

ON CERTAIN INVARIANTS OF TWO TRIANGLES*

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The purposes of this paper are to express some of the simpler invariant relations of two triangles in terms of three fundamental invariants, and to consider the case of two triangles apolar both ways. The fundamental invariants are derived by a method first presented by HILBERT in a letter to HERMITE. †

§ 1. *The three fundamental invariants.*

With two plane curves, one of n th order $\alpha_x^n = 0$ and the other of n th class $\alpha_\xi^n = 0$, there is associated the connex

$$\alpha_y \alpha_\eta \alpha_a^{n-1} = 0,$$

found by acting on the line curve with the polar of the point y as to the point curve. ‡ The fixed points of this connex are given by the equations

$$(1) \quad a_i \alpha_y \alpha_a^{n-1} = \lambda y_i,$$

which are consistent if

$$(2) \quad \Delta(\lambda) \equiv \begin{vmatrix} a_1 \alpha_1 \alpha_a^{n-1} - \lambda & a_2 \alpha_1 \alpha_a^{n-1} & a_3 \alpha_1 \alpha_a^{n-1} \\ a_1 \alpha_2 \alpha_a^{n-1} & a_2 \alpha_2 \alpha_a^{n-1} - \lambda & a_3 \alpha_2 \alpha_a^{n-1} \\ a_1 \alpha_3 \alpha_a^{n-1} & a_2 \alpha_3 \alpha_a^{n-1} & a_3 \alpha_3 \alpha_a^{n-1} - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0.$$

The coefficients of this cubic are invariants of the two curves.

We shall consider the case where $n = 3$, and the point and line cubics degenerate respectively into a 3-line and a 3-point. Let the 3-point be

$$a_\xi b_\xi c_\xi = 0,$$

and the 3-line

$$\alpha_x \beta_x \gamma_x = 0.$$

We shall make use of the following notation :

$$b_\beta c_\gamma + b_\gamma c_\beta = (bc/\beta\gamma),$$

* Presented to the Society December 28, 1903. Received for publication June 15, 1903.

† *Journal de Mathématiques*, ser. 4, vol. 4 (1886), p. 249.

‡ HILBERT, loc. cit.

$$\sum_{\alpha} (bc/\beta\gamma) a_i = (\beta\gamma)_i,$$

$$\sum_{\alpha} (\beta\gamma)_i \alpha_j = \sum_{\alpha} (bc)_j a_i = B_{ji}.$$

The equation (2) then becomes

$$(3) \quad \Delta(\lambda) = \begin{vmatrix} B_{11} - \lambda & B_{12} & B_{13} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} - \lambda & B_{23} \\ B_{31} & B_{32} & B_{33} - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0.$$

This equation may be written in the form

$$(4) \quad \lambda^3 + I_1 \lambda^2 + I_2 \lambda + I_3 = 0,$$

where

$$I_1 = - \sum B_{ii},$$

$$I_2 = \sum (B_{22} B_{33} - B_{23} B_{32}),$$

$$I_3 = - \begin{vmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} & B_{13} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} & B_{23} \\ B_{31} & B_{32} & B_{33} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= - |\alpha\beta\gamma| \cdot |abc| \cdot \begin{vmatrix} (bc/\beta\gamma) & (bc/\gamma\alpha) & (bc/\alpha\beta) \\ (ca/\beta\gamma) & (ca/\gamma\alpha) & (ca/\alpha\beta) \\ (ab/\beta\gamma) & (ab/\gamma\alpha) & (ab/\alpha\beta) \end{vmatrix} = \Delta DN.$$

§ 2. Invariants of the connex.*

The connex set up by the two triangles is

$$\sum_{i,j} B_{ij} y_i \eta_j = 0.$$

This gives rise to the two collineations

$$Y: \quad y'_i = \sum_j B_{ji} y_j,$$

and

$$H: \quad \eta'_i = \sum_j B_{ij} \eta_j$$

By taking the triangle of reference as the fixed triangle of Y , it is at once seen that Y is the inverse of H .

* Cf. CLEBSCH, *Géométrie*, French translation, vol. 1, p. 311ff.

Let the reference triangle be now taken as that of the 3-point. Then

$$B_{ij} = \sum_a (\beta_\kappa \gamma_i + \beta_i \gamma_\kappa) \alpha_a \quad (j \neq \kappa \neq i),$$

and Y sends the point $(1, 0, 0)$ into (B_{11}, B_{12}, B_{13}) . This point lies on the line $(1, 0, 0)$ if B_{11} is zero. But

$$-\frac{1}{3}I_1 = B_{11} = B_{22} = B_{33} = \sum_a (\beta_2 \gamma_3 + \beta_3 \gamma_1) \alpha_1.$$

If then $I_1 = 0$, Y sends the 3-point into an inscribed 3-point. Evidently, this is also the condition that H sends the 3-line into a circumscribed 3-line. Since H is the inverse of Y , it follows that Y and H respectively send the 3-point and 3-line into inscribed and circumscribed triangles.* A collineation whose first invariant vanishes may be said to be *normal*.

