



# On the Non-Uniqueness of the Sets Computing a Partially Symmetric Rank at Most Three

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**Abstract:** We describe all partially symmetric tensors which have rank two in more than one way and gives many examples, perhaps all, for rank three partially symmetric tensors.

**Keywords:**  $X$ -rank, Segre-Veronese variety, partially symmetric rank

## 1. Introduction

Let  $Y = \mathbb{P}^{n_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{P}^{n_k}$  be a multiprojective space. For all  $(d_1, \dots, d_k) \in (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})^k$  let  $v_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)} : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^r$ ,  $r = -1 + \prod_{i=1}^k \binom{n_i+d_i}{n_i}$ , denote the Segre-Veronese embedding of  $Y$ , i.e. the embedding of  $Y$  by the complete linear system  $|\mathcal{O}_Y(d_1, \dots, d_k)|$ . The case  $k = 1$  is just the Veronese embedding of the projective space  $\mathbb{P}^{n_1}$ . The case  $d_i = 1$  for all  $i$  corresponds to the Segre embedding of  $Y$ . Set  $X := v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(Y)$ . We recall that the elements of  $H^0(\mathcal{O}_Y(1, \dots, 1))^\vee$  correspond to the partially symmetric tensors of format  $\binom{n_1+d_1}{n_1} \times \cdots \times \binom{n_k+d_k}{n_k}$  and hence the elements of  $\mathbb{P}^r$  correspond to partially symmetric tensors of that format, up to a non-zero multiplicative constant. Fix  $q \in \mathbb{P}^r$ . The  $X$ -rank  $r_X(q)$  of  $q$  (or the partially symmetric rank of any non-zero tensor with  $q$  as its equivalence class) is the minimal cardinality of a finite set  $S \subset Y$  such that  $q \in \langle v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(S) \rangle$ , where  $\langle \cdot \rangle$  denote the linear span. The solution set  $\mathcal{S}(X, q)$  is the set of all  $S \subset Y$  such that  $\#S = r_X(q)$  and  $q \in \langle v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(S) \rangle$ . Obviously  $\mathcal{S}(X, q) = \emptyset$ . We recall that  $q \in \mathbb{P}^r$  is said to be a concise tensor or a concise partially symmetric tensor if there is no multiprojective space  $Y' \subsetneq Y$  such that  $q \in \langle v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(Y') \rangle$ .

In this note we prove the following result.

**Theorem 1.1** Fix an integer  $k \geq 1$  and positive integers  $n_i, d_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , such that  $(d_1, \dots, d_k) \neq (1, \dots, 1)$ . There is a concise tensor  $q$  with  $r_X(q) = 2$  and  $\#\mathcal{S}(X, q) \neq 1$  if and only if either  $k = 1$ ,  $n_1 = 1$ ,  $d_1 = 2$  and  $\mathcal{S}(X, q)$  is  $\mathbb{P}^1$  minus two points or  $k = 2$ ,  $n_1 = n_2 = 1$ ,  $(d_1, d_2) \in \{(2, 1), (1, 2)\}$  and  $q, \mathcal{S}(X, q)$  are as in Example 3.2.

We discuss several examples with  $r_X(q) = 3$  and  $\#\mathcal{S}(X, q) > 1$  and we wonder if they are the only ones. In particular we described all cases with  $\#\mathcal{S}(X, q) > 1$  when  $r_X(q) = 3$  and  $q \in \tau(X)$  (Proposition 4.1). We always assume  $d_i \geq 2$  for at least one integer  $i$ , because the case of the Segre variety is done in [4].

**Question 1.2** Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^r$  be an integral and non-degenerate variety. What is the maximal integer  $\alpha_X > 0$  (resp.  $\alpha'_X$ ) such that for each set  $A \subset X$  with  $\#A \leq \alpha_X - 1$  and  $A \in \mathcal{S}(X, q)$  for some  $q \in \mathbb{P}^r$ , we have  $r_X(q') = \#A + 1$  for a general  $o \in X$  and a general  $q' \in \langle \{o, q\} \rangle$  (resp. all  $q' \in \langle \{o, q'\} \rangle \setminus \{o, q'\}$ )?

Obviously the integer  $\alpha_X$  in Question 1.2 is at most the generic  $X$ -rank  $r_{X, \text{gen}}$  of  $\mathbb{P}^r$ , i.e. the minimal integer  $t$  such that  $\sigma_t(X) = \mathbb{P}^r$ , where  $\sigma_t(X)$  denote the  $t$ -secant variety of  $X$ <sup>[12-13]</sup>. In very special cases  $r_{X, \text{gen}} = \alpha_X$ . For instance this is true if  $X$  is a rational normal curve by Sylvester's theorem<sup>[9, 12-13]</sup>.

