

# THE COVER ASSOCIATED TO A (1, 3)-POLARIZED BIELLIPTIC ABELIAN SURFACE AND ITS BRANCH LOCUS

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Let  $A$  be an abelian surface and let  $|D|$  be a polarization of type  $(1, 3)$  on  $A$ . If  $(A, |D|)$  is not a product of elliptic curves, such a polarization induces a finite morphism  $\varrho: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  of degree 6. In this paper we describe the branch locus of  $\varrho$  when  $A$  is bielliptic in the sense of K. Hulek and S. H. Weintraub (see [13]), generalizing the results proved by Ch. Birkenhake and H. Lange in [4].

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## 0. Introduction

Let  $(A, |D|)$  be a  $(1, d)$ -polarized abelian surface. Here abelian surface means a surface  $A$  with  $\omega_{A/\mathbb{C}} \cong \mathcal{O}_A$  and  $q(A) = 2$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $|D|$  is an ample linear system of type  $(1, d)$  up to translation in  $A$ . It is known (see e.g. [14, Lemma 10.1.1]) that if

$$(\heartsuit) \quad (A, |D|) \not\cong (E_1 \times E_2, p_1^* \mathcal{L}_1 \otimes p_2^* \mathcal{L}_2) \text{ where } E_i \text{ is an elliptic curve, } p_i: E_1 \times E_2 \rightarrow E_i \\ \text{is the projection and } \mathcal{L}_i \in \text{Pic}(E_i), i = 1, 2,$$

then  $|D|$  is free from base components. Therefore it induces a quasi-finite rational map  $\varrho: A \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^{d-1}$  such that  $2d = D^2 = \deg(\varrho) \deg(\varrho(A))$ . Since  $C^2 \geq 0$  for each irreducible curve  $C$  on  $A$ ,  $\varrho$  is also finite.

There are many results about the behaviour of  $\varrho$  with respect to  $d$ . If  $d = 2$  then  $|D|$  has four base points and the map  $\varrho$  has been studied in this case by W. Barth in [1]. If  $d \geq 3$  then  $|D|$  is base-point-free. When  $d = 4$  C. Birkenhake, H. Lange, D. van Straten in [5] and F. Tovena in [22] have dealt with the morphism  $\varrho$ . Finally the case  $d \geq 5$  has been described by S. Ramanan in [18].

In the case  $d = 3$  the map  $\varrho$  is surjective and, since both  $A$  and  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  are smooth, it is also flat (see [11, Exercise III 10.9]), i.e. a cover in the sense of [9]. In [4] a family  $\mathcal{H}_{BL}$  of dimension 1 of such kind of surfaces is studied in details. In particular the branch locus  $B_{\varrho}$  of  $\varrho: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  is described for each such  $A$ .

Really the main property of the surfaces  $A$  corresponding to points in  $\mathcal{H}_{BL}$  is the existence of a non-trivial involution  $j_A: A \rightarrow A$ . Hence they are bielliptic in the sense of

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[13]. Therefore there exists a double cover  $\tau: A \rightarrow S$  onto a ruled surface  $S$  with invariant  $e(S) = -1$  over an elliptic curve  $E$ , and the cover  $\varrho: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  factors as  $\varrho = \sigma \circ \tau$  where  $\sigma: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  is a cover of degree 3.

The aim of this paper is to generalize to bielliptic abelian surfaces  $A$  the mentioned results of [4] about the branch locus  $B_{\varrho}$  of the cover  $\varrho := \sigma \circ \tau: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  induced by  $|D|$ , using the theory of covers developed in [15, 21 and 9].

In Section 1 we study such a kind of cover  $\sigma$ , dealing with its branch locus and ramification divisor. Moreover we describe the branch locus of the cover  $\tau$ . Finally we show how to recover the family  $\mathcal{H}_{BL}$  as a particular case. Section 2 is devoted to the proof of the following theorem.

**Theorem 0.1.** *There is a decomposition  $B_{\varrho} = 2C' + C''$  into irreducible sextic curves birationally isomorphic to  $E$ .*

*The singularities of  $C'$  are nine cusps of type  $A_2$ . The singularities of  $C''$  are nine points of type  $A_1$  (possibly three by three infinitely near, i.e. three points of type  $D_4$ ), lying on the cuspidal tangent lines at  $C'$ .*

In [9] a structure theorem for covers of degree  $d$  between smooth varieties has been proved. Such a result has been used in order to give a complete characterization of covers of low degree  $d$ , namely  $3 \leq d \leq 5$  (see [9, 7, 8]).

More precisely if  $\varrho: X \rightarrow Y$  is a cover of degree  $d \geq 3$  and both  $X$  and  $Y$  are smooth, Theorem 2.1 of [9] asserts the existence of a locally free  $\mathcal{O}_Y$ -sheaf  $\mathcal{E}$  of rank  $d - 1$ , natural splittings

$$\begin{aligned} \varrho_* \omega_{X|Y} &\cong \mathcal{O}_Y \oplus \mathcal{E}, \\ \varrho_* \mathcal{O}_X &\cong \mathcal{O}_Y \oplus \check{\mathcal{E}}, \end{aligned} \tag{0.2}$$

and an embedding  $i: X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P} := \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E})$  such that  $\varrho = \pi \circ i$  ( $\pi: \mathbb{P} \rightarrow Y$  is the projection) and  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}}(1)|_X \cong \omega_{X|Y}$ . Following R. Miranda,  $\check{\mathcal{E}}$  is called the *Tschirnhausen module* of  $\varrho$  (see [15]).

If in addition,  $d \geq 4$ , there also exists a locally free  $\mathcal{O}_Y$ -sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  fitting into a sequence of the form

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{\eta} S^2 \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \varrho_* \omega_{X|Y}^2 \longrightarrow 0. \tag{0.3}$$

Notice that  $\mathcal{F}$  has rank  $N_d := \frac{d(d-3)}{2}$ .

If  $d \geq 4$  (resp.  $d = 3$ ), via  $\Phi_d: H^0(Y, \check{\mathcal{F}} \otimes S^2 \mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^0(\mathbb{P}, \pi^* \check{\mathcal{F}}(2))$  (resp.  $\Phi_3: H^0(Y, S^3 \mathcal{E} \otimes \det \mathcal{E}^{-1}) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^0(\mathbb{P}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}}(3) \otimes \pi^* \det \mathcal{E}^{-1})$ ) we obtain a morphism  $\delta := \Phi_d(\eta): \pi^* \check{\mathcal{F}}(-2) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}}$  (resp.  $\delta := \Phi_3(\eta): \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}}(-3) \otimes \pi^* \det \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}}$ ) and  $X = D_0(\delta) \subseteq \mathbb{P}$ . If  $d \geq 5$  such a section  $\eta$  cannot be general since  $\text{codim}_{\mathbb{P}}(X) = d - 2 < N_d$ . If  $d = 5$ , it can be proved (see [7] for the details) that such  $\eta$ 's belong to the image of a natural quadratic map

$$H^0(Y, \Lambda^2 \check{\mathcal{F}} \otimes \mathcal{E} \otimes \det \mathcal{E}^{-1}) \rightarrow H^0(Y, \check{\mathcal{F}} \otimes S^2 \mathcal{E}).$$

Unfortunately for  $d \geq 6$  there is not such a satisfactory theory.

Anyhow, given an arbitrary  $(1, 3)$ -polarized abelian surface  $(A, |D|)$ , it is interesting to compute the sheaves  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  of the associated cover  $q: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$ . In Section 3 we prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 0.4.** *Let  $(A, |D|)$  be a  $(1, 3)$ -polarized abelian surface satisfying  $(\heartsuit)$ . Then the sheaves  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  corresponding to the cover  $q: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  are*

$$\mathcal{E} \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2}(3) \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3)^{\oplus 2}, \tag{0.4.1}$$

$$\mathcal{F} \cong S^2\Omega_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(6)^{\oplus 3}. \tag{0.4.2}$$

Finally, in Section 4, we will give a complete description of the structure of the map  $q$  for bielliptic surfaces.