If $I_2 = 0$, the sum of the minors of the elements of the principal diagonal in the determinant of the connex is zero. The collineations Y and H may then be said to be sub-normal. They have respectively the property of sending certain triangles into circumscribed and inscribed triangles. It is, however, easy to see that neither the 3-point nor the 3-line is such a triangle.

If $I_3 = 0$, the determinant of the connex is zero. In this case zero is a root of (4), and this value of λ , instead of giving a proper fixed point of Y , will give a point y_0 which Y explodes; i. e., which Y sends anywhere. Similarly, there is a line η_0 which H explodes. In general, y_0 and η_0 are not incident point and line, and hence may be taken as opposite point and line of the reference triangle. Then

$$B_{ii} = B_{ii} = 0 \quad (i = 1, 2, 3).$$

The collineation Y sends all points on a line through y_0 into the same point on η_0 . Among these lines there are two all points of which will be sent into their intersections with η_0 . These intersections are then the proper fixed points of Y ; and the lines joining them to y_0 are the proper fixed lines of H . Upon taking the two fixed points of Y as the remaining reference points, the collineations become

$$\begin{aligned} Y: & \quad y'_1 = 0, & \quad y'_2 = B_{22}y_2, & \quad y'_3 = B_{33}y_3, \\ H: & \quad \eta'_1 = 0, & \quad \eta'_2 = B_{22}\eta_2, & \quad \eta'_3 = B_{33}\eta_3. \end{aligned}$$

Evidently then, if Y sends y into y' , H sends any line through y' into the join of y and y_0 . Since $I_3 = \Delta DN$, the collineations may be brought into these forms when the 3-point or 3-line degenerates. It may be shown that, if $\Delta = 0$, y_0 is the point in which α , β and γ meet; and, if $D = 0$, that y_0 is the line in which a , b and c lie.

* Cf. PASCH, *Mathematische Annalen*, vol. 23 (1884), p. 426.

The invariants of the connex yield then the following invariants of the triangles :

$$I_1(3, 3), \quad I_2(6, 6), \quad N(6, 6), \quad \Delta(0, 3), \quad D(3, 0),$$

where the numbers in the parentheses indicate the collective degrees in the Roman and Greek letters respectively.

From these five invariants can be built three absolute invariants,

$$\frac{N}{I_2}, \quad \frac{I_1}{\Delta D}, \quad \frac{I_1^2}{I_2}.$$

Now two triangles have $12 - 8 = 4$ absolute invariants. Thus it appears that (as we should expect) all invariants of the triangles are not obtainable by a consideration of the connex alone.

§ 3. *Special forms taken by the fundamental invariants.*

In order to determine the invariants of the 3-point and 3-line it will be found to be convenient to know the forms that I_1 , I_2 , ΔD and N assume when the 3-line is taken as the reference triangle and the points b and c of the 3-point as the absolute.

We have for this special case, by direct substitution and reduction,

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} I_1 &= 12 \sum c_1 a_1, \\ I_2 &= 16 \sum (2c_1^2 - 1) a_1^2 + 2(2 - c_2 c_3) a_2 a_3, \\ \Delta D &= 4i \sum a_1, \\ N &= 16i \sum c_1 a_1^2 - (c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3, \\ \Delta D I_1 &= 48i \sum c_1 a_1^2 + (c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3, \end{aligned}$$

where the c 's are the cotangents of the interior angles of the reference triangle.

§ 4. *The interchange of the 3-point and 3-line.*

If the vanishing of some invariant I be found to express the condition that the 3-point and 3-line have a certain projective property, then the vanishing of the invariant formed by substituting in I , for each Roman letter the minor in Δ of the corresponding Greek letter, and for each Greek letter the minor in D of the corresponding Roman letter, must express the condition that the meets of the 3-line and the joins of the 3-point have the same projective property. The algebra involved in making this substitution being extremely long, we shall prove one formula only, and in the others merely give the results obtained.