We work over an algebraically closed field of characteristic 0.

## 2. Notation and preliminary remarks

Let  $Y = \mathbb{P}^{n_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{P}^{n_k}$ ,  $k \geq 1$ ,  $n_i \geq 1$  for all  $i$ , be any multiprojective space. For any  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  let  $\pi_i : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{n_i}$  denote the projection onto the  $i$ -th factor of  $Y$ . If  $k \geq 2$  set  $Y_i := \prod_{h \neq i} \mathbb{P}^{n_h}$  and let  $\eta_i : Y \rightarrow Y_i$  the morphisms which forget the  $i$ -th coordinate of any  $p = (p_1, \dots, p_k) \in Y$ . Let  $\varepsilon_i$  (resp.  $\hat{\varepsilon}_i$ ) denote the element  $(a_1, \dots, a_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k$  with  $a_h = 1$  for all  $h \neq i$  and  $a_i = 0$  (resp.  $a_i = 0$  and  $a_h = 1$  for all  $h \neq i$ ). Thus  $\hat{\varepsilon}_i + \varepsilon = (1, \dots, 1)$ .

**Remark 2.1** Fix  $Y = \mathbb{P}^{n_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{P}^{n_k}$  and  $(d_1, \dots, d_k) \in (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})^k$ . Let  $v_{d_1, \dots, d_k} : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^r$ ,  $r = -1 + \prod_{i=1}^k \binom{n_i+d_i}{n_i}$ , be the Segre-

Veronese embedding of  $Y$  with multidegree  $(d_1, \dots, d_k)$ . Let  $Y' \subseteq Y$  be a multiprojective subspace. Obviously  $v_{d_1, \dots, d_k|Y'}$  is the Segre-Veronese embedding of  $Y'$  with multidegree  $(d_1, \dots, d_k)$ . Fix  $q \in \langle v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(Y') \rangle$ . It is known that  $r_{v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(Y)}(q) = r_{v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(Y')}(q)$  and that  $\mathcal{S}(v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(Y), q) = \mathcal{S}(v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(Y'), q)$ . We will call Autarky or concision this property. For any finite set  $A \subset Y$  the multiprojective space  $\prod_{i=1}^k \langle \pi_i(A) \rangle$  is the minimal multiprojective subspace of  $Y$  containing  $A$ . Thus Autarky means that for any  $q' \in \mathbb{P}^r$  knowing one solution  $S' \in \mathcal{S}(v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(Y), q')$  we reconstruct the minimal multiprojective space  $Y' \subseteq Y$  such that  $q' \in \langle v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(Y') \rangle$ . Note that  $Y'$  is uniquely determined by  $q'$ .

Let  $D \subset Y$  be an effective divisor. For any line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$  on  $Y$  and any finite set  $S \subset Y$  there is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_{S \setminus S \cap D} \otimes \mathcal{L}(-D) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_S \otimes \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{S \cap D} \rightarrow 0 \quad (1)$$

### 3. Proof of theorem 1.1

In this section we prove Theorem 1.1. By Autarky we have  $n_i = 1$  for all  $i$ .

**Remark 3.1** Assume  $k = 1$  and hence  $Y = \mathbb{P}^1$ . Fix  $q \in \mathbb{P}^r$ ,  $r = d_1$ , with  $r_X(q) = 2$ . The case  $d_1 \geq 3$  is excluded by Sylvester's theorem<sup>[9,12]</sup> (1.36,1.40). Now assume  $d_1 = 2$  and hence  $r = 2$  and  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  and  $r_X(q) = 2$  if and only if  $q \in \mathbb{P}^r \setminus X$ . The constructible set  $\mathcal{S}(X, q)$  is isomorphic to the pencil of lines  $L \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  containing  $q$ , minus the tangent lines to  $X$  containing  $q$ . Since we are not in characteristic 2, there are exactly 2 lines passing through  $q$  and tangent to  $X$ .