**Theorem 0.5.** *Let  $q: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  a  $(1, 3)$ -polarized abelian surface and let  $i: A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}$  the embedding above. Then  $A$  is bielliptic if and only if the restriction to  $A$  of the projection  $\bar{\pi}: \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2}(3) \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3) \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3)) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\Omega_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3))$  from  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2}(3) \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3))$  induced by the decomposition 0.4.1 is a morphism whose image is smooth.*

For all the notations and definitions used in the paper we refer to [11].

**1.  $(1, 3)$ -Polarized bielliptic abelian surfaces**

Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve and consider the unique ruled surface  $S$  over  $E$  with invariant  $e(S) = -1$ . Then there exists an indecomposable locally free  $\mathcal{O}_E$ -sheaf  $\mathcal{H}$  of rank 2, fitting into the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_E(P) \rightarrow 0$$

such that  $S \cong \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H}) \xrightarrow{e} E$ . Fixing such an isomorphism, let  $\{C_0\} = |\mathcal{O}_S(1)|$ . Notice that  $C_0^2 = 1$  and  $\text{Pic}(S) \cong \mathbb{Z}C_0 \oplus e^*\text{Pic}(E)$ .

**Proposition 1.1.** *If  $Q \in E$ , then  $|C_0 + e^*Q|$  induces a cover  $\sigma: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  of degree 3 with Tschirnhausen module  $\Omega_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1$ .*

**Proof.** If  $D \in |C_0 + Qf|$  then  $D^2 = 3$  and  $\dim |C_0 + e^*Q| = 2$ . Moreover  $|C_0 + e^*Q|$  is ample and base-point-free (see [10, Proposition 3.4 and 3.5]).

If  $r \in \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  and  $C := \sigma^{-1}(r)$  is smooth then the branch locus of  $\sigma|_C$  has degree 6 by the theorem of Hurwitz. Thus the branch locus  $B_\sigma$  of  $\sigma$  has degree 6, hence  $c_1(\mathcal{E}) = -3$  for the Tschirnhausen module  $\mathcal{E}$  of  $\sigma$ . On the other hand computing  $\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)$  for the triple cover  $\sigma$  (see [17, Section 8 or 15, Section 10]) one obtains  $c_2(\mathcal{E}) = 3$ . Normalizing  $\mathcal{E}$  we then get  $c_1(\check{\mathcal{E}}_{norm}) = -1$ ,  $c_2(\check{\mathcal{E}}_{norm}) = 1$ . On the other hand

$$3 = h^0(E, \mathcal{H}(Q)) = h^0(S, \sigma^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2}(1)) = h^0(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2}(1)) + h^0(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2, \check{\mathcal{E}}_{norm}),$$

therefore  $\check{\mathcal{E}}_{norm}$  is stable. We then conclude that  $\check{\mathcal{E}}_{norm} \cong \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}}(1)$  (see [16, p. 246]).  $\square$

**Proposition 1.2.** *The set  $H$  of sections of  $H^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{S}^3\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}}(6))$  inducing covers (as explained in the introduction)  $\sigma: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  of degree 3 with a smooth  $S$  is open and dense.*

*Each such cover  $\sigma$  is non-cyclic and there is an elliptic curve  $E$ , and a point  $Q \in E$  such that  $S$  is the unique ruled surface over  $E$  with invariant  $e(S) = -1$  and the pull back to  $S$  of the linear system of lines is  $|C_0 + e^*Q|$ .*

**Proof.** The first statement follows from [9, Theorem 3.6], since  $\mathcal{E} \cong \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}}(3)$ . Moreover  $\sigma$  is not cyclic since its Tschirnhausen module does not split.

Notice that  $\chi(\mathcal{O}_S) = K_S^2 = 0$  (see [17, Section 8] or [15, Section 10]) hence  $S$  is minimal. Thus  $S$  is either a ruled surface  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H})$  over an elliptic curve  $E$  or a surface with Kodaira dimension  $\kappa(D) \geq 0$ .

Let  $D \in |\sigma^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(1)|$ . In the second case one would have  $K_S \cdot D \geq 0$ . On the other hand, using projection formula and the isomorphism  $\sigma_*\omega^2_{S|\mathbb{C}} \cong \mathcal{S}^2\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}}$  (see [17, Section 8 or 9, formula 5.1.2]), one has

$$2K_S \cdot D = \chi(\mathcal{O}_S) - \chi(\omega^2_{S|\mathbb{C}}) - \chi(\mathcal{O}_S(D)) + \chi(\omega^2_{S|\mathbb{C}}(D)) = -6. \tag{1.2.1}$$

Thus  $S \cong \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H})$  for some locally free  $\mathcal{O}_E$ -sheaf  $\mathcal{H}$  of rank 2 on an elliptic curve  $E$ . Let  $C_0 \subseteq S$  be a section of minimal self-intersection  $C_0^2 = -e(S)$ . Then  $D \in |aC_0 + e^*b|$  where  $a \geq 1$  and  $b$  is a divisor on  $E$ . Moreover

$$3 = a^2C_0^2 + 2ab \tag{1.2.2}$$

where  $b = \text{deg}(b)$ . It follows that  $e(S)$  is odd. If  $e(S) > 0$ , since  $D$  is ample then  $b + aC_0^2 > 0$  ([10, Proposition 3.4]), hence  $3 + a^2C_0^2 > 0$ . It follows  $C_0^2 = -1$ ,  $a = 1$  and  $b = 2$ , which is absurd since then  $D$  would not be free from base points.

If  $e(S) = -1$  then  $\mathcal{H}$  fits into

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_E(P) \rightarrow 0.$$

Since  $2b = 3/a - a^2C_0^2$  then  $a = 1, 3$ . If  $a = 3$  then  $2K_S \cdot D = -6 - 4b = -6$  if and only if  $b = 0$ , contradicting formula 1.2.2 again. We conclude that  $a = 1$  and  $b = Q \in E$ .  $\square$

Now we deal with the branch locus  $B_\sigma$  and the ramification divisor  $R_\sigma$  of the cover  $\sigma: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  corresponding to a section  $\mathfrak{g} \in H^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{S}^3\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}}(6))$ . We always refer to the careful description of the branch locus of a triple cover due to R. Miranda (see [15]).

More precisely  $B_\sigma$  is singular at  $x \in \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  if and only if  $\sigma$  is totally ramified over  $x$  ([15, Lemma 4.8]). If  $x \in \text{Sing}(B_\sigma)$  then it is a double point with one tangent, and if it is also an isolated singularity, then  $x$  is a point of type  $A_{3k-1}$  for some  $k \geq 1$  (see [15, Corollary 5.8 and its proof]).

**Lemma 1.3.** *Assume that  $B_\sigma$  is reduced. Then its singularities are  $a_2$  points of type  $A_2$  and  $a_3$  points of type  $A_3$ . Moreover  $2a_3 + a_2 = 9$ .*

**Proof.** The first part of the statement follows from [15, Corollary 5.8], its proof and the fact that  $\text{deg}(B_\sigma) = 6$ .

Let  $\mathcal{S} \in H^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{S}^3\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}}(\mathcal{G}))$  correspond to  $\sigma: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$ . As shown in Proposition 3.9 and Lemma 10.1 of [15] there is a natural map

$$\alpha: H^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{S}^3\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}}(\mathcal{G})) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}}(\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}}(-3), \mathcal{S}^2\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}})$$

inducing as an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}}(-3) \xrightarrow{\alpha(\mathcal{S})} \mathcal{S}^2\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|_{\mathbb{C}}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_T \rightarrow 0,$$

where the support of  $T$  is the set of points of total ramification of  $\sigma$ . A Chern class computation shows that  $\text{deg}(T) = 9$ .

Locally at  $x \in T$

$$\mathfrak{J}_{T,x} = (a^2 - bd, ad - bc, d^2 - ac)\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}},x},$$

where  $a, b, c, d \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}},x}$  are the local functions around  $x$  defining the cover  $\sigma$  (see Sections 3 and 4 of [15]). Let  $\mathfrak{M}$  be the maximal ideal of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}},x}$ .

If  $b, c \in \mathfrak{M}$  then also  $a, d \in \mathfrak{M}$ , thus the fibre of  $\sigma$  over  $x$  would be isomorphic to

$$\mathbb{C}[z, w]/(z^2, zw, w^2)$$

which is not Gorenstein, hence  $S$  could not be smooth over  $x$ .

