

intersecting the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ in confocal sphero-conics; then the differential equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mu}{\sqrt{(\mu^2 - b^2)(\mu^2 - a^2)}} \pm \frac{d\nu}{\sqrt{(b^2 - \nu^2)(a^2 - \nu^2)}} &= 0, \\ \frac{d\mu}{\sqrt{(c^2 - \mu^2)(a^2 - \mu^2)}} \pm \frac{d\nu}{\sqrt{(c^2 - \nu^2)(a^2 - \nu^2)}} &= 0, \\ \frac{\mu d\mu}{\sqrt{(\mu^2 - b^2)(c^2 - \mu^2)(\mu^2 - a^2)}} \pm \frac{\nu d\nu}{\sqrt{(b^2 - \nu^2)(c^2 - \nu^2)(a^2 - \nu^2)}} &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

represent the three systems of circles having double contact with the sphero-conic $\mu = a$, and these it is easy to see from geometrical considerations are real. Circles of course may be considered as conics having double contact with $\mu = \infty$, or $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 0$. By projection then on a plane it would appear that we could have three real systems of conics having double contact with one real conic and one imaginary conic.

It would be interesting also to consider the reality of the conics having double contact with three quadrics. For instance, it does not seem possible to have any real conics having real double contact with three confocal ellipsoids. But I must defer the consideration of this question to another opportunity.

ASYMPTOTIC LINES ON A CIRCULAR RING.*

BY PROFESSOR H. MASCHKE.

THE equation of the asymptotic lines of a tore as well as the expression of the length of the arc of these curves leads to elliptic functions. The formulas appear in a remarkably simple form.†

Assuming the radius CA of the rotating circle = 1, and denoting the distance CO of its centre from the axis of rotation by λ , the tore is represented by these equations:

$$x = v \cos u, \quad y = v \sin u, \quad z = \sqrt{1 - (v - \lambda)^2},$$

* Read before the AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY at its Second Summer Meeting, Springfield, Mass., August 28, 1895.

† I have not found any literature with regard to this subject excepting a short notice in the *Fortschritte der Mathematik*, 1889, page 765, where reference is made to T. MOTODA, "Asymptotic lines on a circular ring," *Tokio Math. Soc.*, vol. 4, 217-219, a paper which has been inaccessible to me.