**Example 3.2** Take  $n_1 = n_2 = 1$  and  $(d_1, d_2) \in \{(1, 2), (2, 1)\}$ . Just to fix the notation we assume  $d_1 = 2$  and  $d_2 = 1$ . We have  $\sigma_2(X) = \mathbb{P}^5$ . It is well-known that in this case  $X$  is an OADP, i.e.  $\#\mathcal{S}(X, q) = 1$  for a general  $q \in \mathbb{P}^r$ <sup>[8,10,17]</sup>, in the terminology of [8, Proposition 2.3]  $X$  is the scroll  $\mathcal{S}(2, 2)$ . We will prove that all  $q \in \mathbb{P}^5 \setminus X$  have  $r_X(q) = 2$ , that  $\#\mathcal{S}(X, q) = 1$  if  $q \in \mathbb{P}^5 \setminus \tau(X)$  and that there are two types of  $q \in \tau(X) \setminus X$ , one with  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) = 1$  and one with  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) = 3$ .

Take  $L \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 0)|$ . Note that  $D := v_{2,1}(L)$  is a smooth conic and  $\langle D \rangle \not\subseteq X$ . Hence each  $q \in \langle D \rangle \setminus X \cap \langle D \rangle$  has  $r_X(q) = 2$  and  $\mathcal{S}(X, q)$  is infinite. More precisely there is a 1-dimensional family of  $\mathcal{S}(X, q)$  formed by the solutions spanning a line contained in  $\langle D \rangle$ .

**Claim 1:** Assume  $q \in \langle D \rangle \setminus X \cap \langle D \rangle$ . Every  $A \in \mathcal{S}(X, q)$  is contained in  $D$  and  $\mathcal{S}(X, q)$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$  minus 2 points. Moreover  $A \cap A' = \emptyset$  for all  $A, A' \in \mathcal{S}(X, q)$  such that  $A \neq A'$ .

**Proof of Claim 1:** The set of all  $E \subset L$  such that  $\#E = 2$  and  $q \in \langle v_{(2,1)}(E) \rangle$  is isomorphic to the set of all lines  $T \subset \langle v_{(2,1)}(D) \rangle$  containing  $q$  and not tangent to  $D$  and hence is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$  minus 2 points. Note that any two such different elements are disjoint. Fix  $A \in \mathcal{S}(X, q)$ . There is  $B \subset D$  such that  $B \in \mathcal{S}(X, q)$  and  $B \cap A = \emptyset$ , because there is a line  $T \subset \langle v_{(2,1)}(D) \rangle$  containing  $q$ , not tangent to  $D$  and with  $T \cap v_{(2,1)}(A) = \emptyset$ . Set  $S := A \cup B$  and assume  $A \not\subseteq D$ , i.e.  $S \setminus S \cap D = \emptyset$ . Since  $S \not\subseteq D$ , [2, Lemma 5.1] gives  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{S \setminus S \cap D}(1, 1)) > 0$ . Since  $B \subset D$ ,  $\#(S \setminus S \cap D) \leq 2$ . Thus the very ampleness of  $\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 1)$  gives  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{S \setminus S \cap D}(1, 1)) = 0$ , a contradiction.

Note that any  $q$  as in Claim 1 is an element of  $\tau(X) \setminus X$ . All other elements of  $\tau(X) \setminus X$  are obtained in the following way. Let  $v \subset Y$  be a connected degree 2 zero-dimensional scheme contained neither in some  $L \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(\varepsilon_1)|$  nor in some  $R \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(\varepsilon_2)|$  (because  $v_{2,1}(R) \subset X$  and so  $\langle v_{2,1}(v) \rangle \subset X$  if  $v \subset R$ ). There is a smooth  $C \in |\mathcal{I}_v(1, 1)|$ . Since  $\dim \langle v_{2,1}(C) \rangle = 3$  and  $v_{2,1}(C)$  is a rational normal curve of  $\langle v_{2,1}(C) \rangle$ , Sylvester's theorem gives  $r_X(q) = 3$  and  $\dim \mathcal{S}(v_{2,1}(C)) = 2$  for all  $q \in \langle v_{2,1}(v) \rangle \setminus v_{2,1}(v_{\text{red}})$ . Since there are  $\infty^1 C \in |\mathcal{I}_v(1, 1)|$  and any two of them meet only along  $v$  (because  $\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 1) \cdot \mathcal{O}_Y(1, 1) = 2$ ), we get  $\dim \mathcal{S}(Y, q) = 3$ .

