# On a new property of $n$-poised and $G C_{n}$ sets 

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#### Abstract

In this paper we consider n-poised planar node sets, as well as more special ones, called $G C_{n}$-sets. For these sets all $n$-fundamental polynomials are products of $n$ linear factors as it always takes place in the univariate case. A line $\ell$ is called $k$-node line for a node set $\mathcal{X}$ if it passes through exactly $k$ nodes. An $(n+1)$-node line is called maximal line. In 1982 M. Gasca and J. I. Maeztu conjectured that every $G C_{n^{-}}$ set possesses necessarily a maximal line. Till now the conjecture is confirmed to be true for $n \leq 5$. It is well-known that any maximal line $M$ of $\mathcal{X}$ is used by each node in $\mathcal{X} \backslash M$, meaning that it is a factor of the fundamental polynomial of each node. In this paper we prove, in particular, that if the Gasca-Maeztu conjecture is true then any $n$-node line of $G C_{n}$-set $\mathcal{X}$ is used either by exactly $\binom{n}{2}$ nodes or by exactly $\binom{n-1}{2}$ nodes. We prove also similar statements concerning $n$-node or $(n-1)$-node lines in more general $n$-poised sets. This is a new phenomenon in $n$-poised and $G C_{n}$ sets. At the end we present a conjecture concerning any $k$-node line.


Key words: Polynomial interpolation, Gasca-Maeztu conjecture, $n$-poised set, $n$-independent set, $G C_{n}$-set, fundamental polynomial, algebraic curve, maximal curve, maximal line.

Mathematics Subject Classification (2010): primary: 41A05, 41A63; secondary 14H50.

## 1 Introduction and background

Let $\Pi_{n}$ be the space of bivariate polynomials of total degree at most $n$ :

$$
\Pi_{n}=\left\{\sum_{i+j \leq n} a_{i j} x^{i} y^{j}\right\} .
$$

We have that

$$
\begin{equation*}
N:=\operatorname{dim} \Pi_{n}=\binom{n+2}{2} . \tag{1.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

We say that a polynomial $q$ is of degree $k$ if $q \in \Pi_{k} \backslash \Pi_{k-1}$. Consider a set of $s$ distinct nodes

$$
\mathcal{X}_{s}=\left\{\left(x_{1}, y_{1}\right),\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right), \ldots,\left(x_{s}, y_{s}\right)\right\}
$$

The problem of finding a polynomial $p \in \Pi_{n}$ which satisfies the conditions

$$
\begin{equation*}
p\left(x_{i}, y_{i}\right)=c_{i}, \quad i=1,2, \ldots s \tag{1.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

is called interpolation problem.
Let us now describe briefly the content of the paper. We consider here $n$ poised node sets for which the bivariate interpolation problem is unisolvent. We pay a special attention to a subclass of these sets called $G C_{n}$-sets. In such sets all $n$-fundamental polynomials, i.e., polynomials of total degree $n$ vanishing at all nodes but one, are products of $n$ linear factors. Note that this condition always takes place in the univariate case. A line $\ell$ is called $k$-node line for $\mathcal{X}$ if it passes through exactly $k$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$. It is easily seen that at most $n+1$ nodes in an $n$-posed set (and therefore in a $G C_{n}$ set) can be collinear. That is why $(n+1)$-node line is called maximal line. In 1982 M. Gasca and J. I. Maeztu conjectured 12 that every $G C_{n}$-set possesses necessarily a maximal line. Till now the conjecture is confirmed to be true for $n \leq 5$ (see Subsection 1.3 ). We say that a node of an $n$-poised or $G C_{n^{-}}$ set uses a line if the line is a factor in the fundamental polynomial of the node. It is well-known that any maximal line $M$ of $\mathcal{X}$ is used by all nodes in $\mathcal{X} \backslash M$. Note that this statement, as well as the previous one concerning the maximal number of collinear nodes, follow readily from a well-known and simple fact that a bivariate polynomial of total degree at most $n$ vanishes on a line if it vanishes at $n+1$ points in the line (see forthcoming Proposition 1.7). In Section 3 we prove that the subset of nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ using a given $k$-node line is $(k-2)$-independent, meaning that each node of the subset possesses a fundamental polynomial of total degree not exceeding $k-2$. In Sections 3.2 and 3.3 we prove a main result of this paper. Namely, if the Gasca-Maeztu conjecture is true then any $n$-node line of a $G C_{n}$-set $\mathcal{X}$ is used either by exactly $\binom{n}{2}$ nodes or by exactly $\binom{n-1}{2}$ nodes. In Sections 2 and 2.2 similar statements are proved concerning $n$-node or $(n-1)$-node lines in $n$-poised sets. Let us mention that this is a new phenomenon in $n$-poised and $G C_{n}$ sets. At the end we present a conjecture concerning any $k$-node line.

Now let us go to exact definitions and formulations.
Definition 1.1. The set of nodes $\mathcal{X}_{s}$ is called n-poised if for any data $\left\{c_{1}, \ldots, c_{s}\right\}$ there exists a unique polynomial $p \in \Pi_{n}$, satisfying the conditions (1.2).

A polynomial $p \in \Pi_{n}$ is called an $n$-fundamental polynomial for a node $A=\left(x_{k}, y_{k}\right) \in \mathcal{X}_{s}$ if

$$
p\left(x_{i}, y_{i}\right)=\delta_{i k}, \quad i=1, \ldots, s
$$

where $\delta$ is the Kronecker symbol. We denote the $n$-fundamental polynomial of $A \in \mathcal{X}_{s}$ by $p_{A}^{\star}=p_{A, \mathcal{X}_{s}}^{\star}$. Sometimes we call fundamental also a polynomial that vanishes at all nodes but one, since it is a nonzero constant times the fundamental polynomial.
In view of the uniqueness we get readily that for any $n$-poised set the degree of each fundamental polynomial equals to $n$.

A necessary condition of $n$-poisedness of $\mathcal{X}_{s}$ is: $\left|\mathcal{X}_{s}\right|=s=N$.
The following is a Linear Algebra fact:
Proposition 1.2. The set of nodes $\mathcal{X}_{N}$ is n-poised if and only if the following implication holds for any polynomial $p \in \Pi_{n}$ :

$$
p\left(x_{i}, y_{i}\right)=0, \quad i=1, \ldots, N \Rightarrow p=0
$$

## $1.1 \quad n$-independent and $n$-dependent sets

Next we introduce an important concept of $n$-dependence of node sets:
Definition 1.3. A set of nodes $\mathcal{X}$ is called $n$-independent if all its nodes have fundamental polynomials. Otherwise, $\mathcal{X}$ is called $n$-dependent.

Clearly fundamental polynomials are linearly independent. Therefore a necessary condition of $n$-independence is $|\mathcal{X}| \leq N$.

