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**MIKE JANSSEN**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
*Ideals of almost collinear points in  $\mathbb{P}^2$*

In recent years, much work has been done on the question of comparing symbolic and ordinary powers of an ideal  $I$  in a Noetherian ring. In particular, several authors have asked: for which  $m$  and  $r$  is the symbolic power  $I^{(m)}$  contained in the ordinary power  $I^r$ ? Recent results of Ein, Lazarsfeld, and Smith; Hochster and Huneke; Bocci and Harbourne; and Harbourne and Huneke, address various aspects of this problem. Our results answer the containment question in a geometric setting and include the computation of various invariants of the ideal in question.