**Claim 2:** Fix  $a \in \sigma_2(X) \setminus \tau(X)$ . We have  $r_X(a) = 2$  and  $\#\mathcal{S}(X, a) = 1$ .

**Proof of Claim 2:** Since  $X$  is smooth and  $a \in \sigma_2(X) \setminus \tau(X)$ ,  $r_X(a) = 2$ . Assume that  $\mathcal{S}(Y, a)$  is not a singleton and take  $E, F \in \mathcal{S}(X, a)$  such that  $E \neq F$ . Set  $G := E \cup F$ . Since any two different lines either are disjoint or meets at one point and  $a \in \langle v_{2,1}(E) \rangle \cap \langle v_{2,1}(F) \rangle$ , we have  $E \cap F = \emptyset$ . Hence  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_G(1, 1)) > 0$ <sup>[11]</sup>(Lemma 1). Thus any  $C \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 1)|$  containing 3 points of  $G$  contains the fourth one. Thus there is  $C \in |\mathcal{I}_G(1, 1)|$ . Since  $a \notin \tau(X)$ , we saw that neither  $E$  nor  $F$  are contained in a ruling of  $Y$ . Thus  $C$  is smooth. By assumption  $a \notin \tau(v_{2,1}(C))$ . Hence  $r_{v_{2,1}(C)}(a) = 2$  and  $E, F \in \mathcal{S}(v_{2,1}(C), a)$ , contradicting<sup>[12]</sup> (Theorem 1.40).

**Proof of Theorem 1.1:** Remark 3.1 describes the case  $k = 1$ . From now on we assume  $k \geq 2$ .

See Example 3.2 for the case  $k = 2$ ,  $n_1 = n_2 = 1$  and  $(d_1, d_2) \in \{(1, 2), (2, 1)\}$ .

(b) Assume  $k = 2$ ,  $d_1 = d_2 = 2$ . Take  $H \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(2, 0)|$  containing  $A$ . Either  $S \subset H$  or  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{B \setminus B \cap H}(0, 2)) > 0$ <sup>[2-3]</sup> (Lemma 5.1 or Lemma 2.4).

(b1) First assume  $S \subset H$ . Since  $q$  is concise, there is no  $M \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 0)|$  containing  $S$ . Since  $S$  is a finite set, we get that  $H \neq 2M$  for any  $M \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 0)|$ . Thus  $H = H' \cup H''$  with  $H', H'' \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 0)|$ . With no loss of generality we may assume  $\#(S \cap H') \geq \#(S \cap H'')$ . By [2, Lemma 5.1] or [3, Lemma 2.4] we have  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{S \cap H'}(1, 1)) > 0$ . Since  $\#(S \cap H'') \leq 2$  and  $\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 2)$

is very ample, we get a contradiction.

(b2) Now assume  $h^1(H, \mathcal{I}_{B \setminus B \cap H}(0, 2)) > 0$ . Since  $h^1(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{I}_Z(2)) = 0$  for any scheme  $Z \subset \mathbb{P}^1$  with  $\deg(Z) \leq 3$ , we get  $\#(B \setminus B \cap H) = 2$  (i.e.  $B \cap H = \emptyset$  and  $\#(\pi_1(B)) = 1$ ). Set  $M := \pi_1^{-1}(\pi_1(M)) \in |\mathcal{I}_B(1, 0)|$ . Since  $\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 2)$  is very ample, we have  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_A(1, 1)) = 0$ . Since  $S \setminus S \cap M \subseteq A$ , [2, Lemma 5.1] or [3, Lemma 2.4] give  $S \subset M$ , contradicting the assumption that  $q$  is concise.

(c) Assume  $k = 2, d_1 = 3$  and  $d_2 = 1$ . Fix  $H \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(2, 0)|$  containing  $A$ . By [2-3] either  $S \subset H$  or  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{B \setminus B \cap H}(0, 1)) > 0$ .

(c1) Assume  $S \subset H$ . Since  $q$  is concise, there is no  $M \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 0)|$  containing  $S$ . Since  $S$  is a finite set, we get that  $H \neq 2M$  with  $M \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 0)|$ . Thus  $H = H' \cup H''$  with  $H', H'' \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 0)|$  and  $H' \neq H''$ . With no loss of generality we may assume  $\#(S \cap H') > \#(S \cap H'')$ . By [2, Lemma 5.1] or [3, Lemma 2.4] we have  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{S \cap H'}(2, 1)) > 0$ . Since  $\#(S \cap H'') \leq 2$  and  $\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 2)$  is very ample, we get a contradiction.

(c2) Assume  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{B \setminus B \cap M}(0, 1)) > 0$ . Since  $\mathcal{O}_Y(0, 1)$  is spanned, we get  $B \cap M = \emptyset$  and  $\#(\pi_1(B)) = 1$ , contradicting concision.