Suppose a node set $\mathcal{X}_{s}$ is $n$-independent. Then by using the Lagrange formula:

$$
p=\sum_{A \in \mathcal{X}_{s}} c_{A} p_{A, \mathcal{X}_{s}}^{\star}
$$

we obtain a polynomial $p \in \Pi_{n}$ satisfying the interpolation conditions (1.2). Thus we get a simple characterization of $n$-independence:
A node set $\mathcal{X}_{s}$ is $n$-independent if and only if the interpolation problem (1.2) is $n$-solvable, meaning that for any data $\left\{c_{1}, \ldots, c_{s}\right\}$ there exists a (not necessarily unique) polynomial $p \in \Pi_{n}$ satisfying the conditions (1.2).

Now suppose that $\mathcal{X}_{s}$ is $n$-dependent. Then some node $\left(x_{i_{0}}, y_{i_{0}}\right)$, does not possess an $n$-fundamental polynomial. This means that the following implication holds for any polynomial $p \in \Pi_{n}$ :

$$
p\left(x_{i}, y_{i}\right)=0, \quad i \in\{1, \ldots, s\} \backslash\left\{i_{0}\right\} \Rightarrow p\left(x_{i_{0}}, y_{i_{0}}\right)=0
$$

In this paper we will deal frequently with a stronger version of $n$-dependence:
Definition 1.4. A set of nodes $\mathcal{X}$ is called essentially $n$-dependent if none of its nodes possesses a fundamental polynomial.

Below, and frequently in the sequel, we use same the notation for a polynomial $q \in \Pi_{k}$ and the curve described by the equation $q(x, y)=0$.

Remark 1.5. Suppose a set of nodes $\mathcal{X}$ is essentially $n$-dependent and $q \in \Pi_{k}, k \leq n$, is a curve. Then we have that the subset $\mathcal{X}^{\prime}:=\mathcal{X} \backslash q$ is essentially $(n-k)$-dependent, provided that $\mathcal{X}^{\prime} \neq \emptyset$.

Indeed, suppose conversely that a node $A \in \mathcal{X}^{\prime}$ has an $(n-k)$-fundamental polynomial $r \in \Pi_{n-k}$. Then the polynomial $q r \in \Pi_{n}$ is an $n$ fundamental polynomial of the node $A$ in $\mathcal{X}$, which contradicts our assumption.

Definition 1.6. Given an $n$-poised set $\mathcal{X}$, we say that a node $A \in \mathcal{X}$ uses a curve $q \in \Pi_{k}$, if $q$ divides the fundamental polynomial $p_{A, \mathcal{X}}^{\star}$ :

$$
p_{A, \mathcal{X}}^{\star}=q r, \quad \text { where } \quad r \in \Pi_{n-k} .
$$

The following proposition is well-known (see e.g. [14] Proposition 1.3):
Proposition 1.7. Suppose that $\ell$ is a line. Then for any polynomial $p \in \Pi_{n}$ vanishing at $n+1$ points of $\ell$ we have

$$
p=\ell r, \quad \text { where } \quad r \in \Pi_{n-1} .
$$

Evidently, this implies that any set of $n+2$ collinear nodes is essentially $n$-dependent. We also obtain from Proposition 1.7

Corollary 1.8. The following hold for any $n$-poised node set $\mathcal{X}$ :
(i) At most $n+1$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ can be collinear;
(ii) A line $\ell$ containing $n+1$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ is used by all the nodes in $\mathcal{X} \backslash \ell$.

In view of this a line $\ell$ containing $n+1$ nodes of an $n$-poised set $\mathcal{X}$ is called a maximal line (see [5]).

One can verify readily the following two properties of maximal lines of $n$-poised set $\mathcal{X}$ :
(i) Any two maximal lines of $\mathcal{X}$ intersect necessarily at a node of $\mathcal{X}$;
(ii) Three maximal lines of $\mathcal{X}$ cannot meet in one node.

Thus, in view of (1.1), there are no $n$-poised sets with more than $n+2$ maximal lines.

### 1.2 Some results on $n$-independence

Let us start with the following simple but important result of Severi [24:
Theorem 1.9 (Severi). Any node set $\mathcal{X}$ consisting of at most $n+1$ nodes is $n$-independent.

Next we consider node sets consisting of at most $2 n+1$ nodes:

Proposition 1.10 ([11]). Any node set $\mathcal{X}$ consisting of at most $2 n+1$ nodes is $n$-dependent if and only if $n+2$ nodes are collinear.

For a generalization of above two results for multiple nodes see [24] and [13], respectively.
The third result in this series is the following
Proposition 1.11. Any node set $\mathcal{X}$ consisting of at most $3 n-1$ nodes is n-dependent if and only if at least one of the following holds.
(i) $n+2$ nodes are collinear,
(ii) $2 n+2$ nodes belong to a conic (possibly reducible).

Let us mention that this result as well as the two previous results are special cases of the following

Theorem 1.12 ([17], Thm. 5.1). Any node set $\mathcal{X}$ consisting of at most $3 n$ nodes is n-dependent if and only if at least one of the following holds.
(i) $n+2$ nodes are collinear,
(ii) $2 n+2$ nodes belong to a conic,
(iii) $|\mathcal{X}|=3 n$, and there is a cubic $\gamma \in \Pi_{3}$ and an algebraic curve $\sigma \in \Pi_{n}$ such that $\mathcal{X}=\gamma \cap \sigma$.

## 1.3 $G C_{n}$ sets and the Gasca-Maeztu conjecture

Let us consider a special type of $n$-poised sets whose $n$-fundamental polynomials are products of $n$ linear factors as it always takes place in the univariate case:

Definition 1.13 (Chung, Yao [10]). An n-poised set $\mathcal{X}$ is called $G C_{n}$-set if the $n$-fundamental polynomial of each node $A \in \mathcal{X}$ is a product of $n$ linear factors.

In other words, $G C_{n}$ sets are the sets each node of which uses exactly $n$ lines.

Now we are in a position to present the Gasca-Maeztu conjecture, called briefly also GM conjecture:

Conjecture 1.14 (Gasca, Maeztu, [12]). Any $G C_{n}$-set contains n+1 collinear nodes.

Thus the GM conjecture states that any $G C_{n}$ set possesses a maximal line. So far, this conjecture has been verified for the degrees $n \leq 5$. For $n=2$, the conjecture is evidently true. The case $n=3$ is not hard to prove. The case $n=4$ was proved for the first time by J. R. Busch in 1990 [6]. Since then, four other proofs have appeared for this case: [8, 15, 2], and [25]. In
our opinion the last one is the simplest and the shortest one. The case $n=5$ was proved recently in [16].

Notice that if a line $M$ is maximal then the set $\mathcal{X} \backslash M$ is $(n-1)$-poised. Moreover, if $\mathcal{X}$ is a $G C_{n}$-set then $\mathcal{X} \backslash M$ is a $G C_{n-1}$-set.
For a generalization of the Gasca-Maeztu conjecture to maximal curves see [18.

In the sequel we will make use of the following important result of Carnicer and Gasca concerning the GM conjecture:

Theorem 1.15 (Carnicer, Gasca, [9]). If the Gasca-Maeztu conjecture is true for all $k \leq n$, then any $G C_{n}$-set possesses at least three maximal lines.