By definition

$$I_2 = \sum_1^3 B_{22} B_{33} - B_{23} B_{32},$$

and

$$B_{ij} = \sum_a \sum_a (bc/\beta\gamma) a_j a_i.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} B_{22} B_{33} &= \left[\sum_a \sum_a (bc/\beta\gamma) a_2 a_2 \right] \cdot \left[\sum_a \sum_a (bc/\beta\gamma) a_3 a_3 \right] \\ &= \sum_a \sum_a [(bc/\beta\gamma)^2 a_2 a_2 a_3 a_3 + (bc/\gamma\alpha)(bc/\alpha\beta) \{ a_2 \beta_2 a_3 \gamma_3 + a_2 \gamma_2 a_3 \beta_3 \} \\ &\quad + (ca/\beta\gamma)(ab/\beta\gamma) \{ b_2 a_2 c_3 a_3 + c_2 a_2 b_3 a_3 \} \\ &\quad + (ca/\gamma\alpha)(ab/\alpha\beta) \{ b_2 \beta_2 c_3 \gamma_3 + c_2 \gamma_2 b_3 \beta_3 \} \\ &\quad + (ca/\alpha\beta)(ab/\gamma\alpha) \{ b_2 \gamma_2 c_3 \beta_3 + b_3 \gamma_3 c_2 \beta_2 \}]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_1^3 B_{22} B_{33} &= \sum_a \sum_a [(bc/\gamma\alpha)(bc/\alpha\beta) a_\beta a_\gamma + (ca/\beta\gamma)(ab/\beta\gamma) b_a c_a \\ &\quad + (ca/\gamma\alpha)(ab/\alpha\beta) b_\beta c_\gamma + (ca/\alpha\beta)(ab/\gamma\alpha) b_\gamma c_\beta \\ &\quad + \sum_1^3 \{ (bc/\beta\gamma)^2 a_2 a_2 a_3 a_3 - (bc/\gamma\alpha)(bc/\alpha\beta) a_1^2 \beta_1 \gamma_1 \\ &\quad - (ca/\beta\gamma)(ab/\beta\gamma) b_1 c_1 a_1^2 - (ca/\gamma\alpha)(ab/\alpha\beta) b_1 c_1 \beta_1 \gamma_1 \\ &\quad - (ca/\alpha\beta)(ab/\gamma\alpha) b_1 c_1 \beta_1 \gamma_1 \}]. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_1^3 B_{23} B_{32} &= \sum_a \sum_a [(bc/\gamma\alpha)(bc/\alpha\beta) a_\beta a_\gamma + (ca/\beta\gamma)(ab/\beta\gamma) b_a c_a \\ &\quad + (ca/\gamma\alpha)(ab/\alpha\beta) b_\gamma c_\beta + (ca/\alpha\beta)(ab/\gamma\alpha) b_\beta c_\gamma \\ &\quad + \sum_1^3 \{ (bc/\beta\gamma)^2 a_2 a_2 a_3 a_3 - (bc/\gamma\alpha)(bc/\alpha\beta) a_1^2 \beta_1 \gamma_1 \\ &\quad - (ca/\beta\gamma)(ab/\beta\gamma) b_1 c_1 a_1^2 - (ca/\gamma\alpha)(ab/\alpha\beta) b_1 c_1 \beta_1 \gamma_1 \\ &\quad - (ca/\alpha\beta)(ab/\gamma\alpha) b_1 c_1 \beta_1 \gamma_1 \}]. \end{aligned}$$

We have then

$$I_2 = \sum_a \sum_a a_a (b_\beta c_\gamma - b_\gamma c_\beta) [a_a (b_\beta c_\gamma - b_\gamma c_\beta) - a_\beta (b_\gamma c_a - b_a c_\gamma) - a_\gamma (b_a c_\beta - b_\beta c_a)]$$

Let now,

$$\alpha'_1 = b_2 c_3 - b_3 c_2, \text{ etc.}$$

Then

$$a'_{\alpha'} = b_\beta c_\gamma - b_\gamma c_\beta.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} (b_\beta c_\gamma - b_\gamma c_\beta)' &= a_\alpha [a_\alpha (b_\beta c_\gamma - b_\gamma c_\beta) + a_\beta (b_\gamma c_\alpha - b_\alpha c_\gamma) + a_\gamma (b_\alpha c_\beta - b_\beta c_\alpha)] \\ &= \Delta D a_\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting these values in the expression for I'_2 , we have

$$\begin{aligned} I'_2 &= \Delta^2 D^2 \sum_\alpha \sum_\alpha a_\alpha (b_\beta c_\gamma - b_\gamma c_\beta) [a_\alpha (b_\beta c_\gamma - b_\gamma c_\beta) - a_\beta (b_\gamma c_\alpha - b_\alpha c_\gamma) \\ &\quad - a_\gamma (b_\alpha c_\beta - b_\beta c_\alpha)] \\ &= \Delta^2 D^2 I_2. \end{aligned}$$

By similar calculation we find the following values for the invariants I'_1 , Δ' , D' and N' :

$$(6) \quad \begin{cases} I'_1 = -\frac{1}{2}(\Delta D I_1 - 9N), \\ \Delta' D' = \Delta^2 D^2, \\ I'_2 = \Delta^2 D^2 I_2, \\ N' = \frac{\Delta^2 D^2}{6}(\Delta D I_1 + 3N). \end{cases}$$

§ 5. Invariant relations of the 3-point and 3-line.