(d) As in steps (b) and (c) we exclude all other cases with  $k = 2$ . Among the cases with  $k > 2$  we immediately see that it is sufficient to exclude the case  $k = 3, d_1 = 2$  and  $d_2 = d_3 = 1$ . Assume  $k = 3, d_1 = 2$  and  $d_2 = d_3 = 1$ . Fix  $H \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(1, 0, 0)|$  containing at least one point of  $S$ . By Autarky we have  $S \not\subseteq H$  and hence  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{S \setminus S \cap H}(1, 1, 1)) > 0$ . Since  $\#(S \setminus S \cap H) \leq 3$  and  $v_{1,1,1}(Y)$  is cut out by quadrics, we get  $\#(S \setminus S \cap H) = 3$  (i.e.  $\#(S \cap H) = 1$ ) and the existence of  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  such that  $\#(\pi_1(S \setminus S \cap H)) = 1$ . Take  $M := \pi_1^{-1}(\pi_1(S \setminus S \cap H)) \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(\varepsilon_i)|$ . Since  $\mathcal{O}_Y(2, 1, 1)(-\varepsilon_i)$  is spanned and  $\#(S \cap H) = 1$ , [2, Lemma 5.1] or [3, Lemma 2.4] gives a contradiction.

#### 4. $r_X(q) = 3, q \in t(X)$

In this section we prove the following result.

**Proposition 4.1** Fix  $q \in \tau(X)$  with  $2 \leq r_X(q) \leq 3, k \geq 2$ . Then  $Y = \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1, (d_1, d_2) \in \{(2, 1), (1, 2)\}$  and  $q$  is as in Example 3.2.

By section 3 we may assume  $r_X(q) = 3$ . Fix  $A \in \mathcal{S}(X, q)$  and a degree 2 connected scheme  $v \subset Y$  such that  $q \in \langle v_{d_1, \dots, d_k}(v) \rangle$ . Set  $\{o\} := v_{\text{red}}$ . Since  $\deg(v) = 2$  and  $Y$  is minimal among the multiprojective spaces containing  $v$ , we have  $n_i = 1$  for all  $i$ . With no loss of generality we may assume  $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_k > 0$ . By assumption  $k \geq 2$  and  $d_1 \geq 2$ . Set  $E := v \cup A$ . We have  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_E(d_1, \dots, d_k)) > 0^{\text{[1]}}$  (Lemma 1).

(a) First assume  $d_1 \geq 3$ . Take  $T_i \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(\varepsilon_i)|, 1 \leq i \leq 3$ , such that  $T_1 \cup T_2 \cup T_3 \supset A$  and call  $T \subseteq T_1 \cup T_2 \cup T_3$  containing  $A$ . We have  $v \not\subseteq T$ , because  $T$  is reduced and  $\deg(\pi_1(v)) = 2$ . Thus  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_v(0, d_2, \dots, d_k)) > 0^{\text{[2-3]}}$  (Lemma 5.1 or Lemma 2.4), contradicting the assumptions  $k \geq 2$  and  $\deg(\pi_2(v)) \geq 2$ .

(b) By step (a) from now on we assume  $d_1 = 2$ . Take  $T \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(2\varepsilon_1)|$  containing  $v$ . Note that  $T = 2K$  with  $\{K\} = |\mathcal{I}_o(\varepsilon_1)|$ . Either  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{A \setminus A \cap T}(0, d_2, \dots, d_k)) > 0$  or  $A \subset T$  and hence  $A \subset K$ . The latter is impossible, because  $K$  is a proper multiprojective subspace of  $Y$ . Thus  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{A \setminus A \cap T}(0, d_2, \dots, d_k)) > 0$ . Since  $Y$  is the minimal multiprojective space containing  $A$  by Autarky, we have  $\#(\pi_1(A)) > 1$  for all  $i$ . Since  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{A \setminus A \cap T}(0, d_2, \dots, d_k)) > 0$ , there are  $a, b \in A \setminus A \cap T$  such that  $\pi_i(a) = \pi_i(b)$  for all  $i > 1$ . Write  $A = \{a, b, c\}$ .

(b1) Assume  $k \geq 3$ . Take  $\{M\} := |\mathcal{I}_a(\varepsilon_2)|$  and  $M' := |\mathcal{I}_c(\varepsilon_3)|$ . Note that  $A \subset M \cup M'$ . Since  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_v(2\varepsilon_1)) = 0$ , we get  $v \subset M \cup M'$ , i.e.  $\pi_2(a) = \pi_2(o)$  and  $\pi_3(c) = \pi_3(o)$ . Using  $|\mathcal{I}_c(\varepsilon_2)|$  and  $|\mathcal{I}_a(\varepsilon_3)|$  we get  $\pi_2(c) = \pi_2(o)$ . Thus  $\#(\pi_2(A)) = 1$ , contradicting the minimality of  $Y$ .