In view of this one gets readily that each node of $\mathcal{X}$ uses at least one maximal line.

### 1.4 Some examples of $n$-poised and $G C_{n}$ sets

We will consider 3 well-known constructions: The Berzolari-Radon construction [4, 22], the Chung-Yao construction [10] (called also Chung-Yao natural lattice), and the principal lattice. The first construction gives examples of $n$-poised sets, while the remaining two give examples of $G C_{n}$-sets. Let us mention that both the Chung-Yao natural lattice and the principal lattice are special cases of the Berzolari-Radon construction.
Note that Lagrange and Newton formulas for these constructions can be found in [12] and [21].

## The Berzolari-Radon construction

A set $\mathcal{X}$ containing $N=1+2+\cdots+(n+1)$ nodes is called Berzolari-Radon set if there are $n+1$ lines: $\ell_{1}, \ldots, \ell_{n+1}$ such that the sets $\ell_{1}, \ell_{2} \backslash \ell_{1}, \ell_{3} \backslash$ $\left(\ell_{1} \cup \ell_{2}\right), \ldots, \ell_{n+1} \backslash\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} \ell_{i}\right)$ contain exactly $(n+1), n,(n-1), \ldots, 1$ nodes, respectively. The Berzolari-Radon set is $n$-poised.
It is worth noting that the Gasca-Maeztu conjecture is equivalent to the statement that every $G C_{n}$-set is a Berzolari-Radon set.

## The Chung-Yao construction

Consider $n+2$ lines: $\ell_{1}, \ldots, \ell_{n+2}$, such that no two lines are parallel, and no three lines intersect in one point. Then the set $\mathcal{X}$ of intersection points of these lines is called Chung-Yao set. Notice that $|\mathcal{X}|=\binom{n+2}{2}$. Each fixed node here is lying in exactly 2 lines, and does not belong to the remaining $n$ lines. Moreover, the product of these $n$ lines gives the fundamental polynomial of the fixed node. Thus $\mathcal{X}$ is $G C_{n}$-set.
Note that this construction can be characterized by the fact that all the given $n+2$ lines are maximal. As it was mentioned earlier, there are no $n$-poised sets with more maximal lines.

## The principal lattice

The principal lattice is the following set (or an affine image of it)

$$
\mathcal{X}=\left\{(i, j) \in \mathbb{Z}_{+}^{2}: i+j \leq n\right\} .
$$

Notice that the fundamental polynomial of the node $(i, j)$ here uses $i$ vertical lines: $x=k, k=0, \ldots, i-1, j$ horizontal lines: $y=k, k=0, \ldots, j-1$ and $n-i-j$ lines with slope $-1: x+y=k, k=i+j+1, \ldots, n$. Thus $\mathcal{X}$ is $G C_{n}$-set.
Note that this lattice possesses just three maximal lines, namely the lines $x=0, y=0$, and $x+y=n$. Note that, according to Theorem 1.15, there are no $n$-poised sets with less maximal lines, provided that the Gasca-Maeztu conjecture is true.

### 1.5 Maximal curves and the sets $\mathcal{N}_{q}$ and $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$

Let us start with a generalization of Proposition 1.7 for algebraic curves of higher degree. First set for $k \leq n$

$$
d(n, k):=\operatorname{dim} \Pi_{n}-\operatorname{dim} \Pi_{n-k}=\frac{1}{2} k(2 n+3-k)
$$

Proposition 1.16 (Rafayelyan, [23], Prop. 3.1). Let $q$ be an algebraic curve of degree $k \leq n$ without multiple components. Then the following hold.
(i) Any subset of $q$ consisting of more than $d(n, k)$ nodes is $n$-dependent.
(ii) A subset $\mathcal{X} \subset q$ consisting of $d(n, k)$ nodes is $n$-independent if and only if the following implication holds for any polynomial $p \in \Pi_{n}$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left.p\right|_{\mathcal{X}}=0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad p=q r \quad \text { for some } r \in \Pi_{n-k} \tag{1.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let us mention that a special case of (i), when $q$ factors into linear factors, is due to Carnicer and Gasca, [7].

As in the case of lines (see Corollary 1.8) we get readily from here
Corollary 1.17. The following hold for any n-poised node set $\mathcal{X}$ :
(i) At most $d(n, k)$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ can lie in a curve of degree $k$;
(ii) A curve of degree $k \leq n$ without multiple components containing $d(n, k)$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ is used by all the nodes in $\mathcal{X} \backslash q$.

Next we bring a generalization of the concept of a maximal line (see [23]):

Definition 1.18. A curve of degree $k \leq n$ without multiple components passing through $d(n, k)$ nodes of an $n$-poised set $\mathcal{X}$ is called a maximal curve for $\mathcal{X}$.

Thus maximal line, conic, and cubic pass through $n+1,2 n+1$, and $3 n$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$, respectively.

Below, for an $n$-posed set $\mathcal{X}$, line $\ell$ and an algebraic curve $q$, we define important sets $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ and $\mathcal{N}_{q}$, which will be used frequently in the sequel.

Definition 1.19. Let $\mathcal{X}$ be an $n$-poised set $\ell$ be a line and $q$ be an algebraic curve without multiple factors. Then
(i) $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ is the subset of nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ which use the line $\ell$;
(ii) $\mathcal{N}_{q}$ is the subset of nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ which do not use the curve $q$ and are not lying in $q$.

Next let us bring a characterization of maximal curves:
Proposition 1.20 (Rafayelyan, [23], Prop. 3.3). Let $\mathcal{X}$ be an n-poised set and $q$ be an algebraic curve of degree $k \leq n$ without multiple factors. Then the following statements are equivalent:
(i) The curve $q$ is maximal for $\mathcal{X}$;
(ii) All the nodes in $\mathcal{Y}:=\mathcal{X} \backslash q$ use the curve $q$, i.e., $\mathcal{N}_{q}=\emptyset$;
(iii) The set $\mathcal{Y}$ is $(n-k)$-poised. Moreover, if $\mathcal{X}$ is a $G C_{n}$-set then $\mathcal{Y}$ is a $G C_{n-k}$-set.

Thus $\mathcal{N}_{q}=\emptyset$ means that $q$ is a maximal curve. The following result concerns the case when $\mathcal{N}_{q} \neq \emptyset$.

Proposition 1.21 (Rafayelyan, [23]). Let $\mathcal{X}$ be an n-poised set and $q$ be an algebraic curve of degree $k \leq n$ without multiple factors. Then the set $\mathcal{N}_{q}$ is essentially $(n-k)$-dependent, provided that it is not empty.

It is worth mentioning that the special case $k=1$ of above two results, where $q$ is a line is due to Carnicer and Gasca [8]. Note also that the case when $q$ is a product of $k$ lines is proved in [15].

Proposition 1.22 ([3]). Let $\mathcal{X}$ be an n-poised set. Then there is at most one algebraic curve of degree $n-1$ passing through $N-4$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$.