We are now in a position to express the conditions for certain invariant relations of the 3-point and 3-line.

I. *The 3-point degenerates if $D = 0$.*

II. *The 3-line degenerates if $\Delta = 0$.*

III. *Let the 3-point be apolar to the 3-line.*

Then $a_\xi b_\xi c_\xi$ acting on $\alpha_x \beta_x \gamma_x$ must be zero. That is,

$$I_1 = 3 \sum_\alpha (bc/\beta\gamma) a_\alpha = 0.$$

The required condition is then $I_1 = 0$.

IV. *Let the joins of the 3-point be apolar to the meets of the 3-line.*

Then the lines ca and ab are apolar to the polar conic of bc as to the meets of the 3-line. That is, if b and c are the absolute I, J and the 3-line the triangle of reference, the lines ab and ac are apolar to the maximum inscribed ellipse, $\sum \xi_2 \xi_3 = 0$. In other words, the tangents from a to this conic are perpendicular, and hence a lies on the director circle.

If we define the *intermediate* of two line conics as the locus of points, a , such that the lines of the two conics through them form harmonic pairs, the director circle is the intermediate of the ellipse and the absolute. The intermediate* of two conics, $u_\xi^2 = 0$ and $v_\xi^2 = 0$, is

* SALMON, *Conic Sections*, tenth ed., pp. 306-7.

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix}^2 = \sum (u_{22}v_{33} + u_{33}v_{22} - u_{23}v_{23})a_1^2 + (u_{31}v_{12} + u_{12}v_{31} - u_{11}v_{23} - u_{23}v_{11})a_2a_3 = 0.$$

If then

$$u_{\xi}^2 \equiv \sum \xi_2 \xi_3 \quad \text{and} \quad v_{\xi}^2 \equiv \sum (c_2 + c_3) \xi_1^2 - 2c_1 \xi_2 \xi_3,$$

the director circle becomes

$$\sum c_1 a_1^2 - 2(c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3 = 0.$$

From the equations (5) we have

$$\Delta DI_1 - 9N \equiv -96i \sum c_1 a_1^2 - 2(c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3.$$

The required condition is then

$$\Delta DI_1 - 9N = 0.$$

V. *Let there be a point conic circumscribed to 3-point and apolar to the 3-line.*

In the special case of § 3, the conic becomes the apolar circle, whose equation is

$$\sum c_1 a_1^2 = 0.$$

But, from (5), we have

$$\Delta DI_1 + 3N = 96i \sum c_1 a_1^2.$$

The required condition is then

$$\Delta DI_1 + 3N = 0.$$

VI. *Let there be a line conic touching the joins of the 3-point and apolar to the 3-line.*

The equations (6) applied to the invariant V give the required invariant, to within powers of Δ and D , in the form $N = 0$. To determine the proper degree we proceed as follows. Let accented Greek letters denote the minors of the corresponding letters in Δ .

Any line conic apolar to the 3-line is given by

$$\sum m_1 (\alpha'_{\xi})^2 = 0,$$

and any line conic inscribed to the 3-point by

$$\sum m_4 b_{\xi} c_{\xi} = 0.$$

We wish then these two conics to be identical. Upon equating the coefficients, we have six homogeneous equations in the six m 's. They are consistent

if their determinant vanishes. This determinant is then the invariant we wish to find. It is evidently of the sixth degree in the Roman letters and of the twelfth in the Greek letters. The required invariant is then

$$\Delta^2 N = 0.$$

This invariant may also be easily found directly. In fact, in the special case of § 3, we have only to make a the focus of an apolar parabola. The joins of the middle points of a triangle are lines of all parabolas apolar to the triangle. But a circle, circumscribing a triangle formed by three tangents to a parabola, passes through the focus.*

Then a must lie on the circle passing through the middle points of the sides of the 3-line; i. e., on the Feuerbach circle, whose equation is

$$N = 16i \sum c_1 a_1^2 - (c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3 = 0.$$

The remaining factor in the invariant is found as before.

Since the invariant contains the factor Δ , it can only put two conditions on a conic to make it apolar to a degenerate 3-line. This may also be easily shown directly.

VII. *Let there be a conic circumscribed to the 3-point and to the 3-line.*

In the case of § 3, the conic becomes the circumcircle, whose equation is

$$\sum (c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3 = 0.$$

From (5) we have

$$\Delta D I_1 - 3N = 96i \sum (c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3.$$

This invariant is then a factor in the required condition, which an investigation of the degree shows to be

$$\Delta^2 (\Delta D I_1 - 3N) = 0.$$

VIII. *Let there be a conic inscribed to the 3-line and to the 3-point.*

The required condition is found by an interchange of the Greek and Roman letters in the preceding condition. It is then

$$D^2 (\Delta D I_1 - 3N) = 0.$$

If neither the 3-point nor the 3-line degenerates, the conditions VII and VIII are the same. We have then an immediate proof of the well-known theorem † that the vertices of two triangles, circumscribed to a conic, lie on a conic.