(b2) By  $k = 2$ . If  $d_2 = 1$   $q$  is as in Example 3.2. Assume  $d_2 = 2$ . Using  $T' \in |\mathcal{O}_Y(2\varepsilon_2)|$  instead of  $T$  as in the first part of step (b) we get the existence of  $a', b' \in A$  such that  $a' \neq b', \pi_1(a') = \pi_1(b')$  and  $\pi_2(c') = \pi_2(o)$ , where  $\{c'\} := A \setminus \{a', b'\}$ . Since  $\#(A) = 3$  and  $\{a', b'\} = \{a, b\}$  we may assume  $a' = a$  and  $b' = c$ . Thus  $c' = b$ . Thus  $\pi_2(b) = \pi_2(o) = \pi_2(c)$ . Write  $\{H\} := |\mathcal{I}_o(\varepsilon_2)|$ . We have  $A \not\subseteq H$  by the minimality of  $Y$ . Since  $\text{Res}_H(E) \subseteq \{a, o\}$ , we have  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{\text{Res}_H(E)}(2, 1)) = 0$ , contradicting [2-3] and concluding the proof of Proposition 4.1.

#### 5. Other examples with $r_X(q) = 3$

**Remark 5.1** Take  $k = 2, n_1 = n_2 = d_2 = 1$  and  $d_1 = 2$ . Thus  $r = 5$ . The case  $r_X(q) = 2$  is done in Example 3.2. Since  $X$  is not the Veronese surface, we have  $\sigma_2(X) = \mathbb{P}^5$ . Thus all  $q \in \mathbb{P}^5$  with  $r_X(q) = 3$  are contained in  $\tau(X) \setminus X$ . These case is described in Example 3.2.

**Remark 5.2** Take  $k = 2, n_1 = n_2 = 1$  and  $d_1 = d_2 = 2$ . Since  $\dim \sigma_3(X) = 7^{\text{[14-16]}}$ , a general  $q \in \sigma_3(X)$  has  $\dim \mathcal{S}(Y, q) = 1$ . By [11, Ex. II.3.22, part (b)] every  $q \in \mathbb{P}^8$  with  $r_X(q) = 3$  has  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) \geq 1$ .

**Remark 5.3** Take  $k = 3, n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 1$  and

$$(d_1, d_2, d_3) \in \{(2, 1, 1), (1, 2, 1), (1, 1, 2)\}.$$

Since  $\dim \sigma_3(X) = 10^{[5,7,15]}$ , a general  $q \in \sigma_3(X)$  has  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) = 1$ . [11, Ex. II.3.22, part (b)] every  $q \in \mathbb{P}^r$  with  $r_X(q) = 3$  has  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) \geq 1$ .

**Remark 5.4** Take  $k = 4$ ,  $n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = n_4 = 1$  and  $d_1 = d_2 = d_3 = d_4 = 1$ . Since  $\dim \sigma_3(X) = 13^{[6,15]}$ , a general  $q \in \mathbb{P}^r$  has  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) = 1$ . By [11, Ex. II.3.22, part (b)] every  $q \in \mathbb{P}^r$  with  $r_X(q) = 3$  has  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) \geq 1$ .

**Remark 5.5** The case  $k = 1$ , i.e. the case of Veronese embedding, is easy for points  $q$  with  $r_X(q) = 3$ . Note the existence of points of rank  $> 1$  implies  $d_1 \geq 2$ . Since  $r_X(q) = 3$ , concision gives  $n_1 \in \{1, 2\}$ . for each  $q \in \mathbb{P}^2 \setminus X$  ( $\mathcal{S}(Y, q)$  is the set of all lines of  $\mathbb{P}^2$  through  $q$  and not tangent to  $X$ . Sylvester's theorem<sup>[9,12]</sup> says that there are no cases with  $n_1 = 1$  and  $d_1 \neq 4$ .

**Claim 1:** There is no  $q$  with  $r_X(q) = 3$  and  $\#\mathcal{S}(Y, q) > 1$  with  $n_1 = 2$ ,  $q \notin \langle \nu_d(L) \rangle$  for any line  $L \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  and  $d - 1 \geq 4$ .

**Proof of Claim 1:** Assume the existence of  $q$  with  $A, B \in \mathcal{S}(Y, q)$  and  $A \neq B$ . Set  $S := A \cup B$ . Take a line  $L \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  containing at least 2 points of  $A$ . We get  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{S \setminus S \cap L}(d - 1)) > 0^{[2-3]}$ . Since  $\#(S \setminus S \cap L) \leq 4$  and  $d_1 - 1 \geq 3$ , this is false.

