

## A general double sum identity, mock theta functions, and Bailey pairs

by

ALEXANDER E. PATKOWSKI (Centerville, MA)

**1. Introduction.** An area of continued development in  $q$ -hypergeometric series is obtaining Bailey pairs associated with indefinite quadratic forms. One of the primary motivators is to find further identities for mock theta functions, holomorphic parts of particular weight  $\frac{1}{2}$  harmonic Maass forms [20]. Some of the substantial developments in this way include Andrews [1, 5], Zwegers [21], and Hickerson and Mortenson [12], where mock theta functions identities were developed. Crucial in this framework was use of Bailey pairs to associate these functions with indefinite quadratic forms. For example, in [1] we find the fifth order mock theta function identity

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{n^2}}{(-q; q)_n} = \frac{1}{(q; q)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} q^{n(5n+1)/2} (1 - q^{4n+2}) \sum_{|j| \leq n} (-1)^j q^{-j^2},$$

where as usual [8]  $(w; q)_n = (w)_n := (1 - w)(1 - wq) \cdots (1 - wq^{n-1})$ . Many other authors have utilized Bailey pairs [5, 7, 11, 16], as well as created multisums related to mock theta functions [11, 15, 16, 18].

The goal of the present paper is to consider certain double sums which involve the truncated form of the sum [9, p. 4, eq. (6.2)]

$$(1.1) \quad \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(a; q)_n z^n}{(q; q)_n} = \frac{(az; q)_\infty}{(z; q)_\infty}.$$

Specifically, the finite sum considered by Fine [9, p. 17, eq. (15.4)]. The double sums obtained herein produce new identities for mock theta functions similar to the families given in [11, 15, 16, 18]. The list provided in our Theorem 3.2 shows that linear combinations of mixed mock modular forms give rise to certain double sums, which should be compared to the known

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linear identities found in Ramanujan's lost notebook (e.g. [5], [9, pp. 60–62]). To illustrate an interesting motivating example, recall the identity [9, p. 17, eq. (15.52)]

$$(1.2) \quad (z; q)_\infty \sum_{n \geq 0} (aq; q)_n z^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} (-z)^n q^{n(n+1)/2} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{a^{n-k}}{(q)_k}.$$

Taking the limit  $z \rightarrow 1$  and setting  $a = 1$  we have

$$(1.3) \quad \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{n(n+1)/2} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{1}{(q)_k} = (q)_\infty^2.$$

The product on the right side of (1.3) is a weight one modular form that has a connection to  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$  [12], and has an indefinite quadratic form expansion due to L. J. Rogers. To interpret the left hand side as a generating function we need some notation for partitions. Let  $\#(\pi)$  be the number of parts of a partition  $\pi$ ,  $L(\pi) = \pi_1$  be the largest part of a partition  $\pi$ , and we say  $\pi$  is a *partition* of  $n$  if  $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq r} \pi_i = n$  and  $\pi_1 \geq \dots \geq \pi_r$ .

For  $r \leq N$ , consider

$$(1.4) \quad \frac{q^{N(N+1)/2}}{(q; q)_r}.$$

Clearly (1.4) generates a partition pair  $(\lambda, \mu)$  where  $\lambda$  is a triangular partition with  $\#(\lambda) = L(\lambda) = N$ , and  $\mu$  is a partition with  $L(\mu) \leq r$ . We take  $\mu$  and enlarge it by creating a partition  $\tau$  where  $L(\tau) = \tau_1 = L(\lambda) + L(\mu)$ , the next part  $\tau_2 = N - 1 + \mu_2$ , and so on so that  $\tau_i = N - (i - 1) + \mu_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq N$ . (In the case  $r = N$ ,  $\tau$  would be a partition into  $N$  distinct parts.) Taking the conjugate partition, we create a 1-to-1 correspondence to a partition  $\varpi$  where  $L(\varpi) = \max\{\#(\lambda), \#(\mu)\}$ , and  $\#(\varpi) = L(\lambda) + L(\mu)$ .