IX. *Let there be a line conic apolar to the 3-line and to the 3-point.*

The line conic apolar to the 3-point is of the form

* SALMON, *Conic Sections*, tenth ed., p 207.

† SALMON, *Conic Sections*, tenth ed., pp. 320 and 343.

$$\sum m_1 (\alpha_\xi)^2 = 0,$$

and a line conic apolar to the 3-line is of the form

$$\sum m_4 (\alpha'_\xi)^2 = 0.$$

These conics are identical if

$$\sum m_1 a_i a_j = \sum m_4 \alpha'_i \alpha'_j.$$

The condition for consistency of these six equations is the vanishing of the same determinant as that found in investigating the degree of the invariant VII.

The required condition is then

$$\Delta^2 (\Delta DI_1 - 3N) = 0.$$

X. *Let there be a point conic apolar to the 3-line and to the 3-point.*

The required invariant condition is found from the preceding by an interchange of the Greek and Roman letters. It is then

$$D^2 (\Delta DI_1 - 3N) = 0.$$

It is obvious that the substitution (6) applied to IX and X must merely reproduce these conditions. This is at once seen to be the case.

XI. *Let there be a point y such that its polar conic as to the 3-line is apolar to the 3-point.*

Referring to § 2, we see that y is exploded by the collineation Y . The condition that there may be such a point is then

$$I_3 = 0.$$

XII. *Let there be a point y such that its polar conic as to the joints of the 3-point is apolar to the meets of the 3-line.*

By applying the substitution (6) to the preceding invariant, and investigating the degree, we find the required condition in the form

$$\Delta^2 D^2 (\Delta DI_1 + 3N) = 0.$$

XIII. *Let the three polar lines, as to the 3-line, of the points of the 3-point, taken two at a time, meet in a point.*

The polar line of $b_\xi c_\xi$ as to the 3-line is

$$\sum_a (bc/\beta\gamma) \alpha_x \equiv \sum_{1,2,3} (bc)_1 x_1 = 0.$$

These three lines meet in a point if

$$|(bc)_1, (ca)_2, (ab)_3| \equiv \Delta N = 0.$$

This then gives a simple projective definition of the Feuerbach conic of two points and a triangle, where we mean by the Feuerbach conic that conic which

will project into the Feuerbach circle when the two points are projected into the absolute.

XIV. *Let there be a collineation, having the 3-line as its fixed triangle, which sends the 3-point into an inscribed 3-point.*

If the 3-line be the triangle of reference, the collineation is of the form

$$x'_i = k_i x_i.$$

This collineation sends a into a point on the join of b and c if

$$\sum a_1 A_1 k_1 = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 k_1 & a_2 k_2 & a_3 k_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} = 0.$$

Similarly, the conditions that b and c are sent into points on the joins of c and a , and a and b respectively are

$$\sum b_1 B_1 k_1 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum c_1 C_1 k_1 = 0.$$

Adding these three equations, we have, as the condition upon the collineation itself,

$$k_1 + k_2 + k_3 = 0.$$

Elimination of the k 's gives, as the condition the 3-point must satisfy,

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{vmatrix} a_1 A_1 & a_2 A_2 & a_3 A_3 \\ b_1 B_1 & b_2 B_2 & b_3 B_3 \\ c_1 C_1 & c_2 C_2 & c_3 C_3 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \sum a_1 (b_2 c_3 - b_3 c_2) [b_2 c_3 (c_3 a_1 - c_1 a_3) (a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1) \\ & \quad - b_3 c_2 (c_1 a_2 - c_2 a_1) (a_3 b_1 - a_1 b_3)] \\ &= \sum a_1 (b_2 c_3 - b_3 c_2) [a_1^2 (b_2^2 c_3^2 - b_3^2 c_2^2) + a_2 a_3 b_1 c_1 (b_2 c_3 - b_3 c_2) \\ & \quad - a_3 a_1 (b_2^2 c_3 c_1 - b_3 b_1 c_2^2) - a_1 a_2 (b_1 b_2 c_3^2 - b_3^2 c_1 c_2)] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

If now b and c are sent into the absolute, this equation becomes

$$\sum a_1 [2c_1 a_1^2 + (c_3 - c_1) a_3 a_1 + (c_2 - c_2) a_1 a_2 - (c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3] = 0,$$

or

$$(a_1 + a_2 + a_3) \sum 2c_1 a_1^2 - (c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3 = 0.$$

But from the equations (5) we have

$$\Delta D I_1 + 9N = 96i \sum 2c_1 a_1^2 - (c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3.$$

Hence, the required condition is

$$D(\Delta DI_1 + 9N) = 0.$$

The conic

$$\sum 2c_1 a_1^2 - (c_2 + c_3) a_2 a_3 = 0$$

belongs to the pencil of circles determined by the apolar- and circumcircles. Also, it evidently passes through the centroid $(1, 1, 1)$ and orthocentre $(1/c_1, 1/c_2, 1/c_3)$, and it may be shown that the polar of the middle point of the line joining these two points is the line at infinity. Then, if the 3-point does not degenerate, a must lie on the ortho-centroidal circle of the 3-line: i. e., on the circle having the join of the orthocentre and centroid as a diameter.