Thus we get the following cases:

(1)  $n_1 = 1$ ,  $d_1 = 4$ ,  $q$  sufficiently general in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  with  $\dim \mathcal{S}(Y, q) = 1$ ; by [11, Ex. II.3.22] every  $q \in \mathbb{P}^4$  with  $r_X(q) = 3$  has  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) \geq 1$

(2)  $n_2 = 2$ ,  $d_1 = 3$ ,  $q$  sufficiently general in  $\mathbb{P}^5$  with  $\dim \mathcal{S}(Y, q) = 3$ ; by [11, Ex. II.3.22] every  $q \in \mathbb{P}^5$  with  $r_X(q) = 3$  has  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) \geq 3$ .

**Example 5.6** Take  $n_1 = 2$ ,  $n_2 = 1$ ,  $d_1 = 1$  and  $d_2 = 2$  (the same proof works for the case  $(n_1, n_2, d_1, d_2) = (1, 2, 2, 1)$ ). We have  $r = 8$ . Since  $\sigma_3(X) = \mathbb{P}^8$ , we have  $\dim \mathcal{S}(Y, q) = 3$  for a general  $q \in \mathbb{P}^8$ . By [11, Ex. II.3.22] every  $q \in \mathbb{P}^8$  with  $r_X(q) = 3$  has  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) \geq 1$ .

**Proposition 5.7** Set  $d_1 := 2$ . Fix an integer  $k \geq 2$  and take positive integers  $d_2, \dots, d_k$ . Fix  $n_i \in \{1, 2\}$  and set  $n_i := 1$  for all  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . Fix a line  $L \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n_1}$  and take  $o_1 \in \mathbb{P}^{n_1}$ ; if  $n_1 = 2$  assume  $o_1 \notin L$ . Fix  $e_i, o_i \in \mathbb{P}^1$ ,  $i = 2, \dots, k$  such that  $e_i \neq o_i$  for all  $i$ . Set  $Y := \mathbb{P}^{n_1} \times (\mathbb{P}^1)^{k-1}$ ,  $Y' := L \times \{e_2\} \times \dots \times \{e_k\} \subset Y$ ,  $o := (o_1, \dots, o_k)$ ,  $X := \nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(Y)$  and  $X' := \nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(Y')$ . Fix  $q' \in \langle X' \rangle \setminus X'$  and take  $q \in \langle \{q', \nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(o)\} \rangle \setminus \langle \{q', \nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(o)\} \rangle$ . Then

- (1)  $Y$  (resp.  $Y'$ ) is the minimal multiprojective space containing  $q$  (resp.  $q'$ ).
- (2)  $r_X(q') = r_X(q) = 2$ ,  $\mathcal{S}(X, q') = \mathcal{S}(X', q')$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$  minus 2 points.
- (3)  $2 \leq r_X(q) \leq 3$ .
- (4) Assume either  $d_2 \geq 2$  or  $k \geq 3$ . Then  $r_X(q) = 3$  and  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) > 0$ .

**Proof.** Since  $\langle X' \rangle \cong \mathbb{P}^2$  and  $q' \notin X'$ ,  $q'$  is as in case (1) of Theorem 1.1 and hence  $\mathcal{S}(X', q')$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$  minus 2 points. By Autarky  $r_X(q') = r_{X'}(q')$ . By our choice of  $o$ ,  $Y$  is the minimal multiprojective space containing  $Y'$  and  $o$ . Since  $q$  is in the linear span of  $q'$  and a point of  $X$ ,  $1 \leq r_X(q) \leq 3$ . Thus to prove part (3) it is sufficient to prove that  $r_X(q) > 1$ . Assume  $r_X(q) = 1$ , i.e. assume  $q = \nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(a)$  for some  $a \in Y$ . Since  $q' \in \langle \{q, \{o\}\} \rangle$  and  $r_X(q') = 2$ , we get  $\{a, o\} \in \mathcal{S}(X, q')$ , contradicting Autarky and the assumption  $o_2 \neq e_2$ .

(a) Assume  $d_2 \geq 2$ .

