

$$N = \frac{1}{m_1} \left[ \sum_{\sigma=0}^{(m_1-1)(p_2-2)} P(0, 1, \dots, p_2-2)^{m_1-1} \sigma + \psi \right],$$

where  $P(0, 1, \dots, p_2-2)^{m_1-1} \sigma$  stands for the number of partitions of  $\sigma$  in  $(m_1-1)$ 's by the numbers  $0, 1, \dots, p_2-2$ ; and  $\psi$  is a determinate function of  $p_2$  and  $m_1$ .

SPRINGFIELD, MO.,  
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### A DEFINITION OF QUATERNIONS BY INDEPENDENT POSTULATES.\*

BY MISS R. L. CARSTENS.

(Read before the American Mathematical Society, February 24, 1906.)

#### § 1. *Quaternions with respect to a Domain D.*†

THE usual theory relates to quaternions  $a_1 + a_2i + a_3j + a_4k$  in which the coefficients  $a_i$  range independently over all real numbers or else over all complex numbers, and the units have the following multiplication table :

	1	i	j	k
1	1	i	j	k
i	i	-1	k	-j
j	j	-k	-1	i
k	k	j	-i	-1

These conditions give the real quaternion system and the octonion system.‡ As an obvious generalization, the coefficients may range independently over all the elements of any domain  $D$ .

\*See Dickson, "On hypercomplex number systems," *Transactions Amer. Math. Society*, vol. 6 (1905).

† A domain consists of any class of elements.

‡ Octonions may be considered as quaternions with complex coefficients.