Let  $b \notin \mathfrak{M}$ . Locally the equation of  $S$  is  $z^3 + gz + h = 0$ , where  $h := 3abd - 2a^3 - b^2c$ ,  $g := 3(bd - a^2)$  (see [15, Remark 2.8.1]). In particular  $\mathfrak{J}_{T,x} = (g, h)\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}},x}$  and the local equation of  $B_\sigma$  around  $x$  is  $27h^2 + 4g^3 = 0$ . Since  $h \in \mathfrak{M} \setminus \mathfrak{M}^2$  (see [15, Lemma 5.7]), thus  $x$  is of type  $A_2$  (resp.  $A_3$ ) if and only if  $g \in \mathfrak{M} \setminus \mathfrak{M}^2$  (resp.  $g \in \mathfrak{M}^2$ ) at  $x$ , that is if and only if  $x$  has degree 1 (resp. 2) inside  $T$ . □

**Theorem 1.4.**  *$B_\sigma$  is an irreducible sextic curve birationally isomorphic to the curve  $E$ . Its singularities are nine points of type  $A_2$ .*

**Proof.** Notice that each irreducible component  $C \subseteq R_\sigma$  is mapped birationally onto  $\sigma(C)$ , since  $\text{deg}(\sigma) = 3$ .

Since  $R_\sigma \cdot (C_0 + e^*Q) = 6$  then  $\text{deg}(B_\sigma) = 6$ . Assume that  $B_\sigma$  is reducible. Then it must be reduced, otherwise it would have at least a triple point, a contradiction by Lemma 4.8 and Corollary 5.8 of [15]. It follows that  $R_\sigma \in |C_0 + e^*(P + 3Q)|$  is reducible too, hence  $R_\sigma$  contains a fibre  $e^*S$ .

Since  $e^*S \cdot (C_0 + e^*Q) = 1$  then  $e^*S$  is mapped on a line  $r \subseteq B_\sigma$ . If  $B_\sigma$  contains another line  $r'$  then  $r \neq r'$  hence  $B_\sigma$  has a node, an absurd. It follows that the residual divisor  $B := B_\sigma - r$  must be irreducible.

The points of  $B \cap r$  are simple on  $B$  and they are images of points of total ramification of  $\sigma$ . Since  $e^*S \cdot (R_\sigma - e^*S) = 1$  it follows that  $r \cap B$  is exactly one point  $x$ . Such a point is necessarily a flex on  $B$  and  $r$  is its inflectional tangent.

The other singularities of  $B_\sigma$  are also singularities of  $B$ , thus they must be points of type  $A_2$ . Since  $B$  is birationally isomorphic to  $E$  then  $B_\sigma$  must have exactly  $a_2 = 5$  points of type  $A_2$  and  $a_5 = 1$  point of type  $A_5$  (namely  $x$ ). We conclude that in this case  $2a_5 + a_2 = 7 \neq 9$ .

Hence we have proved that  $B_\sigma$  is irreducible. If it is not reduced, then  $\sigma$  would be totally ramified, whence cyclic ([21, Proposition 3.1]).

We conclude that  $B_\sigma$  is irreducible and reduced, thus it is birationally equivalent to  $E$ . In particular the formula of Clebsch yields  $1 = p_g(B_\sigma) = 10 - 3a_5 - a_2$ , thus  $a_2 + 3a_5 = a_2 + 2a_5 = 9$  which implies  $a_5 = 0$ . □

In Proposition 3.2 of [10], it is proved that the linear system  $|\omega_{S|\mathbb{C}}^{-2}| = |4C_0 - 2e^*P|$  has dimension 1 and its generic member is a smooth irreducible curve. We now produce the two-dimensional family of bielliptic abelian surfaces with a (1, 3)-polarization.

**Proposition 1.5.** *Let  $\sigma: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  be as in Proposition 1.2 and let  $\tau: A \rightarrow S$  be the double cover branched along a general divisor  $B_\tau \in |\omega_{S|\mathbb{C}}^{-2}|$ . Then  $(A, |\tau^*(C_0 + e^*Q)|)$  is a (1, 3)-polarized bielliptic abelian surface.*

*Conversely each (1, 3)-polarized bielliptic abelian surface  $(A, |D|)$  arises in this way.*

**Proof.** The general element of  $|\omega_{S|\mathbb{C}}^{-2}|$  is smooth and irreducible, thus  $A$  is smooth. Moreover  $q(A) = 2$ ,  $p_g(A) = 1$  and  $\omega_{A|\mathbb{C}} \cong \mathcal{O}_A$  (see [2, Lemma 17.1 of Chapter I]), thus  $A$  is abelian.

The map  $\varrho := \sigma \circ \tau: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  is a cover of degree 6, then  $|\tau^*(C_0 + e^*Q)| = |\varrho^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2}(1)|$  is ample, hence it must be a (1, 3)-polarization. The map  $\tau$  induces a non-trivial involution  $j_A: A \rightarrow A$ , thus  $A$  is bielliptic.

The converse follows trivially from (i) and (ii) of Proposition 4.4 in [13]. □

**Remark 1.6.** Since  $(4C_0 - 2e^*Q)^2 = 0$  then we get a fibration  $\varphi: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1$ , whose generic fibre is a smooth elliptic curve.

Moreover  $\chi(\mathcal{O}_S) = 0$  hence  $\varphi$  is isotrivial, its singular fibres are multiple of smooth curves (see Lemma 1.1 of [20]), and  $\varphi$  has exactly three double fibres by Proposition 3.2 of [10].

Consider the residual divisor  $R_0 := \sigma^*B_\sigma - 2R_\sigma \in |4C_0 - 2e^*P|$ . Then the restriction of  $\sigma$  to  $R_0 \setminus \sigma^{-1}(\text{Sing}(B_\sigma))$  is an isomorphism onto  $B_\sigma \setminus \text{Sing}(B_\sigma)$ . Moreover Lemma 5.9 of [15] asserts the smoothness of  $R_0$  also at the points of total ramification. We conclude that  $R_0$  is globally smooth, hence irreducible, and  $\sigma|_{R_0}$  is birational onto  $B_0$ . It follows that  $R_0 \cong E$  and that all the smooth fibres of  $\varphi$  are isomorphic to  $E$ .

The fibres of the map  $\varphi \circ \tau: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1$  are double étale covers of the curves in  $|4C_0 - 2e^*P|$ , since  $B_\tau \cdot (4C_0 - 2e^*P) = 0$ . It follows that they are not connected (see [3, Exercise IX 1]), hence the Stein factorization of  $\varphi \circ \tau$  gives rise to a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{\psi} & E' \\
 \downarrow \tau & & \downarrow \xi \\
 S & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1
 \end{array}$$

where  $E'$  is a smooth elliptic curve and  $\xi$  is a double cover.

The map  $\varphi|_{C_0}: C_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1$  is a double cover since  $C_0 \cdot (4C_0 - 2e^*P) = 2$ . Its branch points are exactly the critical values of  $\varphi \circ \tau$ . Therefore they coincide with the branch points of  $\xi$ . In particular  $E' \cong C_0 \cong E$ , and we have an exact sequence of abelian varieties

$$0 \rightarrow E \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\psi} E \rightarrow 0$$

(see also [3, Example IX 4.3]).

Notice that  $A \cong (E \times F)/G$  where  $G := \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  (see [13, Proposition 4.1]) and  $F/G \cong E$  (see [20, Theorem 1.2]).

In the following example, choosing  $R_0 = B_r$ , we obtain the family studied in [4].

**Example 1.7.** Let  $\sigma: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  be as above. Since the Tschirnhausen module of  $\sigma$  does not split, then  $\sigma$  is not cyclic. According to [21] we can build the discriminant  $D(S | \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2)$  of  $\sigma$  and we have a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A := \hat{S} & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & D(S | \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2) \\
 \downarrow \tau & & \downarrow \beta \\
 S & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2.
 \end{array}$$

Theorem 1.4 above and [21, Proposition 3.4] give us the following results:

- (i)  $\beta$  is a double cover branched along  $B_\sigma$  and  $D(S | \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2)$  is normal with 9 singular points of type  $A_2$ ;
- (ii)  $\alpha$  is a cyclic triple cover of  $D(S | \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2)$  branched only at  $\text{Sing}(D(S | \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2))$  and  $A := \hat{S}$  is smooth;
- (iii)  $S$  is the quotient of  $A := \hat{S}$  via an involution.