Assume  $r_X(q) = 2$  and take  $B \in \mathcal{S}(X, q)$ . Fix  $A \in \mathcal{S}(X', q')$  and set  $S := A \cup B \setminus \{o\}$ . Since  $q \in \langle \nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(A) \rangle \cap_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)} \langle \nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(B) \rangle$ ,  $q \notin \langle \nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(B') \rangle$  for any  $B' \subsetneq B$  and  $B \not\subseteq A$ ,  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_S(d_1, \dots, d_k)) > 0^{[1]}$  (Lemma 1). Let  $M$  be the only element of  $|\mathcal{O}_Y(\varepsilon_2)|$  such that  $\pi_2(M) = \{e_2\}$ . Consider the residual exact sequence of  $M$ :

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_{S \setminus S \cap M}(d_1, d_2 - 1, \dots, d_k) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_S(d_1, \dots, d_k) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_{S \cap M, M}(d_1, \dots, d_k) \rightarrow 0 \quad (2)$$

Since  $S \not\subseteq M$ ,  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{S \setminus S \cap M}(d_1, d_2 - 1, \dots, d_k)) > 0^{[2-3]}$  (Lemma 5.1, Lemma 2.4). Since  $\mathcal{O}_Y(d_1, d_2 - 1, \dots, d_k)$  is very ample,  $\#(S \setminus S \cap M) \geq 3$ . Thus  $\#(S \setminus S \cap M) = 3$ , i.e.  $(A \cup \{o\}) \cap M = \emptyset$  and  $S \setminus S \cap M = A \cup \{o\}$ . Since  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{S \setminus S \cap M}(d_1, d_2 - 1, \dots, d_k)) > 0$ ,  $\nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(A \cup \{o\})$  is formed by 3 collinear points. Thus  $\nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(o) \in \langle X' \rangle$ .

Since  $\nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(o) \notin \langle X' \rangle$ , we get  $r_{X'}(\nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(o)) > r_X(\nu_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(o))$ , contradicting Autarky. Thus  $r_X(q) = 3$ . Hence  $\mathcal{S}(X, q) \cong \{\{o\} \cup A\}_{A \in \mathcal{S}(X', q')}$ . Thus  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) \geq 1$ .

(b) Assume  $d_2 = 1$  and  $k \geq 3$ . We take  $M$  as in step (a). We twice get  $h^1(\mathcal{I}_{S \setminus S \cap M}(d_1, 0, d_2, \dots, d_k)) > 0$ . If  $\#(S \setminus S \cap M) = 2$  we get that  $\#\pi(S \setminus S \cap M) = 1$  for all  $i \neq 1$ . Since  $S \setminus S \cap M$  is contained in a solution of  $q$  and  $d_2 = 1$ , contradicting the obvious extension ( $d_j$  arbitrary for  $j \neq 2$ ) of [4, Remark 1.10]. Thus  $r_X(q) = 3$  and hence  $\mathcal{S}(X, q) \cong \{\{o\} \cup A\}_{A \in \mathcal{S}(X', q')}$  and in particular  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) \geq 1$ .

In the same way we get the following result.

**Proposition 5.8** Fix  $(d_1, d_2) \in \{(2,1), (1, 2)\}$ . Fix an integer  $k \geq 3$  and take positive integers  $d_3, \dots, d_k$ . Fix  $n_1, n_2 \in \{1,$

2} and set  $n_i := 1$  for all  $i = 3, \dots, k$ . Fix lines  $L_i \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n_i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , and take  $o_i \in \mathbb{P}^{n_i}$ ; if  $n_i = 2$  assume  $o_2 \notin L$ . Fix  $e_i, o_i \in \mathbb{P}^1$ ,  $i = 3, \dots, k$  such that  $e_i \neq o_i$  for all  $i$ . Set  $Y := \mathbb{P}^{n_1} \times \mathbb{P}^{n_2} \times (\mathbb{P}^1)^{k-2}$ ,  $Y' := L_1 \times L_2 \times \{e_3\} \times \dots \times \{e_k\} \subset Y$ ,  $o := (o_1, \dots, o_k)$ ,  $X := v_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(Y)$  and  $X' := v_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(Y')$ . Fix  $q' \in \langle X' \rangle \setminus X'$  and take  $q \in \langle \{q', v_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(o)\} \rangle \setminus \langle \{q', v_{(d_1, \dots, d_k)}(o)\} \rangle$ . Then

- (1)  $Y$  (resp.  $Y'$ ) is the minimal multiprojective space containing  $q$  (resp.  $q'$ ).
- (2)  $r_X(q') = r_X(q) = 2$ ,  $\mathcal{S}(X, q') = \mathcal{S}(X', q')$  and  $2 \leq r_X(q) \leq 3$ .
- (3)  $2 \leq r_X(q) \leq 3$ .
- (4) Assume either  $d_3 \geq 2$  or  $k \geq 4$ . Then  $r_X(q) = 3$  and  $\dim \mathcal{S}(X, q) > 0$ .

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