XV. *Let there be a collineation, having the 3-point as fixed triangle, which sends the 3-line into an inscribed 3-line.*

The required condition may evidently be found by applying the substitution (6) to the equation

$$D(\Delta DI_1 + 9N) = 0.$$

This gives

$$\Delta(\Delta DI_1 + 9N) = 0.$$

The condition is then, upon neglecting the cases of degenerate 3-line and 3-point, the same as that of XIV. Hence we have the theorem:

*If there exists a collineation, having fixed points at a, b and c , which sends each of the points A, B and C into a point on the join of the other two, then there also exists a collineation, with fixed points at A, B and C , which sends each of the points a, b and c into a point on the join of the other two.**

The vanishing of the invariant $\Delta DI_1 + 9N$ then expresses the fact that there is a mutual relation between the two triangles. The condition that the vanishing of an invariant express such a relation is that the substitution (6), applied to that invariant, shall merely reproduce it.

We have

$$\Delta' D' I'_1 + \lambda N' = \frac{\Delta^2 D^2}{6} [(\lambda - 3) \Delta DI_1 + 3(9 + \lambda) N].$$

If this is to be identical to

$$k \Delta^2 D^2 [\Delta DI_1 + \lambda N],$$

we must have λ equal to -3 or 9 . Then the only invariants of the pencil the vanishing of which express mutual relations are

$$\Delta DI_1 + 9N \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta DI_1 - 3N.$$

The former we have just considered, and the latter is the condition that there be a conic circumscribed to the 3-line and to the 3-point. From the substitu-

* F. MORLEY, *Projective Coördinates*, Transactions of the American Mathematical Society, vol. 4 (1903), p. 292.

tion (6), we also see that the vanishing of the invariant I_2 expresses a mutual relation between the two triangles. An adequate interpretation of this relation has not however presented itself.

The results of § 5 may be tabulated as follows:

The 3-point degenerates, if

$$D = 0.$$

The 3-point is apolar to the 3-line, if

$$I_1 = 0.$$

The meets of the 3-line are apolar to the joins of the 3-point, if

$$\Delta DI_1 - 9N = 0.$$

A conic, circumscribed to the 3-point and apolar to the 3-line, exists, if

$$\Delta DI_1 + 3N = 0.$$

A point conic, apolar to both the 3-point and 3-line, exists, if

$$D^2(\Delta DI_2 - 3N) = 0.$$

A conic, circumscribed to both the 3-point and 3-line, exists if

$$\Delta DI_1 - 3N = 0.$$

There exists a point, whose polar conic as to the 3-line is apolar to the 3-point, if

$$\Delta DN = 0.$$

The three polar lines, as to the 3-line, of the points of the 3-point, taken two at a time, meet in a point, if

$$\Delta N = 0.$$

There exists a collineation, having the 3-point as fixed triangle, which sends each meet of the 3-line into a point on the opposite line, if

$$\Delta DI_1 + 9N = 0.$$

The 3-line degenerates, if

$$\Delta = 0.$$

The 3-line is apolar to the 3-point, if

$$I_1 = 0.$$

The joins of the 3-point are apolar to the meets of the 3-line, if

$$\Delta DI_1 - 9N = 0.$$

A conic, inscribed to the 3-line and apolar to the 3-point, exists, if

$$\Delta DI_1 + 3N = 0.$$

A line conic, apolar to both the 3-line and 3-point, exists, if

$$\Delta^2(\Delta DI_2 - 3N) = 0.$$

A conic, inscribed to both 3-line and 3-point, exists if

$$\Delta DI_1 - 3N = 0.$$

There exists a line, whose polar conic as to the 3-point is apolar to the 3-line, if

$$\Delta DN = 0.$$

The three polar points, as to the 3-point, of the lines of the 3-line, taken two at a time, lie on a line, if

$$DN = 0.$$

There exists a collineation, having the 3-line as fixed triangle, which sends each join of the 3-point into a line through the opposite point, if

$$\Delta DI_1 + 9N = 0.$$

There exists a collineation, having the meets of the 3-line as fixed points, which sends each point of the 3-point into a point on the join of the other two, if

$$\Delta DI_1 + 9N = 0.$$

There exists a collineation, having the joins of the 3-point as fixed lines, which sends each line of the 3-line into a line through the meet of the other two, if

$$\Delta DI_1 + 9N = 0.$$

§ 6. *Two triangles apolar in both ways.*

If the two invariants, $\Delta DI_1 - 3N$ and $\Delta DI_1 + 3N$, simultaneously vanish, the two triangles formed by the 3-point and 3-line are apolar in both ways. But, if a be considered as the variable point, these invariants represent a circumconic and an apolar conic of the 3-line, which meet in four points I, J, K , and L . These points pair off into two on the line D and two on the line I_1 , the former pair being of course, the points b and c , assumed for the moment to be I and J .