In particular  $D(S | \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2)$  is a singular  $K3$ -surface and  $A$  is a bielliptic abelian surface. Again  $\varrho := \sigma \circ \tau$  is a cover of degree 6 and  $\varrho^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2}(1)$  is a polarization of type  $(1, 3)$  on  $A$ .

Notice that Lemma 1.4 of [21] implies that the reduced branch locus of  $\varrho$  is  $B_\sigma$ , thus the branch locus of  $\varrho$  satisfies  $B_\varrho = 3B_\sigma$ . It follows that  $B_r = R_0$ . Moreover  $\varrho$  is a Galois cover with Galois group  $\mathfrak{S}_3$  (see again [21]).

**2. The equation of the branch locus  $B_\varrho$**

In this section we will describe the branch locus  $B_\varrho$  of the cover  $\varrho: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$ , when  $A$  is bielliptic. To this purpose we denote by  $t_a: A \rightarrow A$  the translation by  $a \in A$  and we set  $|D| := |\varrho^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(1)|$ .

Since  $D$  is a polarization of type  $(1, 3)$ , the morphism  $\varrho: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  is invariant with respect to the group

$$K(D) := \{a \in A \mid t_a^* D \in |D|\} \cong \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \subseteq PGL_3.$$

**Proposition 2.1.** *There exists a decomposition into  $K(D)$ -invariant sextic curves  $B_\varrho = 2B_\sigma + C_\varrho$ .*

**Proof.** Obviously  $B_\varrho = 2B_\sigma + \sigma_* B_\tau$ . Let  $C_\varrho := \sigma_* B_\tau$  and fix a general line  $\ell \in \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$ . Then  $C := \varrho^{-1}(\ell) \in |D|$  is a smooth irreducible curve of genus 4, by adjunction formula. Hence the theorem of Hurwitz applied to  $C$  yields  $\deg(B_\varrho) = 18$ , whence  $\deg(C_\varrho) = 6$ .

Since  $B_\varrho$  is  $K(D)$ -invariant, thus the two curves  $C_\varrho$  and  $B_\sigma$  must be invariant too.  $\square$

With a suitable choice of the coordinates  $x_0, x_1, x_2$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$ , we can assume that  $K(D) \subseteq PGL_3$  is generated by the classes of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \zeta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \zeta^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\zeta \neq 1, \zeta^3 = 1$ . The  $K(D)$ -orbit  $O(x)$  of a point  $x \in \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  contains at most nine distinct points. If  $O(x)$  contains less than nine points then it coincides with one of the following:

$$\begin{aligned} O_0 &:= \{[1, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 1]\}, & O_1 &:= \{[1, 1, 1], [1, \zeta, \zeta^2], [1, \zeta^2, \zeta]\}, \\ O_2 &:= \{[1, 1, \zeta], [1, \zeta, 1], [\zeta, 1, 1]\}, & O_3 &:= \{[1, 1, \zeta^2], [1, \zeta^2, 1], [\zeta^2, 1, 1]\}. \end{aligned}$$

A simple computation shows that each  $K(D)$ -invariant sextic has an equation of the form

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_0, x_1, x_2) &:= a(x_0^6 + x_1^6 + x_2^6) + b(x_0^3 x_1^3 + x_0^3 x_2^3 + x_1^3 x_2^3) + \\ &+ cx_0 x_1 x_2 (x_0^3 + x_1^3 + x_2^3) + dx_0^2 x_1^2 x_2^2 = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

for some  $[a, b, c, d] \in \mathbb{P}^3_{\mathbb{C}}$ . Let  $C \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  be the corresponding curve. We have a rational map

$$\varphi_f := \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_0}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} \right) : \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}} \dashrightarrow \check{\mathbb{P}}^2_{\mathbb{C}},$$



and, computing  $\partial f/\partial x_i$ , one easily checks that  $\varphi_f$  is  $K(D)$ -equivalent. It follows that the dual curve  $\check{C} \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  is also  $K(D)$ -invariant. Let  $g$  be its equation in  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  with coordinates  $y_0, y_1, y_2$ . We have

$$\psi_g := \left( \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_0}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_2} \right) : \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2,$$

and it is well known that the biduality  $\psi_g \circ \varphi_f$  is the identity on  $C$  (in particular  $C$  and  $\check{C}$  are birational).

Since  $B_\sigma$  has nine points of type  $A_2$ , the ordinary formula of Plücker implies that  $\check{B}_\sigma$  is a smooth cubic. Therefore its equation is

$$y_0^3 + y_1^3 + y_2^3 - 3\lambda y_0 y_1 y_2 = 0, \quad \lambda^3 \neq 1.$$

Taking into account Section 1 of [4], by biduality we get that the equation of  $B_\sigma$  with respect to the above system of coordinates is

$$\begin{aligned} f_\lambda(x_0, x_1, x_2) := & (x_0^6 + x_1^6 + x_2^6) + 2(2\lambda^3 - 1)(x_0^3 x_1^3 + x_0^3 x_2^3 + x_1^3 x_2^3) \\ & - 6\lambda^2 x_0 x_1 x_2 (x_0^3 + x_1^3 + x_2^3) - 3\lambda(\lambda^3 - 4)x_0^2 x_1^2 x_2^2 = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

where  $\lambda^3 \neq 1$ . Notice that  $O_i \cap B_\sigma = \emptyset$  and that  $\text{Sing}(B_\sigma) = O([\lambda, 1, 1])$ .

**Remark 2.4.** Let  $\gamma, \delta \in PGL_3$  be classes of the matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \zeta^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \zeta^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \zeta^2 & \zeta \\ 1 & \zeta & \zeta^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The group  $G := \langle \gamma, \delta \rangle$  is well-known to be isomorphic to the alternating group  $\mathcal{A}_4$  of order 4 ([6, Section 7.3]). The elements of order two of  $G$  form a normal subgroup  $G_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \trianglelefteq G$ ,  $\gamma$  generates a cyclic subgroup  $G_1 \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$  and  $G \cong G_0 \rtimes G_1$ .

The polynomials  $f_\lambda$  and  $f_\mu$  represent birationally isomorphic curves if and only if they lie in the same  $G$ -orbit, i.e. if and only if there is  $g \in G$  such that  $g(f_\lambda) = f_\mu$  (see [4, Section 1] and [6]). The group  $G$  induces an action on  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{1, \zeta, \zeta^2\}$  given by

$$\gamma(\lambda) := \zeta\lambda, \quad \delta(\lambda) := \frac{\lambda + 2}{\lambda - 1}.$$

With respect to this action  $g(f_\lambda) = f_{g(\lambda)}$ ,  $g \in G$ . Then  $f_\lambda$  and  $f_\mu$  represent birationally isomorphic curves if and only if  $g(\lambda) = \mu$ . For such a pair  $(\lambda, \mu)$ , some easy computation shows the existence of  $g \in G_0$ , depending on  $(\lambda, \mu)$ , and sending  $(\lambda, \mu)$  to  $(\lambda', \mu')$  where  $\mu' \in \{\lambda', \gamma(\lambda'), \gamma^2(\lambda'), \delta(\lambda')\}$ .

**Remark 2.5.** We claim that if  $y \in B_\tau \cap R_\sigma$  and  $x := \sigma(y) \notin \text{Sing}(B_\sigma)$ , then the tangent space of  $C_\sigma$  at  $x$  contains the tangent space of  $B_\sigma$  at  $x$ .

Since the assertion is local we can consider  $\sigma : \text{spec}(B) \rightarrow \text{spec}(A) \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$ , where  $A$  is a ring with maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{M}$  corresponding to  $x$  and  $B \cong A[u]/p(u)$  where  $p(u) = u^3 + \alpha u^2 + \beta u + \gamma$ ,  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in A$ . We can also assume that  $y$  corresponds to the ideal  $(u) + \mathfrak{M}$  of  $B$ . In this setting  $R_\sigma$  has equations  $3u^2 + 2\alpha u + \beta = p(u) = 0$ . It follows that  $y \in R_\sigma$  if and only if  $\beta, \gamma \in \mathfrak{M}$ . Moreover  $\alpha \notin \mathfrak{M}$  since  $x$  is not a point of total ramification of  $\sigma$ . An easy local computation shows that  $\gamma \notin \mathfrak{M}^2$ , otherwise  $S$  would be singular at  $y$ . Eliminating the variable  $u$  we finally obtain an equation of  $B_\sigma$  of the form  $b := 4\alpha^3\gamma + b_2$  where  $b_2 \in \mathfrak{M}^2$ .