From here one gets readily for any $n$-poised set $\mathcal{X}$ (see [1]):

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \leq 1 \text { if } \ell \text { is a 2-node line. } \tag{1.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

For a generalization of these results for curves of arbitrary degree and 3-node lines see [19, 20]. Let us mention that the statement (1.4) for $G C_{n}$ sets has already been shown in 9].

In the sequel we will use frequently the following 2 lemmas from [9]. Let us mention that the the second lemma is used in a proof there and is not explicitly formulated. For the sake of completeness we bring proofs here.

Lemma 1.23 (Carnicer, Gasca, [9). Let $\mathcal{X}$ be an n-poised set and $\ell$ be $a$ line. Suppose also that there is a maximal line $M_{0}$ such that $M_{0} \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$. Then we have that

$$
\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\left(\mathcal{X} \backslash M_{0}\right)_{\ell} .
$$

If in addition $\ell$ is an n-node line then we have that

$$
\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(\ell \cup M_{0}\right) \text { and therefore }\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n}{2} .
$$

Proof. Suppose conversely that a node $A \in M_{0}$ uses $\ell$ :

$$
p_{A}^{\star}=\ell q, \quad q \in \Pi_{n-1} .
$$

Notice that $q$ vanishes at the $n$ nodes in $M_{0} \backslash\{A\}$ Thus, in view of Proposition 1.7, we have that $q$ and hence $p_{A}^{\star}$ vanishes on $M_{0}$. In particular $p$ vanishes at $A$, which is a contradiction.

Now assume that $\ell$ is an $n$-node line and $A \notin \ell \cup M_{0}$. Then we have that

$$
p_{A}^{\star}=M_{0} q, \quad q \in \Pi_{n-1} .
$$

Notice that $q$ vanishes at the $n$ nodes of $\ell$. Thus, in view of Proposition 1.7, we have that $q=\ell r, r \in \Pi_{n-2}$. Thus we obtain that $p_{A}^{\star}=M_{0} \ell r$, i.e., $A$ uses the line $\ell$.

Lemma 1.24 (Carnicer, Gasca, 9]). Let $\mathcal{X}$ be an $n$-poised set and $\ell$ be a line. Suppose also that there are two maximal lines $M^{\prime}, M^{\prime \prime}$ such that $M^{\prime} \cap M^{\prime \prime} \cap \ell \in \mathcal{X}$. Then we have that

$$
\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\left(\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(M^{\prime} \cup M^{\prime \prime}\right)\right)_{\ell} .
$$

If in addition $\ell$ is an n-node line then we have that

$$
\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(\ell \cup M^{\prime} \cup M^{\prime \prime}\right) \text { and therefore }\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n-1}{2}
$$

Proof. Suppose that a node $A \in\left(M^{\prime} \cup M^{\prime \prime}\right) \backslash \ell$ uses $\ell$ :

$$
p_{A}^{\star}=\ell q, \quad q \in \Pi_{n-1} .
$$

Suppose, for example, $A \in M^{\prime}$. Then notice that $q$ vanishes at the $n$ nodes of $M^{\prime \prime} \backslash \ell$. Thus, in view of Proposition 1.7, we have that $q=M^{\prime \prime} r, r \in \Pi_{n-2}$. Then $r$ vanishes on $n-1$ nodes in $M^{\prime} \backslash \ell$ different from $A$. Thus $r$ and hence also $p_{A}^{\star}$ vanishes on whole line $M^{\prime}$ including $A$, which is a contradiction.

Now assume that $\ell$ is an $n$-node line and $A \notin \ell \cup M^{\prime} \cup M^{\prime \prime}$. Then we have that

$$
p_{A}^{\star}=M^{\prime} M^{\prime \prime} q, \quad q \in \Pi_{n-2} .
$$

Notice that $q$ vanishes at the $n-1$ nodes of $\ell$ different from the node of intersection with the maximal lines. Thus, in view of Proposition 1.7, we have that $q=\ell r, \quad r \in \Pi_{n-3}$. Therefore we obtain that $p_{A}^{\star}=M^{\prime} M^{\prime \prime} \ell r$, i.e., $A$ uses the line $\ell$.

## 2 Lines in $n$-poised sets

### 2.1 On $n$-node lines in $n$-poised sets

Let us start our results with the following
Proposition 2.1. Let $\mathcal{X}$ be an n-poised set and $\ell$ be a line passing through exactly $n$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$. Then the following hold:
(i) $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \leq\binom{ n}{2}$;
(ii) If $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \geq\binom{ n-1}{2}+1$ then there is a maximal line $M_{0}$ such that $M_{0} \cap \ell \notin$ $\mathcal{X}$. Moreover, we have that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(M_{0} \cup \ell\right)$. Hence it is an $(n-2)$ poised set. In particular we have that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n}{2}$;
(iii) If $\binom{n-1}{2} \geq\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \geq\binom{ n-2}{2}+2$, then $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n-1}{2}$. Moreover, $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ is an $(n-3)$-poised set and there is a conic $\beta \in \Pi_{2}$ such that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\mathcal{X} \backslash(\beta \cup \ell)$. Furthermore, we have that $\mathcal{N}_{\ell} \subset \beta$ and $|(\beta \backslash \ell) \cap \mathcal{X}|=\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right|=2 n$. Besides these $2 n$ nodes the conic may contain at most one extra node, which necessarily belongs to $\ell$. If $\beta$ is reducible: $\beta=\ell_{1} \ell_{2}$ then we have that $\left|\ell_{i} \cap(\mathcal{X} \backslash \ell)\right|=n, i=1,2$.

Proof. (i) Assume by way of contradiction that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \geq\binom{ n}{2}+1$. Then we obtain

$$
\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right| \leq\binom{ n+2}{2}-\left[\binom{n}{2}+1\right]-n=n .
$$

This is a contradiction, since on one hand, in view of Proposition 1.20 , the nonempty set $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$ is $(n-1)$-dependent and on the other hand, in view of Theorem 1.9, it is $(n-1)$-independent.
(ii) In this case we have that

$$
\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right| \leq\binom{ n+2}{2}-\left[\binom{n-1}{2}+1\right]-n=2 n-1=2(n-1)+1 .
$$

Now let us make use of Proposition 1.10. Since $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$ is $(n-1)$-dependent, we get that there is a line $M_{0}$ passing through $n+1$ nodes of $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$. The line $M_{0}$ is maximal and therefore cannot pass through any more nodes. Hence we obtain that $M_{0} \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$. Thus, in view of Lemma 1.23, we have that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ is an $(n-2)$-poised set.
(iii) In this case we have that

$$
\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right| \leq\binom{ n+2}{2}-\left[\binom{n-2}{2}+2\right]-n=3 n-4=3(n-1)-1 .
$$

Since the set $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$ is $(n-1)$-dependent, we get from Proposition 1.11, that either
a) there is a line $M_{0}$ passing through $n+1$ nodes in $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$, or
b) there is a conic $\beta \in \Pi_{2}$ passing through $2 n=2(n-1)+2$ nodes in $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$.

