.

We notice that the five congruences do not depend on the $\tau + 6$ coefficients $g_{51}, g_{62}, f_{63}, g_{44}, g_{74}, f_{86}, \tilde{g}_{86}$ and $g_{46i}$ ($i = 2, \ldots, \tau$), but involve only $10\tau$ coefficients. They can be expressed in an elegant way in terms of five polynomial equations between ten elements of the $\tau$-dimensional artinian algebra

\[ A := k[\varepsilon] = \bigoplus_{j=0}^{\tau-1} k\varepsilon^j \quad \text{where} \quad \varepsilon^\tau = 0. \]

**Theorem 4.4.** The quadratic quasi-cone $Q_H$ is isomorphic to the direct product

\[ Q_H = V \times W, \]
where $V$ is the $(\tau + 6)$-dimensional weighted vector space with the weights $1, 2, 3, 4, 6$ and $6i$ $(i = 1, \ldots, \tau)$ and where $W$ is the quasi-cone consisting of the vectors

$$(\omega_1, \ldots, \omega_{10}) = \left( \sum_{j=0}^{\tau-1} w_{1j} \varepsilon^j, \ldots, \sum_{j=0}^{\tau-1} w_{10, j} \varepsilon^j \right) \in \mathbb{A}^{10}$$

satisfying the five equations:

$$\begin{align*}
\omega_1 \omega_9 + \omega_3 \omega_6 - \omega_2 \omega_{10} &= 0, \\
\omega_4 \omega_{10} + \omega_3 \omega_5 - \omega_6 \omega_7 &= 0, \\
\omega_1 \omega_4 + \omega_2 \omega_3 + \omega_6 \omega_8 &= 0, \\
\omega_8 \omega_{10} + \omega_3 \omega_5 + \omega_1 \omega_7 &= 0, \\
\omega_2 \omega_7 + \omega_8 \omega_9 - \omega_4 \omega_5 &= 0,
\end{align*}$$

in the artinian algebra $A$. To the coefficients $w_{ij}$ are attached the weights $\eta_i + 6(\tau - j)$ where $\eta_1, \ldots, \eta_{10} = 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, -1, 6, 6$.

Proof. We define

$$w_{1j} = g_{4,6\tau + 1 - 6j}, \quad w_{2j} = g_{6,6\tau + 1 - 6j}, \quad w_{3j} = g_{4,6\tau + 2 - 6j}, \quad w_{4j} = g_{6,6\tau + 2 - 6j}, \quad w_{5j} = \tilde{f}_{6,6\tau + 3 - 6j},$$

$$w_{6j} = g_{4,6\tau + 4 - 6j}, \quad w_{7j} = g_{7,6\tau + 4 - 6j}, \quad w_{8j} = g_{4,6\tau + 1 - 6j}, \quad w_{9j} = \tilde{f}_{8,6\tau + 6 - 6j}, \quad w_{10,j} = g_{8,6\tau + 6 - 6j},$$

and note that the five conditions on the $10\tau$ coefficients are equivalent to the five quadratic equations in the artinian algebra $A$.

Corollary 4.5.

$$\dim \mathcal{Q}_H = 8\tau + 6.$$  

Proof. Since $\dim V = \tau + 6$, we have to show that

$$\dim W = 7\tau.$$  

For each $i = 1, \ldots, 10$, let $W_i$ be the open subset of $W$ given by the inequality $w_{i0} \neq 0$, which means that $\omega_i$ is a unit in the local artinian algebra $A$. If a vector $(\omega_1, \ldots, \omega_{10})$ belongs to $W_1$, then we can eliminate $\omega_9, \omega_4$ and $\omega_7$ from the first, third and fourth quadratic equation, and the remaining two equations become trivial. Thus, $W_1$ has codimension $3\tau$ in $\mathbb{A}^{10}$ and hence dimension $7\tau$. In a similar way, we see that

$$\dim W_i = 7\tau \quad (i = 1, \ldots, 10).$$

If $\tau = 1$, then $W = W_1 \cup \cdots \cup W_{10}$ and therefore $\dim W = 7$.

Now we assume that $\tau > 1$. If a vector $(\omega_1, \ldots, \omega_{10}) \in W$ does not belong to the union $W_1 \cup \cdots \cup W_{10}$, that is, $w_{ij} = 0$ whenever $j = 0$, then the ten coefficients $w_{ij}$ with $j = \tau - 1$ do not enter into the five quadratic equations, and by induction we obtain

$$\dim(W \setminus (W_1 \cup \cdots \cup W_{10})) = 7(\tau - 2) + 10 = 7\tau - 4 < 7\tau,$$

and therefore $\dim W = 7\tau$.

Now applying Theorem 3.1, we obtain an upper bound for the dimension of the moduli variety

$$\dim \mathcal{M}_H \leq 8\tau + 5,$$

which for each $\tau > 1$ is better than Deligne’s bound $2g - 1 = 12\tau + 1$.  

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André Contiero
Instituto de Matemática
Universidade Federal de Alagoas
Avenida Lourival de Melo Mota
57072-970 Maceió – AL
Brazil
andrecontiero@mat.ufal.br

Karl-Otto Stöhr
Instituto de Matemática Pura e Aplicada (IMPA)
Estrada Dona Castorina 110
22460-320 Rio de Janeiro – RJ
Brazil
stohr@impa.br