**THEOREM 1.1.** *Let  $r \leq N$ . Define  $p_{r,N}(n)$  to be the number of partitions of  $n$  into parts  $\leq N$  where parts  $\leq r$  appear at least once, and parts  $> r$  and  $\leq N$  appear exactly once if  $r < N$ . For  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{24}$ , let  $I(n)$  be the excess of the number of inequivalent solutions of  $n = x^2 - 3y^2$  in which  $x + 3y \equiv 4 \pmod{12}$  over those in which  $x + 3y \equiv 10 \pmod{12}$ . Set  $\omega(n) = \sum_{N \geq 0, 0 \leq r \leq N} (-1)^N p_{r,N}(n)$ . Then  $\omega(n) = I(n)$ .*

*Proof.* The partition  $\varpi$  described above tells us that (1.4) is the generating function for  $p_{r,N}(n)$ . Therefore, combining (1.3) with the expansion found in [13, p. 77], we have

$$(1.5) \quad \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( \sum_{N \geq 0, 0 \leq r \leq N} (-1)^N p_{r,N}(n) \right) q^{24n+2} \\ = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}, 2|l \leq k} (-1)^{l+k} q^{3(2k+1)^2 - (6l+1)^2}.$$

The right hand side of (1.5) generates excess of the number of solutions of  $2(1 - 12n) = x^2 - 3y^2$  where  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$ , and  $-3y < x < 3y$ , in which  $3y + x \equiv 4 \pmod{12}$ , over those in which  $3y + x \equiv 10 \pmod{12}$ . Note that the minimal positive  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  that solve  $x^2 - 3y^2 = 1$  are  $(x_1, y_1) = (2, 1)$ . Hence, setting  $D = 3$ ,  $y_1 = 1$ ,  $x_1 = 2$  in [4, Lemma 3] tells us that each equivalence class of solutions to this equation has a unique  $(x, y)$  such that  $-3y < x < 3y$ . ■

We mention that identity (1.5) is also related to the work of Kac and Peterson [14, eq. (5.19)]. The proof in [14] involves computation of string functions of low level, while ours is bijective in nature. (See also Cohen's paper [8], which established that identities like (1.5) have connections to Maass waveforms.)

**2. Preliminaries for main identities.** A pair of sequences  $(\alpha_n(a, q), \beta_n(a, q))$  is called a *Bailey pair* [19] relative to  $(a, q)$  if

$$(2.1) \quad \beta_n(a, q) = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq n} \frac{\alpha_j(a, q)}{(q; q)_{n-j} (aq; q)_{n+j}}.$$

LEMMA 2.1 ([19]). *For a pair  $(\alpha_n(a, q), \beta_n(a, q))$  satisfying (2.1), we have*

$$(2.2) \quad \sum_{n \geq 0} (X)_n (Y)_n (aq/XY)^n \beta_n \\ = \frac{(aq/X)_\infty (aq/Y)_\infty}{(aq)_\infty (aq/XY)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(X)_n (Y)_n (aq/XY)^n \alpha_n}{(aq/X)_n (aq/Y)_n}.$$

We also require [6, eq. (S2)], which says that if  $(\alpha_n(a, q), \beta_n(a, q))$  is a Bailey pair, then so is  $(\alpha'_n(a, q), \beta'_n(a, q))$  where

$$(2.3) \quad \alpha'_n(a, q) = a^{n/2} q^{n^2/2} \alpha_n(a, q),$$

$$(2.4) \quad \beta'_n(a, q) = \frac{1}{(-\sqrt{aq}; q)_n} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{(-\sqrt{aq}; q)_k}{(q)_{n-k}} a^{k/2} q^{k^2/2} \beta_k(a, q).$$

A related cousin that will be equally useful is [6, eq. (S5)], which tells us that  $(\alpha'_n(a, q), \beta'_n(a, q))$  is a Bailey pair where

$$(2.5) \quad \alpha'_n(a, q) = \frac{(-a^{1/2}q)_n}{(-a^{1/2})_n} a^{n/2} q^{(n^2-n)/2} \alpha_n(a, q),$$

$$(2.6) \quad \beta'_n(a, q) = \frac{1}{(-\sqrt{a}; q)_n} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{(-\sqrt{a}q; q)_k}{(q)_{n-k}} a^{k/2} q^{(k^2-k)/2} \beta_k(a, q).$$

Generalizing [3, p. 139, Lemma 6.5.1], we can obtain another identity that will be key in obtaining our general identity.