Let us start with the case a). We have for the maximal line $M_{0}$, in the same way as in the case ii), that $M_{0} \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$ and therefore $|\mathcal{X}|=\binom{n}{2}$. This contradicts our assumption in iii).

In the case b) let us first show that $\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right|=2 n$. Indeed, in view of Proposition 1.20, we have that $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$ is essentially $(n-1)$-dependent. Then, suppose $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$, besides the nodes in $\beta$, contains $t$ nodes outside of it, where $t \leq n-4(=3 n-4-2 n)$. In view of Remark 1.5 these $t$ nodes must be $(n-3)-$ essentially dependent. Therefore, we get from Theorem 1.9 that $t=0$. Now notice that $\ell \beta$ is a maximal cubic since it passes through $3 n$ nodes. The conic $\beta$, besides the $2 n$ nodes, may contain at most 1 extra node, since the set $\mathcal{X}$ is $n$-independent. But, if the extra node does not belong to $\ell$, then the cubic $\ell \beta$ would contain $3 n+1$ nodes, which is a contradiction.

Finally assume that the conic is reducible: $\beta=\ell_{1} \ell_{2}$. Then, since $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$ is ( $n-1$ )-essentially dependent, we readily get that each of the lines passes through exactly $n$ nodes from the $2 n$.

### 2.2 On ( $n-1$ )-node lines in $n$-poised sets

Proposition 2.2. Let $\mathcal{X}$ be an $n$-poised set and $\ell$ be a line passing through exactly $n-1$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$. Assume also that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \geq\binom{ n-2}{2}+3$.
Then we have that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ is $(n-3)$-poised set. Hence $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n-1}{2}$ and $\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right|=$ $2 n+1$. Moreover, these $2 n+1$ nodes are located in the following way:
(i) $n+1$ nodes are in a maximal line $M_{0}$ and
(ii) $n$ nodes are in an n-node line $M_{0}^{\prime}$.

Furthermore, besides these $n$ nodes, the line $M_{0}^{\prime}$ may contain at most one extra node, which necessarily belongs to $M_{0}$.

Proof. We have that

$$
\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right| \leq\binom{ n+2}{2}-\left[\binom{n-2}{2}+3\right]-(n-1)=3 n-4=3(n-1)-1 .
$$

According to Proposition 1.20 the set $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$ is essentially ( $n-1$ )-dependent. Therefore, in view of Proposition 1.11, we have that either
(i) there is a line $M_{0}$ passing through $n+1$ nodes of $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$, or
(ii) there is a conic $\beta \in \Pi_{2}$ passing through $2 n=2(n-1)+2$ nodes of $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$.

Assume that i) holds. Then, suppose there are $s$ nodes in $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$ outside the line $M_{0}$, where $s \leq 2(n-2)-1(=2 n-5=3 n-4-n-1)$.

Let us verify that $s \neq 0$. Assume conversely that $s=0$. Then we have that any node $A \in \mathcal{X} \backslash\left(\ell \cup M_{0}\right)$ uses the line $\ell$ and maximal line $M_{0}$, i.e.,

$$
p_{A}^{*}=\ell M_{0} q, \quad q \in \Pi_{n-2} .
$$

This means, in view of Proposition 1.20 (part i) $\Leftrightarrow$ ii)), that the conic $\ell M_{0}$ is maximal, which is contradiction, since it passes through only $2 n$ nodes (instead of $2 n+1$ nodes).

Then, in view of Remark 1.5 these $s$ nodes must be ( $n-2$ )-essentially dependent. Therefore, by Proposition 1.10, there is a line $M_{0}^{\prime}$ passing through $n$ nodes of $\mathcal{N}_{\ell} \backslash M_{0}$. Now, suppose there are $t$ nodes in $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$ outside the lines $M_{0}$ and $M_{0}^{\prime}$, where $t: \leq(n-3)-2(=n-5=2 n-5-n)$. These $t$ nodes, in view of Remark 1.5, must be essentially $(n-3)$-dependent. Thus, we conclude from Theorem 1.9 that $t=0$ and therefore $\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right|=2 n+1$.

Now, it remains to verify that the case ii) is impossible.
Thus assume that ii) holds. Denote the number of nodes in $\mathcal{N}_{\ell}$ outside the conic $\beta$ by $t$. We have that $t \leq(n-2)-2(=n-4=3 n-4-2 n)$. In view of Remark 1.5 these $t$ nodes must be $(n-3)$-essentially dependent. Therefore, by Theorem 1.9, we obtain that $t=0$ and therefore $\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right|=2 n$.

Now we have that any node $A \in \mathcal{X} \backslash(\ell \cup \beta)$ uses the line $\ell$. This means

$$
p_{A}^{*}=\ell q, \quad q \in \Pi_{n-1} .
$$

The curve $q$ passes through all the $2 n$ nodes in $\beta$. By the Bezout theorem we conclude that $q$ divides $\beta$. Indeed, this is evident when $\beta$ is irreducible. Now assume that $\beta$ is reducible, i.e., $\beta=\ell_{1} \ell_{2}$. The set $\mathcal{N}_{\beta}$ is $(n-1)$-essentially dependent. Therefore each line $\ell_{i}, i=1,2$, passes through exactly $n$ nodes of $\mathcal{N}_{\beta}$ and hence divides $q$. Thus we have that $q=\beta r, q \in \Pi_{n-3}$. Finally we get

$$
p_{A}^{*}=\ell \beta r, \quad r \in \Pi_{n-3} \quad \text { for any } \quad A \in \mathcal{X} \backslash(\ell \cup \beta) .
$$

This means that each node outside $\ell$ and $\beta$ uses the reducible cubic $\ell \beta$. Therefore, by Proposition 1.20 (part i) $\Leftrightarrow$ ii)), the latter curve is maximal, which is contradiction, since it passes through only $3 n-1$ nodes (instead of $3 n$ nodes).

Corollary 2.3. Let $\mathcal{X}$ be an $n$-poised set and $\ell$ be a line passing through exactly $n-1$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$. Then we have that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \leq\binom{ n-1}{2}$.
Proof. Assume by way of contradiction that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \geq\binom{ n-1}{2}+1$. Notice that

$$
\binom{n-1}{2}+1 \geq\binom{ n-2}{2}+3 \text { if } n \geq 4
$$

Now, in view of Proposition 2.2. we get that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \leq\binom{ n-1}{2}$, which contradicts our assumption. It remains to note that Corollary in the case $n=3$ is a special case in (1.4).

## 3 Lines in $G C_{n}$ sets

### 3.1 On $k$-node lines in $G C_{n}$ sets

Proposition 3.1. Assume that Conjecture 1.14 holds for all degrees up to $\nu$. Let $\mathcal{X}$ be a $G C_{n}$ set, $n \leq \nu$, and $\ell$ be a line passing through exactly $k$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$. Then the set $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ is $(k-2)$-independent set. Moreover, for each node $A \in \mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ there is a $(k-2)$-fundamental polynomial that divides the $n$-fundamental polynomial of $A$ in $\mathcal{X}$.