Since  $\text{spec}(B) \cong \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{C}}^1 \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1$  and  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1}(1)_{|\text{spec}(B)} \cong \omega_{\text{spec}(B)|\text{spec}(A)}$  (see the introduction) and  $|\omega_{S|\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2}| = |C_0 + e^*(P + 3Q)|$ , a proper choice of  $u$  allows us to assume that  $u = p(u) = 0$  are equations of  $C_0$ , thus  $B_\tau \in |4C_0 - 2e^*Q|$  is given by  $p(u) = q(u) = 0$ , where  $q(u)$  is a polynomial of degree 4. It follows that we can choose equations  $p(u) = \delta u^2 + \varepsilon u + \eta = 0$ ,  $\delta, \varepsilon, \eta \in A$ , for  $B_\tau$ . The condition  $y \in B_\tau$  yields  $\eta \in \mathfrak{M}$ . Again eliminating the variable  $u$  we obtain the equation of  $C_q$  of the form  $c = (\alpha\delta\varepsilon - \varepsilon^3)\gamma + c_2$  where  $c_2 \in \mathfrak{M}^2$ .

**Theorem 2.6.**  *$C_q$  is an irreducible sextic birationally isomorphic to  $E$ . Its singularities are either nine points of type  $A_1$ , possibly three by three infinitely near (i.e. three points of type  $D_4$ ), or nine cusps of type  $A_2$ .*

*Each cuspidal tangent lines at  $B_\sigma$  contains exactly one singular point of  $C_q$ .  $C_q$  has points of type  $D_4$  if and only if  $\text{Sing}(C_q) = O_i$  for some  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3$ .  $C_q$  has points of type  $A_2$  if and only if  $C_q = B_\sigma$  and, in this case,  $q$  is the cover described in Example 1.7.*

*Finally  $C_q$  and  $B_\sigma$  are tangent at each point of intersection.*

**Proof.** If  $C_q \cap \text{Sing}(B_\sigma) \neq \emptyset$  then  $B_\tau$  contains at least one point of total ramification of  $\sigma$ , whence  $R_0 \cap B_\tau \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $R_0 \cdot B_\tau = 0$  we get that  $R_0 = B_\tau$ , hence  $C_q = B_\sigma$  and  $q$  is the cover described in Example 1.7.

For this reason, from now on, we will always assume that  $B_\tau \neq R_0$ , i.e.  $C_q \cap \text{Sing}(B_\sigma) = \emptyset$ . Notice that it follows from Remark 2.5 that  $C_q$  and  $B_\sigma$  are tangent at each point of intersection.

Since  $B_\tau$  is irreducible and  $B_\tau \cdot (C_0 + e^*Q) = 6$  then  $C_q$  is an irreducible sextic curve. If  $C_q$  was not reduced then its reduced structure  $(C_q)_{red}$  would be either a conic or a cubic, thus  $B_\tau \subseteq \sigma^{-1}((C_q)_{red}) \in |n(C_0 + e^*Q)|$ , where  $n = 2, 3$ , which is absurd since  $B_\tau \in |4C_0 - 2e^*P|$ .

It follows that  $\sigma|_{B_\tau}: B_\tau \rightarrow C_q$  is a resolution of singularities of  $C_q$ , which is then birationally isomorphic to  $E$ . Therefore the formula of Clebsch becomes

$$\sum_{x \in C_q} \frac{m_x(m_x - 1)}{2} = 9 \tag{2.6.1}$$

where  $m_x$  is the multiplicity of  $x$ . We also obtain that if the tangent lines at  $x \in \text{Sing}(C_q)$  are not all distinct, then  $x \in B_\sigma$ . Since  $C_q$  is  $K(D)$ -invariant, we get that  $\text{Sing}(C_q)$  is union of  $K(D)$ -orbits.

Assume that  $\text{Sing}(C_q)$  contains either a point of type  $A_k$ , with  $k \geq 3$ , or a non-ordinary point of multiplicity at least three. Such kind of points contribute at least two

in the sum in formula 2.6.1. Then there is  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3$  such that  $\emptyset \neq \text{Sing}(C_\rho) \cap O_i \subseteq B_\sigma \cap O_i = \emptyset$ , a contradiction.

If  $\text{Sing}(C_\rho)$  contains an ordinary multiple point  $x$  of multiplicity at least three, 2.6.1 implies that  $x$  must be of type  $D_4$  and  $x \in O_i$ , thus  $\text{Sing}(C_\rho) = O_i$  for some  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3$ . Conversely if  $a = 0$  in equation 2.2 then  $O_0 \subseteq \text{Sing}(C_\rho)$ . If also  $c = 0$  then equality holds and each point is of type  $D_4$ . If  $c \neq 0$  then the points of  $O_0$  are of type  $A_1$ . Then by 2.6.1 we necessarily have  $\text{Sing}(C_\rho) = \cup O_i$ . As proved above the points in  $O_i$  must be ordinary, hence again by 2.6.1 they are all of type  $A_1$  and  $\text{Sing}(C_\rho) = O_0 \cup O_i \cup O_j$  ( $i, j = 1, 2, 3, i \neq j$ ).

Now let the singularities of  $C_\rho$  be nine points of type  $A_2$ . Then the equation of  $C_\rho$  is  $f_\mu$  (see formula 2.3), hence  $\text{Sing}(C_\rho) = O([\mu, 1, 1])$ . Moreover  $C_\rho$  is birationally isomorphic to  $E$ . Thus we can suppose that either  $\lambda^3 = \mu^3$  or  $\mu = (\lambda + 2)/(\lambda - 1)$  by remark 2.4. Moreover  $\text{Sing}(C_\rho) \subseteq B_\sigma$ , since  $\rho$  is locally étale outside  $B_\sigma$ .

If  $\lambda = \mu = 0$  then  $C_\rho = B_\sigma$ . Assume that  $\lambda\mu \neq 0$  and  $\lambda^3 = \mu^3$ . Since  $C_\rho \cdot B_\sigma = 36$ , Remark 2.5 implies that the pencil  $\Phi$  of sextic curves generated by  $C_\rho$  and  $B_\sigma$  has at most 18 base points. On the other hand  $\Phi$  contains a reducible curve  $\bar{C}$  of equation  $x_0x_1x_2(x_0^3 + x_1^3 + x_2^3 - 3mx_0x_1x_2) = 0$ . It is not difficult to check that  $\bar{C} \cap B_\sigma$  contains at least 27 points, which are base points of  $\Phi$ .

Assume finally that  $\mu = (\lambda + 2)/(\lambda - 1)$ . By direct substitution one checks that the condition  $\text{Sing}(C_\rho) \subseteq B_\sigma$  is equivalent to  $\text{Sing}(B_\sigma) \subseteq C_\rho$ . Thus in both these cases we obtain a contradiction.

The point  $\bar{x} := [\bar{x}_0, \bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2] \in \mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2$  is singular on the curve  $C$  of equation 2.2, if and only if  $[a, b, c, d] \in \mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^3$  is a solution of the homogeneous system

$$\begin{cases} 6\bar{x}_0^5a + 3\bar{x}_0^2(\bar{x}_1^3 + \bar{x}_2^3)b + \bar{x}_1\bar{x}_2(4\bar{x}_0^3 + \bar{x}_1^3 + \bar{x}_2^3)c + 2\bar{x}_0\bar{x}_1^2\bar{x}_2^2d = 0 \\ 6\bar{x}_1^5a + 3\bar{x}_1^2(\bar{x}_0^3 + \bar{x}_2^3)b + \bar{x}_0\bar{x}_2(\bar{x}_0^3 + 4\bar{x}_1^3 + \bar{x}_2^3)c + 2\bar{x}_0^2\bar{x}_1\bar{x}_2^2d = 0 \\ 6\bar{x}_2^5a + 3\bar{x}_2^2(\bar{x}_0^3 + \bar{x}_1^3)b + \bar{x}_0\bar{x}_1(\bar{x}_0^3 + \bar{x}_1^3 + 4\bar{x}_2^3)c + 2\bar{x}_0^2\bar{x}_1^2\bar{x}_2d = 0. \end{cases} \tag{2.6.2}$$

Let us denote by  $M$  the matrix of the system 2.6.2.

