

is a projective collineation of order  $N_{n,0}^m$  and leaves invariant  $(z_0^{p^{im}}, z_1^{p^{im}}, \dots, z_n^{p^{im}})$ ,  $i=0, 1, \dots, n$ , and the given  $S_n^m$ . Therefore (3) is a power of  $T$ . Since a fixed  $S_n^r$  of (3) has been obtained, on denoting it by  $R_n^r$  we have that

$$T^i(R_n^r), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N_{n,0}^m/N_{n,0}^r,$$

are the fixed  $S_n^r$  of (3), where  $T^i(R_n^r)$  represents the image of  $R_n^r$  effected by  $T^i$ . These  $N_{n,0}^m/N_{n,0}^r$  fixed  $S_n^r$  evidently satisfy the condition of the theorem. Thus we have completed the proof.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF CHEKIANG

## SOME CONSEQUENCES OF A WELL KNOWN THEOREM ON CONICS

R. A. ROSENBAUM AND JOSEPH ROSENBAUM

Graustein [4, p. 296]<sup>1</sup> proves the following theorem:

**THEOREM I.** *If three point conics have a common chord, and the three conics are taken in pairs and the common chord of each pair which is opposite to the given common chord is drawn, the three resulting lines are concurrent.*

He remarks that several well known theorems, including those of Pascal and the existence of the radical center of 3 non-coaxial circles, are obtainable as special cases of the above. The following result also follows directly from Theorem I:

**COROLLARY 1.** *The joins of the intersections of the opposite sides of a complete quadrangle with a conic passing through two vertices of the quadrangle are concurrent.*

This corollary furnishes a simple proof of Ex. 155, p. 307 of Baker [1]: Let  $A, B, C, O$  be 4 points of a conic; let a line meet  $BC, CA, AB$  respectively in  $L, M, N$ ; and  $OL, OM, ON$  meet the conic again in  $P, Q, R$  respectively. Then  $AP, BQ, CR$  meet in a point, lying on the line  $LMN$ .

It does not seem to have been noted that the following theorem may be obtained directly from Theorem I.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in brackets refer to the references cited at the end of the paper.

**THEOREM 1.** *The intersections of each of the conics of a pencil with a fixed conic  $\mathcal{C}$  passing through 2 of the base points of the pencil are pairs of points of an involution on  $\mathcal{C}$ .*

**PROOF.** Suppose that the base points of the pencil of conics are  $A, B, C, D$ ; that  $\mathcal{C}$  passes through  $A$  and  $B$ ; and that  $\mathcal{C}$  intersects any 3 conics  $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2, \Sigma_3$  of the pencil in  $P_1, Q_1; P_2, Q_2;$  and  $P_3, Q_3$ . Then, by Theorem I, the lines  $P_1Q_1, P_2Q_2, CD$  are concurrent; so also are the lines  $P_1Q_1, P_3Q_3, CD$ . Hence the lines  $P_iQ_i$  all pass through the same point, for all points of intersection  $P_i, Q_i$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  with an arbitrary conic,  $\Sigma_i$ , of the pencil. But this last is just the condition that  $P_i, Q_i$  are pairs of an involution on  $\mathcal{C}$ .

This result might also have been obtained more laboriously (for the proof of Theorem I itself is easy) by the method which Baker [2, pp. 134–138] uses for general involutions.

The involution theorem of Desargues follows from Theorem 1 as a special case by letting  $\mathcal{C}$  consist of the line  $AB$  and a line not through any of the points  $A, B, C, D$ .

Theorem I leads to a poristic result in the following manner: Let  $\Sigma, \Sigma'$  be two conics through  $A, B, C, D$ . Choose  $A_1$  on  $\Sigma$ , and draw  $AA_1$  to meet  $\Sigma'$  in  $\alpha_1$ . Let  $\alpha_1B$  meet  $\Sigma$  in  $A_2$ ;  $AA_2$  meet  $\Sigma'$  in  $\alpha_2$ , and so on. Starting with  $A_1$  on  $\Sigma$ , we thus set up a sequence of points,  $A_i$ , on  $\Sigma$ :  $AA_i$  meets  $\Sigma'$  in  $\alpha_i$ , and  $\alpha_iB$  meets  $\Sigma$  in  $A_{i+1}$ . Then we have the following theorem.