Proof. First suppose that $k=n+1$, meaning that $\ell$ is a maximal line. Then we have that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\mathcal{X} \backslash \ell$ and this set is $G C_{n-1}$-set and hence is ( $n-1$ )-poised.

In the case when $\ell$ is not maximal we will use induction on $n$. The case $n=2$ is evident (see Subsection 3.3.2). Suppose Proposition is true for all degrees less than $n$ and let us prove it for $n$.

Suppose that there is a maximal line $M_{0}$ such that $M_{0} \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$. Then we get from Lemma 1.23 that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\left(\mathcal{X}_{0}\right)_{\ell}$ where $\mathcal{X}_{0}:=\mathcal{X} \backslash M_{0}$. We have that the set $\mathcal{X}_{0}$ is $G C_{n-1}$-set and $\ell$ passes through exactly $k$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}_{0}$. Therefore by induction hypothesis for the degree $n-1$ we get that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ is ( $k-2$ )-independent.

Now, in view of Theorem 1.15, consider three maximal lines for $\mathcal{X}$ and denote them by $M_{i}, i=1,2,3$. It remains to consider the case when each of these maximal lines intersects $\ell$ at a node of $\mathcal{X}$.

We will prove that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ is $(k-2)$-independent by finding a $(k-2)$ fundamental polynomial for each node $A \in \mathcal{X}_{\ell}$. Since 3 maximal lines intersect each other at 3 distinct nodes there is $i_{0} \in\{1,2,3\}$ such that $A \notin M_{i_{0}}$. We have that the set $\mathcal{Y}:=\mathcal{X} \backslash M_{i_{0}}$ is $G C_{n-1}$-set and $\ell$ passes through exactly $k-1$ nodes of $\mathcal{Y}$. Therefore by induction hypothesis for the degree $n-1$ we get that the set $\mathcal{Y}_{\ell}$ is $(k-3)$-independent. Moreover, there is a ( $k-3$ )-fundamental polynomial $p_{A, y_{\ell}}^{\star} \in \Pi_{k-3}$ which divides $p_{A, y}^{\star}$.

Now, since $\mathcal{X}_{\ell} \subset \mathcal{Y} \cup M_{i_{0}}$, we get readily that the polynomial

$$
M_{i_{0}} p_{A, y_{\ell}}^{\star} \in \Pi_{k-2}
$$

is a fundamental polynomial of $A$ in $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$. We get also that it divides the polynomial $p_{A, \mathcal{X}}^{\star}=M_{i_{0}} p_{A, \mathcal{Y}}^{\star}$.

Below we bring some simple consequences of the fact that the set $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ is $(k-2)$-independent:

Corollary 3.2. Assume that the conditions of Proposition 3.1 hold. Then the following hold.
(i) $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \leq\binom{ k}{2}$;
(ii) $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}$ contains at most $k-1$ collinear nodes;
(iii) For any curve $q$ of degree $m \leq k-2$ we have that

$$
\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell} \cap q\right| \leq d(k-2, m)
$$

Note, that ii) is a special case of iii) when $m=1$. Let us mention that i) and ii) were proved in [9], Theorem 4.5.

### 3.2 On $n$-node lines in $G C_{n}$ sets

Next, let us present a main result of this paper:
Theorem 3.3. Assume that Conjecture 1.14 holds for all degrees up to $\nu$. Let $\mathcal{X}$ be a $G C_{n}$ set, $n \leq \nu$ and $\ell$ be a line passing through exactly $n$ nodes of the set $\mathcal{X}$. Then we have that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n}{2} \quad \text { or } \quad\binom{n-1}{2} \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Also, the following hold:
(i) If $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n}{2}$ then there is a maximal line $M_{0}$ such that $M_{0} \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$. Moreover, we have that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(\ell \cup M_{0}\right)$. Hence it is a $G C_{n-2}$ set;
(ii) If $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n-1}{2}$ then there are two maximal lines $M^{\prime}, M^{\prime \prime}$, such that $M^{\prime} \cap M^{\prime \prime} \cap \ell \in \mathcal{X}$. Moreover, we have that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(\ell \cup M^{\prime} \cup M^{\prime \prime}\right)$. Hence is a $G C_{n-3}$ set.

Let us first assume that Theorem is valid and prove the following
Corollary 3.4. Assume that the conditions of Theorem 3.3 take place. Then the following hold for any maximal line $M$ of $\mathcal{X}$ :
(i) $\left|M \cap \mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=0$ if
a) $M \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$ or if
b) there is another maximal line $M^{\prime}$ such that $M \cap M^{\prime} \cap \ell \in \mathcal{X}$;
(ii) $\left|M \cap \mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=s-1 \quad$ if $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{s}{2}$, where $s=n, n-1$, for all the remaining maximal lines.

Proof of Corollary 3.4. The statements of i) concerning a) and b) follow from Lemma 1.23 and Lemma 1.24 , respectively.

For the statement ii) assume that $M$ is a maximal line intersecting $\ell$ at a node $A$ and there is no other maximal line passing through that node.
Now suppose that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n}{2}$. Then, in view of Theorem 3.3, there is a maximal line $M_{0}$ such that $M_{0} \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$. According to Lemma 1.23 we have
that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(\ell \cup M_{0}\right)$. Therefore we get $\left|M \cap \mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\left|M \cap\left[\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(\ell \cup M_{0}\right)\right]\right|=$ $(n+1)-2=n-1$, since $M$ intersects $\ell$ and $M_{0}$ at two distinct nodes.

Next suppose that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n-1}{2}$. Then there are two maximal lines $M^{\prime}$ and $M^{\prime \prime}$ such that $M^{\prime} \cap M^{\prime \prime} \cap \ell \in \mathcal{X}$. Now, according to Lemma 1.24, we have that $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(\ell \cup M^{\prime} \cup M^{\prime \prime}\right)$. Therefore we get $\left|M \cap \mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\mid M \cap[\mathcal{X} \backslash$ $\left.\left(\ell \cup M^{\prime} \cup M^{\prime \prime}\right)\right] \mid=(n+1)-3=n-2$, since $M$ intersects $\ell, M^{\prime}$ and $M^{\prime \prime}$ at three distinct nodes.

Remark 3.5. Assume that the conditions of Theorem 3.3 take place and $\mathcal{X}_{\ell} \neq \emptyset$. Assume also that $M$ is a maximal line of $\mathcal{X}$ such that $M$ intersects $\ell$ at a node and no node from $M$ uses $\ell$. Then there is another maximal line $M^{\prime}$ such that $M \cap M^{\prime} \cap \ell \in \mathcal{X}$ and therefore no node from $M^{\prime}$ uses $\ell$ either.

