

lines in \mathbb{P}^2 tangent to two conics.

By changing coordinates on \mathbb{P}^2

, we may assume that P_1, P_2, P_3 are $[1, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 1]$ respectively, and the quadratic transformation ϕ is

$$\mathbb{P}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$$

$$[X_0, X_1, X_2] \longmapsto [X_0 X_1, X_0 X_2, X_1 X_2].$$

see P496 ~ P497.

$$a_{00} X_0^2 + a_{11} X_1^2 + a_{22} X_2^2 + a_{01} X_0 X_1 + a_{02} X_0 X_2 + a_{12} X_1 X_2 = 0$$

passes $P_1, P_2, P_3 \Rightarrow a_{00} = a_{11} = a_{22} = 0.$

\Rightarrow Let $Y_0 = X_0 X_1, Y_1 = X_0 X_2$ and $Y_2 = X_1 X_2.$

$$\Rightarrow a_{01} Y_0 + a_{02} Y_1 + a_{12} Y_2 = 0$$

$\Rightarrow \phi(\text{conic}) = \text{line}.$

Given a line $a X_0 + b X_1 + c X_2 = 0,$

$$a \frac{Y_0}{X_1} + b X_1 + c X_2 = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow a Y_0 + b X_1^2 + c Y_2 = 0 \Rightarrow a Y_0 + b \frac{Y_0 Y_2}{Y_1} + c Y_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a Y_0 Y_1 + b Y_0 Y_2 + c Y_1 Y_2 = 0$$

$\Rightarrow \phi(\text{line}) = \text{conic passing } P_1, P_2, P_3.$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{P}^2 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{P}^2 \\ \text{through } P_1, P_2, P_3 \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{any} \\ (\text{conic}) C & \longrightarrow & l (\text{line}) \\ \text{tangent to } l_1, l_2 & & \text{tangent to } C_1, C_2 \end{array}$$

Thus the # of conics through P_1, P_2, P_3 tangent to l_1, l_2