Obviously the system 2.6.2 has always  $\infty^1$  solutions, corresponding to the unique curve of equation  $(x_0^3 + x_1^3 + x_2^3 - 3mx_0x_1x_2)^2 = 0$  passing through  $\bar{x}$ .

Generically  $\text{rk}(M) = 3$ . In order to have also solutions representing irreducible curves, we need  $\text{rk}(M) \leq 2$ . Some easy computations show that the ideal  $I$  of  $3 \times 3$ -minors of  $M$  is generated by the three polynomials

$$\bar{x}_0^2\bar{x}_1^2\bar{x}_2^2q(\bar{x}), \quad \bar{x}_0\bar{x}_1\bar{x}_2(\bar{x}_0^3 + \bar{x}_1^3 + \bar{x}_2^3)q(\bar{x}), \quad (\bar{x}_0^3 + \bar{x}_1^3 + \bar{x}_2^3)^2q(\bar{x}),$$

where  $q(\bar{x}) := (\bar{x}_0^3 - \bar{x}_1^3)(\bar{x}_0^3 - \bar{x}_2^3)(\bar{x}_1^3 - \bar{x}_2^3)$ . It follows that  $I \subseteq (q)$ .

On the other hand if  $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2$  is singular on  $C$  but  $q(\bar{x}) \neq 0$ , then  $\bar{x}_0\bar{x}_1\bar{x}_2 = 0$ . If  $\bar{x}_0 = 0$ , we get  $\bar{x}_1^3 + \bar{x}_2^3 = 0$ . Assuming  $\bar{x}_1 = 1$  and  $\bar{x}_2 = -1$ , then 2.6.2 becomes  $2a - b = 0$ . If  $a = 0$  then  $C$  is reducible. Assume  $a = 1$ , then 2.2 becomes

$$(x_0^3 + x_1^3 + x_2^3)^2 + cx_0x_1x_2(x_0^3 + x_1^3 + x_2^3) + dx_0^2x_1^2x_2^2 = 0,$$

which is reducible too.

We have proved that  $\bar{x} \in \text{Sing}(C_\varrho)$  if and only if  $q(\bar{x}) = 0$ . Notice that  $q(x) = 0$  is the equation of the union of the cuspidal tangent lines at  $B_\varrho$  and it is easy to check that each cuspidal tangent line contains a singular point of  $C_\varrho$ . □

**3. The sheaves  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$**

In this section we prove Theorem 0.4. Let  $(A, |D|)$  be a  $(1, 3)$ -polarized abelian surface satisfying  $(\heartsuit)$ . One has for  $n \geq 1$

$$h^i(A, \mathcal{O}_A(nD)) = \begin{cases} 3n^2 & \text{if } i = 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } i = 1, 2. \end{cases} \tag{3.1}$$

Since  $K_A \sim 0$  then, by adjunction,  $p_a(D) = 4$ . If  $C \in |D|$  is smooth then the map  $\varrho_{|C}: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1_{\mathbb{C}}$  is branched at 18 points hence  $\varrho$  is branched along a curve of degree 18. Finally

$$\omega_{A/\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}} \cong \omega_{A/C} \otimes \varrho^* \omega_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}^{-1} \cong \varrho^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3) \cong \mathcal{O}_A(3D).$$

As usual one has the isomorphisms 0.2. Since

$$h^i(A, \mathcal{O}_A(nD)) = h^i(A, \varrho^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(n)) = h^i(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(n)) + h^i(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \check{\mathcal{E}}(n)),$$

using 3.1, Bott’s formulas and Serre duality one easily checks that

$$h^i(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \check{\mathcal{E}}(n)) = h^i(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(n - 3)) + 2h^i(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|C}(n)), \tag{3.2}$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $i = 0, 1, 2$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a locally free  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}$ -sheaf of rank 4 such that  $h^i(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{H}(p)) = 2h^i(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|C}(p))$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2$  and  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $\mathcal{H} \cong \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|C} \oplus \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|C}$ .*

**Proof.** The only non-zero terms in the Beilinson’s spectral sequence (see [16]) are  $E_1^{-2,2} \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}^{\oplus 2}$  and  $E_1^{0,1} \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(-1)^{\oplus 6}$ . It follows  $E_1^{0,1} \cong E_2^{0,1}$  and  $E_1^{-2,2} \cong E_2^{-2,2}$ , hence a complex

$$0 \rightarrow E_2^{-2,2} \xrightarrow{d_2^{-2,2}} E_2^{0,1} \rightarrow 0 \tag{3.3.1}$$

is defined. Moreover  $E_r^{0,1} \cong E_3^{0,1}$  and  $E_r^{-2,2} \cong E_3^{-2,2}$  for any  $r \geq 3$ . Since  $E_\infty^{0,1} = 0$  then  $d_2^{-2,2}$  is surjective. On the other hand  $E_\infty^{-2,2} \cong \mathcal{H}$  hence the complex 3.3.1 yields the following exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(-1)^{\oplus 6} \xrightarrow{s} \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow 0.$$

The matrix  $S$  of  $s$  is of the form

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & a_4 & a_5 \\ b_0 & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 & b_5 \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $a_i, b_i \in H^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(1))$ . Since  $\text{rk}(S) = 2$  then  $H^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(1))$  is generated by the  $a_i$ 's, otherwise there exists a point  $x \in \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  such that  $\text{rk}(s_x) \leq 1$ . In particular, up to a proper choice of a basis of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(-1)^{\oplus 6}$  which corresponds to a proper sequence of elementary operations on the columns of  $S$ , one can assume that

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 & x_1 & x_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ b_0 & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 & b_5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If  $b_3, b_4, b_5$  were linearly dependent then  $\mathcal{H}$  would contain  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(-1)$  as direct summand. Hence

$$0 \neq h^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{H}(1)) = 2h^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(1)) = 0.$$

We conclude that, up to a proper choice of a basis of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(-1)^{\oplus 6}$ , one gets

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 & x_1 & x_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & x_0 & x_1 & x_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

hence  $\mathcal{H} \cong \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}} \oplus \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}$ . □

**Proof of isomorphism 0.4.1.** The isomorphism

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}} \oplus \mathcal{E} \cong \varrho_* \omega_{A|\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}} \cong \varrho_* \varrho^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3) \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3) \oplus \check{\mathcal{E}}(3),$$

gives rise to a factorization of the identity on  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}$  as

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}} \xrightarrow{i} \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(-3) \oplus \mathcal{E}(-3) \xrightarrow{p} \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}.$$

Since  $h^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(-3)) = 0$  one can split both  $i$  and  $p$  through  $\mathcal{E}(-3)$  hence  $\mathcal{E} \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3) \oplus \mathcal{E}_0$ . Thus identities 3.2 imply that

$$h^i(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \check{\mathcal{E}}_0(n)) = 2h^i(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(n)), \quad i = 0, 1, 2, n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

It follows from Lemma 3.3 that  $\check{\mathcal{E}}_0 \cong \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}} \oplus \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}$ . □

**Proof of isomorphism 0.4.2.** Consider the exact sequence 0.3. Since  $\omega_{A|\mathbb{C}} \cong \mathcal{O}_A$  then  $\omega_{A|\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}} \cong \varrho^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3)$ . Thus, taking into account the decomposition of  $\mathcal{E}$  and the natural splitting  $\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}} \otimes \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}} \cong S^2 \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(-3)$ , then we can identify  $\varphi: S^2 \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \varrho_* \omega^2_{A|\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}$  (see sequence 0.3) with

$$\varphi: \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3) \oplus \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(6)^{\oplus 2} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(6) \oplus S^2 \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(6)^{\oplus 3} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3) \oplus \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(6)^{\oplus 2} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(6).$$

