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## ON THE QUADRIC OF LIE

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The most important quadric attached to an ordinary point of a non-ruled and nondegenerate surface is, perhaps, the quadric of Lie. The characteristic curve of the quadric of Lie varying along an asymptotic curve of the surface decomposes into an asymptotic tangent and two edges of the quadrilateral of Demoulin.<sup>1</sup> In this note we propose to determine whether the characteristic curve of the quadric of Lie may decompose into two conics when the quadric of Lie varies along certain curves of the surface. The answer is positive.

Let  $(u, v)$  be the asymptotic net of a surface  $(M)$  and  $(M, M_1, M_2, M_3)$  its normal tetrahedron of Cartan,  $MM_1$ ,  $MM_2$  being the two asymptotic tangents and  $MM_3$ ,  $M_1M_2$  being the directrices of Wilczynski. Except for a projective transformation the surface  $(M)$  is determined by the system

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<sup>1</sup> A. Demoulin, *Sur la théorie des lignes asymptotiques*, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris vol. 147 (1908) pp. 413–415, *Sur la quadrique de Lie*, ibid. pp. 493–496, *Sur quelques propriétés des surfaces courbes*, ibid. pp. 565–568.