

In a recent paper (A. N. Lowan and H. E. Salzer, *Table of coefficients for numerical integration without differences*, Journal of Mathematics and Physics vol. 24 (1945) pp. 1-21) quantities  $B_i^{(n)}(p)$  are tabulated to 10 decimal places, for continuous numerical integration (that is, integration to various points within an interval of tabulation) by a Lagrangian formula which uses the tabular entries only. The present note indicates how those same quantities  $B_i^{(n)}(p)$  can be employed as they stand, for continuous numerical integration using differences, in formulas obtained by integrating the interpolation formulas of Gregory-Newton, Newton-Gauss (two forms), Everett, and Steffensen. (Received August 6, 1945.)

### GEOMETRY

#### 233. H. S. M. Coxeter: *Quaternions and reflections.*

Every quaternion  $x = x_0 + x_1i + x_2j + x_3k$  determines a point  $P_x = (x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3)$  in Euclidean 4-space, and every quaternion  $a$  of unit norm determines a hyperplane  $a_0x_0 + a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + a_3x_3 = 0$ . The reflection in that hyperplane is found to be the transformation  $x \rightarrow -axa$ . This leads easily to the classical expression  $x \rightarrow axb$  for the general displacement preserving the origin. If  $p$  and  $q$  are pure quaternions of unit norm, the transformation  $x \rightarrow (\cos \alpha + p \sin \alpha)x(\cos \beta + q \sin \beta)$  represents the double rotation through angles  $\alpha \pm \beta$  about the two completely orthogonal planes  $P_0P_p \mp qP_1 \pm pq$ . (Received October 1, 1945.)

#### 234. H. S. M. Coxeter: *The order of the symmetry group of the general regular hyper-solid.*

Schläfli defined  $\{p, q, r\}$  as the regular four-dimensional polytope bounded by  $\{p, q\}$ 's,  $r$  at each edge; for example,  $\{4, 3, 3\}$  is the hyper-cube. The order,  $g$ , of the symmetry group is found to be given by  $16h/g = 6/j_{p,q} + 6/j_{q,r} + 1/p + 1/r - 2$ , where  $\cos^2 \pi/h$  is the greater root of the equation  $x^2 - (\cos^2 \pi/p + \cos^2 \pi/q + \cos^2 \pi/r)x + \cos^2 \pi/p \cos^2 \pi/r = 0$ , and  $j_{p,q} = [(2p+2q+7pq)/(2p+2q-pq)]^{1/2} + 1$ ; for example, for the hyper-cube  $\{4, 3, 3\}$ ,  $128/g = 6/8 + 6/6 + 1/4 + 1/3 - 2 = 1/3$ . (Received October 1, 1945.)

#### 235. H. S. M. Coxeter: *The Petrie polygon of a regular solid.*

Schläfli defined  $\{p, q\}$  as the regular solid bounded by  $p$ -gons,  $q$  at each vertex; for example,  $\{4, 3\}$  is the cube. The Petrie polygon of  $\{p, q\}$  is a skew  $h$ -gon such that every two consecutive sides, but no three, belong to a face of the solid; for example, the Petrie polygon of the cube is a skew hexagon. It is found that  $h = (g+1)^{1/2} - 1$ , where  $g$  is the order of the symmetry group (that is, four times the number of edges). Since  $4/g = 1/p + 1/q - 1/2$ , we deduce an expression for  $h$  in terms of  $p$  and  $q$ . Moreover, the solid has  $3h/2$  planes of symmetry. (Received October 1, 1945.)

#### 236. M. M. Day: *Note on the billiard ball problem.*

In his book *Dynamical systems*, G. D. Birkhoff proves by the rather deep Poincaré ring theorem the fact that for each convex cornerless billiard table and each integer  $n$  there is a closed path around the table of precisely  $n$  sides such that a billiard ball will follow this path around and around if it satisfies the usual reflection law that the angle of incidence equals the angle of reflection whenever the ball hits a side. An elementary proof of this result is given by the following two statements: (1) Any  $n$ -sided convex polygon of stationary length inscribed in a convex cornerless curve satisfies the reflec-