

where  $A$  is a unit-vector (say  $A = \cos\lambda + i\sin\lambda$ ) and  $B, B'$  are conjugate vectors. Or, writing  $B = b + i\beta$ ,  $B' = b - i\beta$ , the constants are  $\lambda, b, \beta$ ; 3 constants as it should be."

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### Quaternion Synopsis of Hertz' View of the Electrodynamical Equations.

By Professor TAIT.

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#### Note on Menelaus's Theorem.

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§ 1. The object of this note is, in the first place, to show that Menelaus's Theorem, regarding the segments into which the sides of a triangle are divided by any transversal, is a particular form of the condition, in trilinear co-ordinates, for the collinearity of three points; and, in the second place, to point out an analogue of Menelaus's Theorem in space of three dimensions.

§ 2. In the usual system of areal co-ordinates, the  $x$ -co-ordinate of  $P$  (fig. 52) is  $\Delta PBC/\Delta ABC$ , that is  $PD/AD$ . Now let  $D, E, F$ , be three points in  $BC, CA, AB$ , respectively, dividing these sides in the ratios  $l_1/m_1, l_2/m_2, l_3/m_3$ ; then the co-ordinates of  $D, E, F$ , are proportional to  $(0, m_1, l_1), (l_2, 0, m_2), (m_3, l_3, 0)$ . Hence the condition that  $D, E, F$ , lie on the straight line  $Ax + By + Cz = 0$  is

$$\begin{vmatrix} 0 & m_1 & l_1 \\ l_2 & 0 & m_2 \\ m_3 & l_3 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 0,$$

that is,  $l_1 l_2 l_3 + m_1 m_2 m_3 = 0$ , which is Menelaus's Theorem.

§ 3. In space of three dimensions we may use the corresponding system of tetrahedral co-ordinates, and obtain a theorem analogous to that of Menelaus.

Let  $BCD$  (fig. 53) be one of the faces of the tetrahedron; and put  $a_2 = PB'/BB' = \Delta PCD/BCD$ ,  $a_3 = PC'/CC' = \Delta PDB/\Delta CDB$ , etc. Then the co-ordinates of  $P, Q, R, S$ , points in the four faces of the tetrahedron, may be written  $(0, a_2, a_3, a_4), (b_1, 0, b_3, b_4)$ , etc.; and the condition that these four points be coplanar is