If then a coincides with either K or L , it forms with I and J a triangle apolar in both ways to that of the 3-line. An interchange of the pairs I, J and K, L merely interchanges the lines D and I_1 . Then the triangle formed by any three of the points I, J, K, L is apolar in both ways to that of the 3-line. That is, the points I, J, K, L form a *conjugate 4-point* of the 3-line.*

We shall now show that *the Feuerbach conic of the 3-line, I and J is identical with that of the 3-line, K and L .*

Let a be a point on the line I_1 , and let b and c be the absolute. Then the polar of a as to the 3-line is apolar to the absolute. If $a^{(1)}$ denote the point where α cuts the line I_1 , then the polar conic of $a^{(1)}$ as to the 3-line breaks up into the line α and the perpendicular from the opposite vertex. It follows that the polar point of the line I_1 as to the 3-line is the orthocentre.

The Feuerbach conic of K, L and the 3-line may be defined as the conic through K, L and the polar points of the join of K and L as to the meets of the 3-line taken two at a time. This corresponds to the fact that the Feuerbach circle passes through the middle points of the sides. But, we have seen that the polars of I_1 as to the meets of the 3-line are the feet of the perpendiculars from the vertices of the 3-line. Then, since the Feuerbach circle also passes through these points, the two conics have five points in common, and so coincide.

Hence, the Feuerbach conic of a 3-line and any two points of a conjugate 4-point is identical with that of the 3-line and the two other points.

8. *An extension of Majcen's theorem.*†

MAJCEN shows that if we project the points of the triangle ABC , from an intersection of the circumcircle and apolar circle, upon the apolar circle the tri-

* CAPOREALI, *Works*, p. 51.

† G. MAJCEN, *Archiv der Mathematik und Physik*, ser. 3, vol. 4 (1903), pp. 94, 95.

angle so formed $A^*B^*C^*$ will be circumscribed and similar to ABC . In this section we shall prove the following extension of this theorem:

There exists a collineation, leaving fixed three points of a conjugate 4-point of a 3-line, which sends the 3-line into a circumscribed, perspective 3-line, the center of perspective being the remaining point of the 4-point, and the conic through the fixed points and circumscribed to the new 3-line being apolar to the original 3-line.

We shall make use of the system of circular coördinates. A point of the plane will be defined by two conjugate complex quantities x and \bar{x} , the real and imaginary parts of which are respectively the x and y rectangular Cartesian coördinates of the point. In order that x may always define a single point, the convention is made that infinity is a point.

The bilinear substitution

$$x' = \frac{ax + b}{cx + d}$$

sends circles into circles, provided that a line be considered as a circle through the infinite point. The substitution has, in general, two fixed points. If infinity be one of these, the substitution sends circles and lines into circles and lines, and is orthomorphic. It is then identical with a collineation having fixed points at the absolute.

Let the meets of the 3-line be the points $a_1, a_2,$ and $a_3,$ and so take the axes and unit of measure that these points lie on the unit circle, and that the Euler line of the triangle a is the axis of reals. Further, let s_i denote the sum of the a 's i at a time. The orthocenter and centroid are then the points s_1 and $s_1/3$ respectively.

Any substitution, with fixed points at infinity and K , is of the form

$$(7) \quad x' = \mu(x - K) + K.$$

If this is to send a_1 into a point on the join of a_2 and a_3 , we must have

$$(1 + \lambda)[\mu(a_1 - K) + K] = a_2 + \lambda a_3$$

for a real λ . The conjugate of this equation is

$$\frac{a_2 a_3}{a_1} (1 + \lambda)[\bar{\mu}(1 - a_1 \bar{K}) + a_1 \bar{K}] = a_3 + \lambda a_2,$$

and hence, by addition,

$$\mu(a_1 - K)a_1 + Ka_1 + a_2 a_3 \bar{\mu}(1 - a_1 \bar{K}) + s_3 \bar{K} = a_1(a_2 + a_3).$$

Similarly we have

$$\mu(a_2 - K)a_2 + Ka_2 + a_3 a_1 \bar{\mu}(1 - a_2 \bar{K}) + s_3 \bar{K} = a_2(a_3 + a_1).$$

