

Orthogonal Polynomials and Special Functions

SIAM Activity Group on Orthogonal Polynomials and Special Functions

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Newsletter

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Published Quarterly

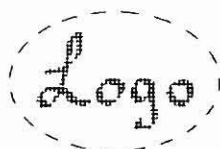
Fall 1992

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The News

With this Fall Edition we begin typesetting in the now familiar and ubiquitous \LaTeX . Quarterly publication is planned, with regular columns and, occasionally, special articles. Your contributions are sought.

In particular we welcome short expository articles, say from three to five pages. Drawings and photographs may be included but they should fit within the two column layout. It is unlikely that we will print full-fledged book reviews because they should probably appear elsewhere. Instead we seek shorter reviews and commentary.

A column devoted to real life applications is planned, say applications from engineering or physics, or whatever applied area you are involved with. Those of us in the trenches have learned that many applied areas involve special functions in a vital way, so this should provide a source of new problems, or old ones not yet solved.

A few items from the previous edition bear repeating. George Gasper has an updated version of errata, plus new references, for his and Mizan Rahman's book *Basic Hypergeometric Series*, Cambridge, 1990. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to George Gasper at Department of Mathematics, Northwestern University, Evanston IL, 60208 for the update. He will also send it by e-mail (george@math.nwu.edu).

Basic Hypergeometric Series is now being translated into Russian by S.K. Suslov and N.M. Atakishiyev. George has just received an e-mail from Sergei Suslov indicating that they have received the galley proofs and hope to finish the checking soon.

The current list of members appears at the end of this edition, including the new members. Please check your listing carefully for accuracy and omissions. If anything untoward is found, you should inform either SIAM directly (service@siam.org), or Charles Dunkl (cf55z@virginia.edu). Charles will forward your information to SIAM headquarters where the list is compiled. It is not safe to assume that because your listing appears correctly in *CML* it is also correct here, because SIAM and *CML* have different databases. Finally, if you have recently acquired an e-mail address, please be sure to give that information.

Business Meeting in Los Angeles

At the SIAM 40th Anniversary Meeting in Los Angeles a business meeting of the Activity Group on Orthogonal Polynomials and Special Functions was convened in the Cedar Room of the Century Plaza Hotel on Thursday morning at 10 am July 23, 1992. Charles Dunkl, Chair of the Activity Group, presided. The Program Director, Mourad Ismail, was also present.

It was announced that the Group's Charter had been renewed by the SIAM Council at its meeting on July 19, and that the membership numbered approximately 120 as of June 1, 1992.

In response to a question from Alan Schwartz, the goals of the Group were reviewed by Charles Dunkl—a major

goal being to encourage interaction among the theorists and the applied people who use special functions. The users can provide stimulating new problems while the theorists can promulgate new developments, for example in several variables.

A suggestion from Rahman, that there should be a plenary speaker on the topic of special functions at the annual meetings, will be forwarded to the appropriate organizing committees of SIAM.

Eugene Tomer was introduced as the new Editor of the Group's *Newsletter*. Eugene is an electrical engineer, and also an applied mathematician with a background in dynamical astronomy. He will do desktop publishing on the Macintosh, while SIAM Headquarters will continue to reproduce and distribute the newsletter. The editorial committee will consist of three members: Charles Dunkl, George Gasper, and Eugene Tomer.

There was some discussion about the dissatisfaction felt, especially by the new members, of the considerable delay in getting information on the Group. Thus a new member joining in January would wait several months, because the *Newsletter* had been previously issued in the Fall while SIAM Headquarters did not send out a membership list until December. And a member paying dues early, in September for example, would not hear anything until the new year.

A plan was therefore established to publish quarterly, with the spring issue appearing about the first of March. This will reduce the delay somewhat and will provide information about our activities and the new members list. But we should continue to press for timely notification of membership in SIAGs by standard means, say an immediate form letter of welcome, accompanied by the complete member list and latest available newsletter.