LEMMA 2.2. For  $-1 \leq b \leq 1$ , we have

$$b^{N+1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(aq)_n}{(bq)_n} q^{(N+1)n} = \frac{1-b}{1-q^{N+1}} \frac{(q)_{N+1}}{\left(\frac{a}{b}q\right)_{N+1}} \left( \frac{(aq)_\infty}{(b)_\infty} - \sum_{N \geq n \geq 0} \frac{\left(\frac{a}{b}q\right)_n b^n}{(q)_n} \right).$$

*Proof.* From Fine's text [9, p. 5, eq. (6.3),  $t = q^{N+1}$ ] we have

$$\begin{aligned} (2.7) \quad \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(aq)_n}{(bq)_n} q^{(N+1)n} &= \frac{1-b}{1-q^{N+1}} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\left(\frac{a}{b}q^{N+2}\right)_n b^n}{(q^{N+2})_n} \\ &= \frac{1-b}{1-q^{N+1}} \frac{(q)_{N+1}}{\left(\frac{a}{b}q\right)_{N+1} b^{N+1}} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\left(\frac{a}{b}q\right)_{n+N+1} b^{n+N+1}}{(q)_{n+N+1} b^{N+1}} \\ &= \frac{1-b}{1-q^{N+1}} \frac{(q)_{N+1}}{\left(\frac{a}{b}q\right)_{N+1} b^{N+1}} \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\left(\frac{a}{b}q\right)_n b^n}{(q)_n} - \sum_{N \geq n \geq 0} \frac{\left(\frac{a}{b}q\right)_n b^n}{(q)_n} \right) \\ &= \frac{1-b}{1-q^{N+1}} \frac{(q)_{N+1}}{\left(\frac{a}{b}q\right)_{N+1} b^{N+1}} \left( \frac{(aq)_\infty}{(b)_\infty} - \sum_{N \geq n \geq 0} \frac{\left(\frac{a}{b}q\right)_n b^n}{(q)_n} \right). \end{aligned}$$

The result is valid for  $b = \pm 1$  by analytic continuation. ■

We are now ready to exhibit our main Bailey pairs.

THEOREM 2.3. Define the  $A_n$  by (2.8) below. Then pair  $(\alpha_n(q, q), \beta_n(q, q))$  is a Bailey pair where

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_n(q, q) &= q^{-n(n+1)/2} A_n(q, q, b), \\ \beta_n(q, q) &= \frac{1}{(-q)_n (bq)_n} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{(b)_k}{(q)_k} (-1)^k. \end{aligned}$$

Further,  $(\alpha_n(q, q), \beta_n(q, q))$  is a Bailey pair where

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_n(q, q) &= \frac{1+q^{1/2}}{1+q^{n+1/2}} q^{-n^2/2} A_n(q, q, b), \\ \beta_n(q, q) &= \frac{1}{(-q^{3/2})_n (bq)_n} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{(b)_k}{(q)_k} (-q^{1/2})^k. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* To obtain this pair, recall the one-parameter Bailey pair  $(A_n(aq, q, b), B_n(aq, q, b))$  (relative to  $(q, q)$ ) due to Andrews [1, Lemma 6], where

$$\begin{aligned} (2.8) \quad A_n(aq, q, b) &= \frac{(-1)^n (1-aq^{2n+1}) a^n q^{n(3n-1)/2} b^n (aq/b)_n}{(1-aq)(bq)_n} \\ &\quad \times \left( 1 + \sum_{1 \leq j \leq n} \frac{(aq)_{j-1} (1-aq^{2j}) (b)_j a^{-j} q^{-j^2} b^{-j}}{(q)_j (aq/b)_j} \right), \end{aligned}$$

$$(2.9) \quad B_n(aq, q, b) = \frac{1}{(bq)_n}.$$

Setting  $a = q$  in (2.3)–(2.4), if we suppose that the left side is given by (2.8)–(2.9) with  $a = 1$ , we find that we would require the first pair in Theorem 2.3, by the uniqueness of Bailey pairs in conjunction with the identity of Fine [9, p. 17, eq. (15.5)]

$$(2.10) \quad (t)_\infty \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(aq)_n}{(bq)_n} t^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-at)^n q^{n(n+1)/2}}{(bq)_n} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{(b)_k}{(q)_k} a^{-k}.$$

To see this, multiply both sides of (2.10) by  $(t)_\infty^{-1}$  and equate coefficients of  $t^n$  to obtain

$$(2.11) \quad \frac{(aq)_N}{(bq)_N} = \sum_{0 \leq n \leq N} \frac{(-a)^n q^{n(n+1)/2}}{(q)_{N-n} (bq)_n} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{(b)_k}{(q)_k} a^{-k}$$

and then set  $a = -1$ . The second Bailey pair in Theorem 2.3 follows in the same way, with the difference being that we apply (2.5)–(2.6) (with  $a = q$ ) and then put  $a = -q^{-1/2}$  in (2.11). ■

**3. Main identities.** Having constructed a sufficient number of lemmas in the previous section, we are now ready to state and prove our main identities.