Hence, by subtraction,

$$\mu(a_1 + a_2 - K) + K - a_3\bar{\mu} = a_3,$$

$$\mu(a_2 + a_3 - K) + K - a_1\bar{\mu} = a_1.$$

Eliminating from the last two equations first k and then $\bar{\mu}$, we have

$$\mu + \bar{\mu} + 1 = 0,$$

and

$$(8) \quad K = \frac{\mu s_1}{\mu - 1}.$$

Hence the condition upon the collineation is that the real part of μ is $-\frac{1}{2}$. The condition upon K is that it must run along the ortho-centroidal circle of the triangle a .*

Since the intersections of the circum- and apolar circles lie on the ortho-centroidal circle, there exists a substitution, with fixed points at infinity and either of these intersection points, which sends the triangle a into an inscribed triangle. The Feuerbach circle also belongs to this pencil, and therefore the points of intersection may be determined from the circum- and Feuerbach circles.

The substitution

$$x' = -\frac{1}{2}(x - s_1)$$

sends the points of the triangle each into the middle point of the join of the other two, and therefore sends the circumcircle into the Feuerbach circle. The map-equation of the latter is then

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}(t - s_1),$$

as t runs along the unit circle.

If y be also on the circumcircle, $|y| = 1$, and hence the points of intersection are found by solving

$$\left| \frac{t - s_1}{2} \right| = |t| = 1.$$

We have

$$\left| \frac{t - s_1}{2} \right| = \frac{1}{4}(t - s_1) \left(\frac{1}{t} - s_1 \right) = 1.$$

Then

$$t = \frac{-2 - B \pm iA}{2s_1}$$

where

$$B = 1 - s_1 \quad \text{and} \quad A = \sqrt{-B(B + 8)}. \dagger$$

The points of intersection are then

*That K must run along the ortho-centroidal circle as μ runs along the line $-\frac{1}{2}$ may be deduced from the results of § 5, XIV, or may be easily shown directly.

† A is real or imaginary according as the points of intersection are real or imaginary.

$$(9) \quad K = \frac{1}{4s_1}(4 - B + iA), \quad L = \frac{1}{4s_1}(4 - B - iA).$$

If then in the substitution (7) we replace μ and K by their values found from (8) and (9), we shall have a substitution, L , with fixed points at infinity and \bar{K} , which sends the triangle a into an inscribed triangle a' .

This substitution is

$$L: \quad x' = \frac{-B + iA}{2B}(x - s_1).$$

The points L and a_1 are sent into

$$L' = \frac{-B - 2 + iA}{2s_1},$$

and

$$a'_1 = \frac{-B + iA}{2B}(a_1 - s_1).$$

Then the three point a_1 , a'_1 , and L' lie on a line if

$$(1 + \lambda) \frac{-B - 2 + iA}{2s_1} = \frac{-B + iA}{2B}(a_1 - s_1) + \lambda a_1$$

for a real λ . The conjugate of this equation is

$$(1 + \bar{\lambda}) \frac{-B - 2 - iA}{2s_1} = \frac{-B - iA}{2B} \left(\frac{1}{a_1} - s_1 \right) + \frac{\bar{\lambda}}{a_1}.$$

Eliminating a_1 , we have

$$AB(1 - B)(\lambda - \bar{\lambda}) = 0.$$

Then λ is real unless $B = 0$, -8 or 1 .

If $B = 0$, the substitution sends all points into infinity.

If $B = -8$, s_1 is equal to ± 3 , and the condition that a_1 , a'_1 , and L' lie on a line becomes

$$\pm(1 + \lambda) = -\frac{1}{2}a_1 \pm \frac{3}{2} + \lambda a_1,$$

which is satisfied if $\lambda = 1/2$.

If $B = 1$, s_1 is zero, and therefore L' is infinite.

Then, in all cases, the points a_1 , a'_1 , and L' lie on a line. It follows that the triangles a and a' are in perspective, and that the center of perspective is the point L' . The two triangles are also similar since infinity is a fixed point of the substitution.

The inverse substitution

$$L^{-1}: \quad x' = \frac{B + iA}{4}x + s_1,$$

sends a into a circumscribed, similar and perspective triangle a'' , the center of perspective being the point L . Since L^{-1} sends the circumcenter, O , into the orthocenter, s , and leaves K fixed, it sends the circumcircle into the apolar circle. That is, the circumcircle of a'' is the apolar circle of a . We have then proved the theorem stated at the beginning of this section.*

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,
May, 1903.

* If the conic through the fixed points and circumscribed to a be apolar in both ways to that through the fixed points and apolar to a , the triangles a , a' , and a'' form a closed system. Each is circumscribed to and in perspective with the one following. These triangles form a special case of the $(3, 3)_9$ configuration a . See KANTOR, *Über die Configurationen (3, 3) mit den Indices 8, 9*, Wiener Sitzungsberichte, vol. 84, (1881), p. 918.