We want to prove that  $\varphi$  has a section. To this purpose note that  $\varphi$  induces two

morphisms

$$\varphi_1: \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3) \oplus \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(6)^{\oplus 2} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(6) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3) \oplus \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(6)^{\oplus 2} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(6),$$

$$\varphi_2: S^2\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(6)^{\oplus 3} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(3) \oplus \Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(6)^{\oplus 2} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}(6).$$

There exists a natural monomorphism  $i: \varrho_*\omega^2_{\mathbb{A}^1\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}} \rightarrow S^2\mathcal{E}$  such that  $\varphi \circ i = \varphi_1$ . We now prove that  $\varphi_1$  is an isomorphism. Let  $r \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  be a line. We claim that  $\varphi_{1|r}$  is an isomorphism. If this is the case then

$$\det(\varphi_1) \in H^0(\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}, \det(\varrho_*\omega^2_{\mathbb{A}^1\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}}) \otimes \det(\varrho_*\omega^2_{\mathbb{A}^1\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}})^{-1}) \cong \mathbb{C}.$$

Since, by the claim,  $\det(\varphi_{1|r}) \neq 0$  then  $\det(\varphi_1) \neq 0$  too. Let  $\psi := i \circ \varphi_1^{-1}$ .  $\psi$  is a section of  $\varphi$  hence

$$\mathcal{F} \cong S^2\mathcal{E}/\text{im}(\psi) \cong (S^2\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(6))^{\oplus 3}.$$

Now we prove the claim. Assume that  $C_r := \varrho^*r$  is smooth: set  $\varrho_r := \varrho|_r$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_r := \pi^{-1}(r)$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_r := \mathcal{E}|_r$ , fix an identification  $\Omega^1_{\mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{C}}|\mathbb{C}}(6)|_r \cong \mathcal{O}_r(4) \oplus \mathcal{O}_r(5)$  and take non-zero sections

$$s, t \in H^0(\mathbb{P}_r, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_r} \otimes \varrho_r^*\mathcal{O}_r(-1)) \cong H^0(r, \mathcal{E}_r(-1)),$$

$$v, w \in H^0(\mathbb{P}_r, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_r} \otimes \varrho_r^*\mathcal{O}_r(-2)) \cong H^0(r, \mathcal{E}_r(-2)),$$

$$u \in H^0(\mathbb{P}_r, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_r} \otimes \varrho_r^*\mathcal{O}_r(-3)) \cong H^0(r, \mathcal{E}_r(-3)).$$

The matrices  $M$  of  $\varphi|_r$  and  $M_i$  of  $\varphi_{i|r}$  satisfy  $M = (M_1 \mid M_2)$ . Moreover

$$M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ b_1 & c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ b_2 & c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ d_1 & e_{1,1} & e_{1,2} & f_{1,1} & f_{1,2} & 0 \\ d_2 & e_{2,1} & e_{2,2} & f_{2,1} & f_{2,2} & 0 \\ g & h_1 & h_2 & m_1 & m_2 & n \end{pmatrix}$$

whose elements have degrees

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & -1 & -2 & -2 & -3 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 3 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The first row of  $M$  is the matrix associated to  $\mathcal{Y}_r: \mathcal{S}^2\mathcal{E}_r \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_r(3)$ .

It follows that if  $a = 0$ , then the first row of  $M$  would be 0 which is absurd since  $\varphi$  is surjective.

If  $a \neq 0$  and  $\text{rk}(M_1) \leq 5$ , then the system  $Mx = 0$  has a solution  $\bar{x} := (0, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_6, 0, \dots, 0) \neq 0$  hence

$$C_r \subseteq Q = V_+(u(\alpha_2s + \alpha_3t + \alpha_4v + \alpha_5w + \alpha_6u)) \subseteq \mathbb{P}_r.$$

Since  $C_r$  is irreducible this is absurd.

Hence the claim is proved. □

**Remark 3.4.** It is not difficult to check that if a section  $\eta \in H^0(\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2, \check{\mathcal{F}} \otimes \mathcal{S}^2\mathcal{E})$  defines the smooth surface  $A := D_0(\Phi_6(\eta)) \subseteq \mathbb{P}$  then  $A$  is an abelian surface and  $\varrho := \pi_{1A}$  is a cover of degree 6.

Unfortunately, by dimensional reasons, the generic section  $\eta$  does not define a surface.

#### 4. Bielliptic abelian surfaces in $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E})$

In this last section we characterize (1, 3)-polarized bielliptic abelian surfaces with respect to the behaviour of the embedding  $i: A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E})$ .

Let  $(A, |D|)$  be a (1, 3)-polarized abelian surface satisfying condition  $(\heartsuit)$ . Let  $\varrho: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2$  be the corresponding cover of degree 6. It follows from the previous section and Theorem 2.1 of [9] applied to  $\varrho$  the existence of a unique embedding  $i: A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}$  such that  $\varrho = \pi \circ i$  and the scheme-theoretic fibre  $A_y := \varrho^{-1}(y) \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{k(y)}^4 \cong \mathbb{P}_y := \pi^{-1}(y)$  is an arithmetically Gorenstein subscheme.

Moreover such embedding is induced by the composition of  $\varrho^*\mathcal{E} \hookrightarrow \varrho^*(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2} \oplus \mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \varrho^*\varrho_*\omega_{A/\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2}$ , see 0.2, followed by  $\varrho^*\varrho_*\omega_{A/\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2} \rightarrow \omega_{A/\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2}$ .

We fix a decomposition  $\mathcal{E} \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2}(3) \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{C}}^1(3) \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{C}}^1(3)$ . The two projections (on the sum of the first two summands and on the third one), allow us to define two subbundles  $\mathbb{P}(\Omega_{\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{C}}^1(3)) \cong U \subseteq \mathbb{P}$  and  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2}(3) \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{C}}^1(3)) \cong V \subseteq \mathbb{P}$ . Let  $\tilde{\pi}: \mathbb{P} \dashrightarrow U$  be the projection from  $V$ .

Let  $S$  be the closure of  $\tilde{\pi}(A)$ . There exists a dominant rational map  $\tau: A \dashrightarrow S$  and we define  $\sigma := \pi|_S$ , so that  $\varrho = \sigma \circ \tau$ . Since  $S \subseteq U$  is a divisor then it is locally Gorenstein, hence  $\sigma$  is a Gorenstein cover.

Since  $\text{deg}(\varrho) = 6$  then  $\text{deg}(\tau) = 1, 2, 3, 6$ , and if  $\text{deg}(\tau) = 6$  then  $\text{deg}(\sigma) = 1$  and the map  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}_\mathbb{C}^2} \rightarrow \sigma_*\mathcal{O}_S$  is an isomorphism, thus the same is true for  $\sigma$ . If  $x \in S$  is a general point then  $\varrho^{-1}(\sigma(x)) = \tau^{-1}(x) \subseteq \langle x, V \cap \pi^{-1}(x) \rangle \cong \mathbb{P}_{k(x)}^3 \subseteq \pi^{-1}(x)$ , which is absurd since  $\varrho^{-1}(\sigma(x)) \subseteq \pi^{-1}(x)$  is arithmetically Gorenstein (see [9, Theorem 2.1] and [19, Lemma 4.2]).

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $S$  be smooth and assume that  $\tau$  is a morphism. Then  $A$  is bielliptic and the maps  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  coincide with the ones defined in Propositions 1.1 and 1.5 respectively.*

**Proof.** Since  $\text{deg}(\varrho) = 6$  then  $\text{deg}(\tau) = 1, 2, 3, 6$  and the case  $\text{deg}(\tau) = 6$  is impossible as shown above. Moreover the smoothness of  $S$  yields that  $\tau$  is actually a cover.