**THEOREM 3.1.** *We have*

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{(-x)_\infty}{2(-q)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(X)_n (Y)_n}{(-q)_n (xq)_n} (q^2/XY)^n \\ & \quad + (1-x) \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(X)_n (Y)_n}{(q^2; q^2)_n} (-q^2/XY)^n \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(-x)_k}{(-q)_k} q^{(n+1)k} \\ & = \frac{(q^2/X)_\infty (q^2/Y)_\infty}{(q^2)_\infty (q^2/XY)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(X)_n (Y)_n (q^2/XY)^n q^{-n(n+1)/2} A_n(q, q, x)}{(q^2/X)_n (q^2/Y)_n}. \end{aligned}$$

Further,

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{(-xq^{1/2})_\infty}{(-q^{1/2})_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(X)_n (Y)_n}{(-q^{3/2})_n (xq)_n} (q^2/XY)^n \\ & \quad + \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(X)_n (Y)_n (xq^{1/2})_{n+1}}{(-q^{3/2})_n (q)_n (xq)_n} (-q^{5/2}/XY)^n \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(-xq^{1/2})_k}{(-q^{1/2})_k} q^{(n+1)k} \\ & = (1+q^{1/2}) \frac{(q^2/X)_\infty (q^2/Y)_\infty}{(q^2)_\infty (q^2/XY)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(X)_n (Y)_n (q^2/XY)^n q^{-n^2/2} A_n(q, q, x)}{(1+q^{n+1/2})(q^2/X)_n (q^2/Y)_n}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Setting  $b = -1$  and  $a = -x/q$  in Lemma 2.2, we obtain

$$(3.3) \quad \sum_{N \geq n \geq 0} \frac{(x)_n (-1)^n}{(q)_n} = \frac{(-x)_\infty}{2(-q)_\infty} + \frac{(x)_{N+1}}{2(q)_N} (-1)^N \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-x)_n}{(-q)_n} q^{(N+1)n}.$$

Then, inserting the first Bailey pair in Theorem 2.3 into Lemma 2.1, and using (3.3), we find (3.1). Similarly, putting  $b = -q^{1/2}$  and  $a = -x/q^{1/2}$  in Lemma 2.2, we obtain

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{aligned} & \sum_{N \geq n \geq 0} \frac{(x)_n (-q^{1/2})^n}{(q)_n} \\ &= \frac{(-xq^{1/2})_\infty}{(-q^{1/2})_\infty} + q^{1/2} \frac{(xq^{1/2})_{N+1}}{(1+q^{1/2})(q)_N} (-q^{1/2})^N \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-xq^{1/2})_n}{(-q^{1/2})_n} q^{(N+1)n}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, inserting the second Bailey pair in Theorem 2.3 into Lemma 2.1, and using (3.4), we find (3.2). ■

As a nice consequence of Theorem 3.1 we obtain identities for mock theta functions.

**THEOREM 3.2.** *For  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ , we have*

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{(-x)_\infty}{(-q)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{n(n+1)}}{(-q)_n (xq)_n} + (1-x) \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(n+1)}}{(q^2; q^2)_n} \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(-x)_k}{(-q)_k} q^{(n+1)k} \\ &= \frac{1}{(q)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} q^{n^2/2+n/2} A_n(q, q, x) = \frac{1}{(-q)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-q)_n}{(xq)_n} q^{n(n+1)/2}, \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.6) \quad \frac{1}{2(-q)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{n(n+1)}}{(-q)_n} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^n (q^{n+2}; q^2)_\infty}{(-q)_n} = \frac{1}{(-q)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-q)_n q^{n(n+1)/2}.$$