**THEOREM 2.** *If  $A_n$  coincides with  $A_1$  for some position of  $A_1$ , then  $A_n$  will coincide with  $A_1$  for all positions of  $A_1$ .*

**PROOF.** Choose  $B_1$  on  $\Sigma$  and let the intersection of  $BB_1$  with  $\Sigma'$  be called  $\beta_1$ . The lines  $AA_1$  and  $BB_1$  constitute a conic through  $A$  and  $B$ ; hence, by Theorem I,  $A_1B_1, \alpha_1\beta_1$ , and  $CD$  are collinear, at  $O$ , say. If the intersection of  $\beta_1A$  with  $\Sigma$  is called  $B_2$ , then, by the same argument,  $A_2B_2$  passes through  $O$ . (We have, then, two sets of lines,  $A_iB_i$  and  $\alpha_i\beta_i$ , all concurrent at  $O$ ). Now, if, for some  $A_1$ ,  $A_n$  coincides with  $A_1$ ,  $B_n$  will coincide with  $B_1$ , for all  $B_1$ . Hence, in turn,  $A_n$  will coincide with  $A_1$ , for all  $A_1$ .

The condition for periodicity when the two conics are circles may be easily obtained:

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $S, S'$  be two circles, centered at  $O, O'$ , intersecting at  $A$  and  $B$ . The sequence  $\{A_i\}$  on  $S$  is obtained as follows:  $A_iA$  intersects  $S'$  at  $\alpha_i$ ;  $\alpha_iB$  intersects  $S$  at  $A_{i+1}$ . Then a necessary and sufficient condition that  $A_n$  shall coincide with  $A_1$  for all starting points,  $A_1$ , on  $S$  is that angle  $OA_1O' = m\pi/n$  where  $m$  and  $n$  have no common factor.*

PROOF. In triangle  $A_i B \alpha_i$ , each of the angles  $A_i$  and  $\alpha_i$  is constant, because they are inscribed angles subtending the fixed arcs  $AB$  and  $BA$  of circles  $S$  and  $S'$ . Hence, the third angle,  $B$ , is also constant. Now when  $A_i$  has the particular position where  $A_i A$  is perpendicular to  $AB$ , then  $BA_i$  and  $B\alpha_i$  are diameters; so that for this position angle  $A_i B \alpha_i$  is angle  $OBO'$ . Hence angle  $A_i B \alpha_i$  equals angle  $OBO'$  for all positions of  $A_i$ . Since angle  $A_i B \alpha_i$  is the same as angle  $ABA_{i+1}$ , and since angle  $A_i B A_{i+1}$  equals  $1/2$  arc  $A_i A_{i+1}$ , it follows that arc  $A_i A_{i+1}$  equals twice angle  $OBO'$ , for all positions of  $A_i$ .

The condition for  $A_n$  to coincide with  $A_1$  is obviously that  $\sum_1^n \text{arc } A_i A_{i+1} = 2m\pi$ , or that angle  $OAO'$  ( $=$ angle  $OBO'$ )  $= m\pi/n$ .

This result is related to Steiner's porism on a ring of circles tangent to two fixed circles and to the neighboring circles of the ring. (See, for example, Coolidge [3, p. 30] or Johnson [5, p. 115].)

COROLLARY 2. *Given two circles  $S_1, S_2$  with their line of centers intersecting  $S_1$  in  $P_1Q_1$  and  $S_2$  in  $P_2Q_2$ . Let the circles constructed on  $P_1Q_2$  and  $P_2Q_1$  as diameters be  $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2$ . Then, if either of the pairs  $(S_1, S_2)$ ,  $(\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2)$  is a Steiner pair, the other is a pair of the type of Theorem 3, and conversely.*

#### REFERENCES

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