If  $\text{deg}(\tau) = 1$  the map  $\mathcal{O}_S \rightarrow \tau_*\mathcal{O}_A$  is an isomorphism, thus the same is true for  $\tau$ . The surjective map  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(1)^{\otimes 3} \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3)$ , yields

$$A \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3)) \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(1)^{\otimes 3}) \cong X := \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2 \times \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2.$$

Let  $p_i: X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  be the projection onto the  $i$ -th factor and as usual set  $\mathcal{O}_X(a, b) := p_1^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(a) \otimes p_2^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(b)$ . If  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are the classes of  $\mathcal{O}_X(1, 0)$  and  $\mathcal{O}_X(0, 1)$  respectively in the Chow ring  $A(X)$ , then there are  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that the class of  $A$  is  $\alpha h_1^2 + \beta h_2^2 + \gamma h_1 \cdot h_2$ . It is proved in Section 2 of [12], that  $\alpha = 6, \beta = 0$ , hence  $\gamma$  is a solution of  $\gamma^2 - 9\gamma - 18 = 0$  which has not integral solutions.

Thus  $\text{deg}(\tau) = 2, 3$ . Assume that  $\text{deg}(\tau) = 3$  and let  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(n)$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  be the Tschirnhausen modules of  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  respectively. Since, in this case,  $B_\varrho = 3B_\sigma + \sigma_*B_\tau$ , then  $\text{deg}(B_\sigma) \leq 6$ , hence  $n = -1, -2, -3$ . From the isomorphisms

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2} \oplus \mathcal{E} \cong \varrho_*\mathcal{O}_A \cong \sigma_*\tau_*\mathcal{O}_A \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(n) \oplus \sigma_*\mathcal{F},$$

and formula 0.4.1, we obtain a factorization of the identity

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-3) \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1 \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(n).$$

On the other hand  $h^0(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(1)) = 0$ , thus only the case  $n = -3$  is possible. In this case  $S$  is a  $K3$  surface hence  $\tau$  is étale. Therefore  $0 = \chi(\mathcal{O}_A) = 3\chi(\mathcal{O}_S) = 6$  (see [15] or [17]).

Assume now that  $\text{deg}(\tau) = 2$ . Fix a line  $\ell \in \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  such that both  $E := \sigma^{-1}(\ell)$  and  $C := \varrho^{-1}(\ell)$  are smooth. Let  $p$  be the geometric genus of  $E$  and define  $t := \tau_{|\mathbb{C}}, s := \Sigma_{|E}, r := \varrho_{|\mathbb{C}}$ . The branch loci of  $r, s, t$  satisfy  $B_r = 2B_s + s_*B_t$  and  $\text{deg}(B_r) = 18$ . The formula of Hurwitz applied to  $s$  and  $t$  implies that either  $\text{deg}(B_s) = \text{deg}(s_*B_t) = 6$  and  $p = 1$  or  $\text{deg}(B_s) = 8, \text{deg}(s_*B_t) = 2$  and  $p = 2$ .

Since  $\sigma$  factors through  $\mathbb{P}(\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3))$ , then  $s$  factors through  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_\ell(1) \oplus \mathcal{O}_\ell(2))$ . In any case the Tschirnhausen module of  $s, \mathcal{E}_s$ , is dual to  $\mathcal{O}_\ell(1+h) \oplus \mathcal{O}_\ell(2+h)$  for some  $h \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Since  $B_s \in |\det(\mathcal{E}_s)^{-2}|$  we get that  $p = 1$  and  $h = 0$ . In particular the dual of the Tschirnhausen module of  $S$  is  $\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3)$ . It follows from Proposition 1.2 that  $S$  is ruled with invariant  $e(S) = -1$  over an elliptic curve.

On the other hand if  $\mathcal{L} \in \text{Pic}(S)$  is the Tschirnhausen module of  $\tau$  the  $\mathcal{O}_A \cong \omega_{A|\mathbb{C}} \cong \omega_{S|\mathbb{C}} \otimes \mathcal{L}$ , thus  $\tau$  is induced by a smooth and irreducible element of  $|\omega_{S|\mathbb{C}}^{-2}|$ . □

Conversely let  $A$  be bielliptic and let  $\varrho: A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  be the corresponding cover factorizing as  $\pi \circ i$ . The double cover  $\tau$  factors through  $A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{V}(\omega_{S|\mathbb{C}}) \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_S \oplus \omega_{S|\mathbb{C}})$  followed by the projection onto  $S$ .

In order to simplify notations, we will set  $\overline{\mathbb{P}} := \mathbb{P}(\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3))$ . Let  $\mathcal{F} := \mathcal{O}_{\overline{\mathbb{P}}} \oplus (\mathcal{O}_{\overline{\mathbb{P}}}(1) \otimes p^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-3))$  and  $q: \overline{\mathbb{P}} := \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{P}}$  be the projection. Since  $\omega_{S|\mathbb{C}} \cong (\mathcal{O}_{\overline{\mathbb{P}}}(1) \otimes p^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-3))|_S$  then  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_S \oplus \omega_{S|\mathbb{C}}) \cong \overline{\mathbb{F}} \times_{\overline{\mathbb{P}}} S$ . Define  $\mathcal{M} := \mathcal{O}_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}}(1) \otimes q^*p^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(3)$ . The general morphism  $q^*p^*\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  is surjective, thus we get  $f: \overline{\mathbb{F}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{P}}$  inducing



$$u: U \cong \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}) \subseteq \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{P},$$

$$f': \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(1) \otimes p^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-3)) \subseteq \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}.$$

Fix  $x \in \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$ . Then  $u$  embeds linearly  $U_x := p^{-1}(x) \cong \mathbb{P}_{k(x)}^1 \subseteq \mathbb{P}_x := \pi^{-1}(x) \cong \mathbb{P}_{k(x)}^4$  and  $f$  is the natural embedding  $\mathbb{F}_x := (p \circ q)^{-1}(x) \cong \mathbb{F}_1 \subseteq \mathbb{P}_x \cong \mathbb{P}_{k(x)}^4$  as a cubic scroll. In particular  $f$  is actually an embedding. By construction  $A_x := \varrho^{-1}(x)$  generates a subscheme  $\Sigma_x \subseteq \mathbb{F}_x$  which is exactly the pull back of  $S_x := \sigma^{-1}(x)$  via  $q|_{\mathbb{F}_x}: \mathbb{F}_x \rightarrow U_x$ .

Each subscheme  $A' \subseteq A_x$  of degree at least 5 generates  $\Sigma_x$ . On the other hand each hyperplane  $H \subseteq \mathbb{P}_x$  intersect all the fibres of  $\mathbb{F}_x$  and  $H \cap \mathbb{F}_x$  is a cubic curve, thus  $\Sigma_x \not\subseteq H$ . It follows that  $A' \not\subseteq H$ . Hence  $A_x \subseteq \mathbb{P}_x$  is an arithmetically Gorenstein subscheme (see [19, Lemma 4.2]).

We then obtain that the induced embedding  $i: A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}$  coincides with the embedding given by the canonical factorization of  $\varrho$  in the sense of Theorem 2.1 of [9].

In this case  $q$  is induced by the projection of  $\mathbb{P}$  onto  $U$  from the subbundle  $V$  generated by  $\text{im } f'$ . Necessarily there exists a locally free  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}$ -sheaf  $\mathcal{G}$  of rank 3 such that  $V \cong \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{G})$ .

Since  $U$  and  $V$  generate fibrewise  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $U \cap V = \emptyset$ , then  $\mathcal{E} \cong \mathcal{G} \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3)$ . Notice that such an isomorphism gives rise to a factorization

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(3) \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(3)$$

of the identity on  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}$ . Since  $h^0(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1) = 0$ , one can split the above sequence through  $\mathcal{G}$ , hence  $\mathcal{G} \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(3) \oplus \mathcal{H}$ . As in the proof of Proposition 1.1 one easily checks that  $\mathcal{H} \cong \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3)$ .

Thus we have proved the following converse of Proposition 4.1.

**Proposition 4.2.** *If  $A$  is bielliptic, then there are subbundles  $\mathbb{P}(\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3)) \cong U \subseteq \mathbb{P}$  and  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(3) \oplus \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2|\mathbb{C}}^1(3)) \cong V \subseteq \mathbb{P}$  such that*

(i)  $A \cap V = U \cap V = \emptyset$ ;

(ii) *let  $\bar{\pi}: \mathbb{P} \dashrightarrow U$  be the projection from  $V$ , and identify  $S$  with its image inside  $U$ : then  $S = \bar{\pi}(A)$ ,  $\tau = \bar{\pi}|_A$  and  $\sigma = \bar{\pi}|_S$ .*

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