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{(-q; q^2)_\infty}{(-q^2; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{2n(n+1)}}{(-q)_{2n+1}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^n q^{2n(n+1)}}{(q^4; q^4)_n} \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(-q; q^2)_k}{(-q^2; q^2)_k} q^{2(n+1)k} \\ &= \frac{1}{(-q^2; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-q^2; q^2)_n}{(-q; q^2)_{n+1}} q^{n(n+1)}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.8) \quad & \frac{(-xq^{1/2})_\infty}{(-q^{1/2})_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{n(n+1)}}{(-q^{1/2})_{n+1}(xq)_n} \\
& + q^{1/2} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(xq^{1/2})_{n+1}}{(-q^{1/2})_{n+1}(q)_n(xq)_n} (-1)^n q^{n(n+3/2)} \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(-xq^{1/2})_k}{(-q^{1/2})_k} q^{(n+1)k} \\
& = \frac{1}{(q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{n^2/2+n} A_n(q, q, x)}{(1+q^{n+1/2})} = \frac{1}{(-q^{1/2})_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-q^{1/2})_n}{(xq)_n} q^{n(n+2)/2},
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.9) \quad & \frac{1}{(-q; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{2n(n+1)}}{(-q; q^2)_{n+1}} + q \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(2n+3)}}{(-q; q^2)_{n+1}(q^2; q^2)_n} \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{q^{2(n+1)k}}{(-q; q^2)_k} \\
& = \frac{1}{(-q; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-q; q^2)_n q^{n(n+2)}.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.10) \quad & \frac{(q; q^2)_\infty}{(-q; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{2n(n+1)}}{(-q)_{2n+1}} + q \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(2n+3)}}{(q^4; q^4)_n} \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(q; q^2)_k}{(-q; q^2)_k} q^{2(n+1)k} \\
& = \frac{1}{(-q; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-q; q^2)_n}{(-q^2; q^2)_n} q^{n(n+2)},
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.11) \quad & \frac{(-q^2; q^2)_\infty}{(-q; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{2n(n+1)}}{(-q; q^2)_{n+1}^2} \\
& + q \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-q^2; q^2)_{n+1}}{(-q; q^2)_{n+1}^2 (q^2; q^2)_n} (-1)^n q^{n(2n+3)} \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(-q^2; q^2)_k}{(-q; q^2)_k} q^{2(n+1)k} \\
& = \frac{1}{(-q; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{n(n+2)}}{1+q^{2n+1}}.
\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* For (3.5) let  $X, Y \rightarrow \infty$  in (3.1), and then invoke the transformation through the indefinite theta expansion [1]. Equation (3.6) is the  $x = 0$  case of (3.5). Equation (3.7) is the  $x = -q^{1/2}$  case of (3.5). For (3.8) let  $X, Y \rightarrow \infty$  in (3.2), and then invoke the indefinite theta expansion [1]. Equation (3.9) is the  $x = 0$  case of (3.8). Equation (3.11) is the  $x = -q^{1/2}$  case of (3.8). ■

First, we remark on our

$$(3.12) \quad \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{n(n+1)}}{(-q)_n (xq)_n} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{(x)_k}{(q)_k} (-1)^k$$

and

$$(3.13) \quad \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^{n(n+1)}}{(-q^{1/2})_{n+1}(xq)_n} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \frac{(x)_k}{(q)_k} (-1)^k.$$

Equation (3.12) is a mixed mock modular form for  $x = 0, -q^{1/2}$ , since multiplying by  $(-q)_\infty$  gives a mock modular form, and for  $x = -1$  we have a modular form,  $(q^2; q^2)_\infty$ . Similarly, equation (3.13) is a mixed mock modular form for  $x = 0, -1$ , since multiplying by  $(-q^{1/2})_\infty$  gives a mock modular form, and for  $x = -q^{-1/2}$  we have a modular form  $q^{-1}((q^2; q^2)_\infty / (q; q^2)_\infty - 1) / (-q^{1/2})_\infty$ . Equation (3.6) provides a connection between two mock theta functions of order five [1]. Equation (3.7) provides a connection between the eighth order mock theta function  $T_1(q)$  [9], and a mock theta function found in [2]. Equation (3.9) relates two mock theta functions of order five [1]. Equation (3.10) provides a connection between the eighth order mock theta function  $S_1(q)$  [10], and a mock theta function found in [2]. Equation (3.11) involves a mock theta function of order three [9, p. 55].

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Alexander E. Patkowski  
1390 Bumps River Rd.  
Centerville, MA 02632, U.S.A.  
E-mail: alexpatk@hotmail.com  
alexepatkowski@gmail.com