

Re: The origin of quaternions

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In article <41AB6DE9.10909@earthlink.net>, Roger Bagula <tftn@earthlink.net> wrote:

- > *My understanding was that he was studying vector analysis*
- > *and looking at A divid B for two vectors.*
- > *(ref. page 15 Theoretical Mexhanics, Ames and Murnaghan, Dover,1957).*
- > *" The consideration of A divid B , not as a vector but as an operation*
- > *carrying a representative segment B into*
- > *a coterminous representative segment of A, led Sir William Hamilton to*
- > *the study of quaternions."....*

This may be a misunderstanding. I remember that one of Hamilton's text-books does begin with the idea of dividing one vector by another, but that was written long after the original discovery/invention.

Ken Pledger.