### 3.3 The proof of Theorem 3.3

Let us start with

### 3.3.1 The case $n=1$

$G C_{1}$ sets consist of 3 non-collinear nodes. Consider a such set $\mathcal{X}=\{A, B, C\}$ and an 1 -node line $\ell$ that passes, say, through $A$. We have that no 1 -node line is used in $G C_{n}$ sets. Thus $\mathcal{X}_{\ell}=\emptyset$. Therefore we may assume that both equalities in (3.1) take place. Note also that both implications i) and ii) of Theorem 3.3 take place. Indeed, the maximal line through $B$ and $C$ does not intersect $\ell$ at a node. And at the same time the other two maximal lines, i.e., 2-node lines through $A, B$ and $A, C$ intersect the line $\ell$ at the node $A$.

### 3.3.2 The case $n=2$

We divide this case into 2 parts.

1. $G C_{2}$ sets with 3 maximal lines:

Consider a $G C_{2}$ set $\mathcal{X}$ with exactly 3 maximal lines. These lines intersect each other at 3 non-collinear nodes, called vertices. Except these 3 nodes, there are 3 more (non-collinear) nodes in $\mathcal{X}$, one in each maximal line, called "free" nodes. Here the 2-node lines are of 2 types:
a) 2-node line $\ell$ that does not pass through a vertex. Notice that $\ell$ is used only by one node and the implication i) of Theorem holds. Namely, there is a maximal line that does not intersect $\ell$ at a node.
b) 2-node line that passes through a vertex. Notice that no node uses a such line and the implication ii) holds.
2. $G C_{2}$ sets with 4 maximal lines:

In this case we have the Chung-Yao lattice (see Subsection 1.4). Here all 6 nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ are intersection nodes of the maximal lines and the only used
lines are the maximal lines. Thus in this case any 2-node line is not used and evidently the implication ii) holds.

### 3.3.3 The case $n=3$

We divide this case into 3 parts:

## 1. The case of $G C_{3}$ sets with exactly 3 maximal lines:

Consider a $G C_{3}$ set $\mathcal{X}$ with exactly 3 maximal lines. By the properties of maximal lines we have that they form a triangle and the vertices are nodes of $\mathcal{X}$. There are $6(=3 \times 2)$ more nodes, called "free", 2 in each maximal line. There is also one node outside the maximal lines, denoted by $O$. We find readily that the 6 "free" nodes are located in 3 lines passing through $O, 2$ in each line (see Fig. 3.1).


Figure 3.1: Three 3-node lines
These 3 lines are the only 3 -node lines in this case. We have that for a such line $\ell$ there is a maximal line $M$ that does not intersect $\ell$ at a node, i.e., the implication i) of Theorem holds. Also we have that $\ell$ is used by exactly 3 nodes. Namely, by the nodes that do not belong to $\ell \cup M$.
2. The case of $G C_{3}$ sets with exactly 4 maximal lines:

Now consider a $G C_{3}$ set $\mathcal{X}$ with exactly 4 maximal lines. In this case there are $6\left(=\binom{4}{2}\right)$ nodes that are intersection points of maximal lines. Also there are 4 more nodes in maximal lines, called "free", 1 in each. The

4 "free" nodes are not collinear.
Again we have two types of 3-node lines here.
a) 3-node line $\ell$ that passes through an intersection node (see Fig 3.2).

1


Figure 3.2: 3-node line passing through an intersection node
Note that a 3-node line can pass through at most one such node. Indeed, if a line passes through two intersection nodes then it cannot pass through any third node.

Notice that $\ell$ is used by only one node $A$ and the implication ii) of Theorem takes place.
b) 3-node line $\ell$ that passes through 3 "free" nodes (see Fig 3.3).

Notice that the maximal line $M$ whose "free" node is not lying in $\ell$ does not intersect $\ell$ at a node. Thus the implication i) holds. In this case $\ell$ is used by exactly 3 nodes. Namely, by the nodes that do not belong to $\ell \cup M$.
3. The case of $G C_{3}$ sets with exactly 5 maximal lines:

In this case we have the Chung-Yao lattice (see Subsection 1.4). Here all 10 nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ are intersection nodes of 5 maximal lines and the only used lines are the maximal lines. Let us verify that in this case there is no 3-node line. Assume conversely that $\ell$ is a such line. Then through each node there pass two maximal lines and all these maximal lines are distinct. Therefore we get 6 maximal lines, which is a contradiction.

### 3.4 The proof of Theorem 3.3 for $n \geq 4$

We will prove Theorem by induction on $n$. The cases $n \leq 3$ were verified. Assume Theorem is true for all degrees less $n$ and let us prove that it is true


Figure 3.3: 3-node line through 3 "free" nodes
for the degree $n$, where $n \geq 4$.
Suppose that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \geq\binom{ n-1}{2}+1$. Then by assertion ii) of Proposition 2.1 we get that there is a maximal line $M_{0}$ such that $M_{0} \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$. Thus, in view of Lemma 1.23. we obtain that $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n}{2}$ and the implication i) holds.

Thus to prove Theorem it suffices to assume that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \leq\binom{ n-1}{2} \tag{3.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

and to prove that the implication ii) holds, i.e., there are two maximal lines $M^{\prime}, M^{\prime \prime}$, such that $M^{\prime} \cap M^{\prime \prime} \cap \ell \in \mathcal{X}$. Indeed, this completes the proof in view of Lemma 1.24 .

First suppose that two nodes in some maximal line $M$ use the line $\ell$, i.e.,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|M \cap \mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \geq 2 \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

We have that $\mathcal{X} \backslash M$ is a $G C_{n-1}$-set. Hence, by making use of (3.3) and induction hypothesis, we obtain that

$$
\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \geq\left|(\mathcal{X} \backslash M)_{\ell}\right|+2 \geq\binom{ n-2}{2}+2 .
$$

Therefore, in view of the condition (3.2) and Proposition 2.1iii), we conclude that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n-1}{2} \text { and } \mathcal{N}_{\ell} \subset \beta \in \Pi_{2},\left|\mathcal{N}_{\ell}\right|=2 n . \tag{3.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let us use the induction hypothesis. By taking into account the first equality above and condition (3.3), we obtain that

$$
\left|(\mathcal{X} \backslash M)_{\ell}\right|=\binom{n-2}{2}
$$

Thus the cardinality of the set $\mathcal{N}_{\ell} \cap(\mathcal{X} \backslash M)$ equals to $2 n-2(=2(n-$ $1)$ ). Therefore, in view of the second equality in (3.4), by using induction hypothesis we get that all the nodes in $\beta$ except possibly two are located on two maximal lines of the set $\mathcal{X} \backslash M$, denoted by $M^{\prime}$ and $M^{\prime \prime}$, which intersect at a node $A \in \ell$. Since $n \geq 4$ each of these two maximal lines passes through at least 3 nodes except $A$, which belong to $\beta$. Thus each of them divides $\beta$ and we get $\beta=M^{\prime} M^{\prime \prime}$. Finally, according to Proposition 2.1 iii), each of these lines passes through exactly $n$ nodes outside $\ell$ and therefore they are maximal also for the set $\mathcal{X}$. Hence the implication ii) holds.

Thus we may suppose that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|M \cap \mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right| \leq 1 \quad \text { for each maximal line } M \text { of the set } \mathcal{X} \tag{3.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Next let us verify that we may suppose that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|M \cap \mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=1 \quad \text { for each maximal line } M \text { of the set } \mathcal{X} \tag{3.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Indeed, suppose by way of contradiction that no node, say in a maximal line $M_{1}$ uses the line $\ell$. Now, in view of Theorem 1.15, consider two other maximal lines of $\mathcal{X}$ and denote them by $M_{i}, i=2,3$.

In view of the condition $(3.2)$ and Lemma 1.23 we have that there is no maximal line $M_{0}$ such that $M_{0} \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$, i.e., all the maximal lines of $\mathcal{X}$ intersect the line $\ell$ at a node of $\mathcal{X}$. Then as was mentioned above, if there are two maximal lines intersecting at a node in $\ell$ then Theorem follows from Lemma 1.24 .

Thus, we may suppose that the 3 maximal lines $M_{i}, i=1,2,3$, intersect the line $\ell$ at 3 distinct nodes, denoted by $C_{i}, i=1,2,3$, respectively.

Then consider the $G C_{n-1}$-set $\mathcal{X}_{2}:=\mathcal{X} \backslash M_{2}$. We may assume that $\left(\mathcal{X}_{2}\right)_{\ell} \neq$ $\emptyset$. Indeed, otherwise by induction hypothesis and (3.1) we would obtain that $n-1=2$, i.e, $n=3$. In $\mathcal{X}_{2}$ no node of the maximal line $M_{1}$ uses $\ell$. By induction hypothesis, in view of Remark 3.5, we have that there is a maximal line $M_{1}^{\prime}$ of this set intersecting $\ell$ at $C_{1}$. In the same way we get that there is a maximal line $M_{1}^{\prime \prime}$ in the set $\mathcal{X} \backslash M_{3}$ intersecting $\ell$ at $C_{1}$. Now if the maximal line $M_{1}^{\prime}$ coincides with $M_{1}^{\prime \prime}$ then we get readily that it is maximal also for $\mathcal{X}$ which completes the proof in view of Lemma 1.24 . Thus suppose that the maximal lines $M_{1}^{\prime}$ and $M_{1}^{\prime \prime}$ are distinct. Then consider the $G C_{n-2}$-set $\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(M_{2} \cup M_{3}\right)$. Here we have 3 maximal lines $M_{1}, M_{1}^{\prime}$ and $M_{1}^{\prime \prime}$ intersecting at the node $C_{1}$, which is a contradiction.
Thus we have that (3.6) holds, i.e., there is only one node in each maximal line $M_{i}, i=1,2,3$, using the line $\ell$. Notice that at most one node can be
intersection node of these 3 maximal lines, since otherwise we would have 2 nodes in a maximal line that use $\ell$. Consider a node $A$ which lies, say in $M_{3}$, uses $\ell$ and is not an intersection node, i.e., does not lie in the maximal lines $M_{1}$ and $M_{2}$ (see Fig. 3.4).

Consider the $G C_{n-1}$ node set $\mathcal{X}_{i}:=\mathcal{X} \backslash M_{i}$ for any fixed $i=1,2$. In the maximal line $M_{3}$ there is only one node using $\ell$. Therefore, in view of the induction hypothesis and Corollary 3.4, we have that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\left(\mathcal{X}_{i}\right)_{\ell}\right|=1, i=1,2 . \tag{3.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

We may conclude from here that there is only one node in $M_{1} \cup M_{2}$, namely the intersection node $B:=M_{1} \cap M_{2}$, that uses the line $\ell$.

At the same time we get from (3.7) also that $(n-1)=2$, or $(n-1)-1=2$. Therefore $n \leq 4$, i.e., we may assume that $n=4$.

### 3.4.1 A special case

Thus it remains to consider the case $n=4$ with $\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=2$. Recall that one of the nodes: $A$ belongs to only one maximal line $M_{3}$. While the other node: $B$ is the intersection node of the maximal lines $M_{1}$ and $M_{2}$ (see Fig. 3.4). We will show that this case is not possible.


Figure 3.4: A special case
Consider the $G C_{3}$-set $\mathcal{X}_{1}:=\mathcal{X} \backslash M_{1}$. The line $\ell$ is used by one node here: $A$ and no node in maximal line $M_{2}$ uses it. Thus we conclude that there is a maximal $M_{2}^{\prime}$ passing through $C_{2}$.

Now, denote by $E$, the intersection node of the maximal lines $M_{2}^{\prime}$ and $M_{3}$. Let us identify this node among the 5 nodes in $M_{3}$. Notice that evidently $E$ is different from $C_{3}$ - the intersection node with $\ell$.

We have that $E$ is different also from the intersection nodes with $M_{1}$ or with $M_{2}$. Indeed, three maximal lines cannot intersect at a node.

Finally note that $E$ is different also from the node $A$, since it uses $\ell$ and therefore it does not belong to $M_{2}^{\prime}$.

Thus $E$ coincides necessarily with the fifth node in $M_{3}$ denoted by $F$.
Now consider the $G C_{3}$-set $\mathcal{X}_{2}:=\mathcal{X} \backslash M_{2}$. Again the line $\ell$ is used by one node here: $A$ and no node in maximal line $M_{1}$ uses it. Thus we conclude that there is a maximal $M_{1}^{\prime}$ passing through $C_{1}$.

Then, exactly in the same way as above, we may conclude that $M_{1}^{\prime}$ intersects $M_{3}$ at $F$.

Finally, consider the $G C_{2}$-set $\mathcal{Y}:=\mathcal{X} \backslash\left(M_{1} \cup M_{2}\right)$. Notice that the lines $M_{1}^{\prime}, M_{2}^{\prime}$ and $M_{3}$ are 3 maximal lines intersecting at the node $F$, which is a contradiction.

Remark 3.6. Let us mention that in the cases $n \leq 5$ Theorem 3.3 is valid without the assumption concerning the Gasca-Maeztu conjecture.

### 3.5 A conjecture concerning $G C_{n}$ sets

Conjecture 3.7. Assume that Conjecture 1.14 holds for all degrees up to $\nu$. Let $\mathcal{X}$ be a $G C_{n}$ set, $n \leq \nu$ and $\ell$ be a line passing through exactly $k$ nodes of $\mathcal{X}$ set. Then we have that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=\binom{s}{2}, \text { for some } 2 k-n-1 \leq s \leq k \tag{3.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Moreover, for any maximal line $M$ of $\mathcal{X}$ we have:
(i) $\left|M \cap \mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=0$ if
$M \cap \ell \notin \mathcal{X}$ or if
there is another maximal line $M^{\prime}$ such that $M \cap M^{\prime} \cap \ell \in \mathcal{X}$;
(ii) $\left|M \cap \mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|=s-1 \quad$ if $\binom{s}{2}=\left|\mathcal{X}_{\ell}\right|$, where $2 k-n-1 \leq s \leq k$, for all the remaining maximal lines.

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