Electronic communication issues were also addressed. SIAM will soon provide for electronic publication of news items. All members are encouraged to submit an up-to-date e-mail address, if they have not already done so.

It was mentioned that another communication channel is the Approximation Theory Net (AT-Net), which is an independent organization centered at Technion, Israel, and headed by Carl de Boor (Madison) and Allan M. Pinkus (Haifa). Anyone can join this net immediately, receiving items like announcements of meetings and tables of contents of certain journals, such as the *Journal of Approximation Theory*. To join, send a message to listserv@technion.technion.ac.il with the text consisting of SUB AT-NET (your given name) (your last name).

Probably some Group members have interests which overlap with approximation theory, so they will want to join the AT-Net, but we should still aim to set up our own electronic news net under the auspices of SIAM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 am.

————— *SIAM Activity Group* —————
on
Orthogonal Polynomials and Special Functions

CHARLES DUNKL, *Chair*
JET WIMP, *Vice Chair*
MOURAD E.H. ISMAIL, *Program Director*
GEORGE GASPER, *Secretary*



THE PURPOSE of the Activity Group

is to promote basic research in orthogonal polynomials and special functions; to further the application of this subject in other parts of mathematics, and in science and industry; and to encourage and support the exchange of information, ideas, and techniques between workers in this field, and other mathematicians and scientists.

—————
The Minisymposium

Here are the topics of the Minisymposium on Special Functions and Their Applications, held Friday, July 24, 1992 at the Century Plaza, and sponsored by our Group. Charles Dunkl and Mourad Ismail were the organizers of the sessions which were well attended.

Morning Session 10:00–12:00 am

“Pages from the Computer Files of R.W. Gosper”, by MOURAD E.H. ISMAIL

“A Cubic and a Quintic Summation Formula”, by MIZAN RAHMAN

“Orthogonal Polynomials on R^n , Product Formulas, and Hypergroups”, by WILLIAM C. CONNETT and ALAN L. SCHWARTZ

“Special Functions on Finite Upper Half Planes”, by AUDREY TERRAS

Afternoon Session 1:30–4:00 pm

“Biorthogonality and Continued Fractions”, by DAVID MASSON

“Inequalities and Monotonicity properties for Zeros of Hermite Functions”, by ÁRPÁD ELBERT and MARTIN E. MULDOON

“Generalized Jacobi Weights, Christoffel Functions, and Jacobi Polynomials”, by TAMAS ERDÉLYI, PAUL NEVAI, and ALPHONSE P. MAGNUS

“Weber's Integral Theorem and Singular Solutions for Mixed Boundary Value Problems of Elasticity”, by R.P. SRIVASTAV

“Commuting Differential Operators and Special Functions”, by ALBERTO GRÜNBAUM

Announcements

Ralph Philip Boas, Jr.
1912-1992

On July 25, 1992, just two weeks before his 80th birthday, Ralph Philip Boas, Jr., died in Seattle. He was Emeritus Henry S. Noyes Professor of Mathematics at Northwestern University.

Ralph Boas was born August 8, 1912, in Walla Walla, Washington. He received his A.B. degree in 1933, and his Ph.D. in 1937 under D.V. Widder, at Harvard University. A two-year National Research Fellowship enabled him to go to Princeton in 1937 to work with Salomon Bochner, and to Cambridge, England in 1938, where he attended lectures by Hardy, Littlewood, and Besicovitch.

During WW II Ralph taught at Duke University, the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School in Chapel Hill, and also at Harvard University. Then he became a lecturer at M.I.T. in 1948-49, and the Executive Editor of *Mathematical Reviews* during 1945-50.

Boas became a Professor of Mathematics at Northwestern University in 1950 without having been an Assistant or an Associate Professor. He was an excellent teacher and expositor, and he possessed broad insight and knowledge, not only in his areas of research but about mathematics in general. In 1951-52 he was a Guggenheim Fellow. He wrote almost 200 papers on real and complex analysis. His lucidly written textbooks *Entire Functions* (1954) and *A Primer of Real Functions* (1960) are still being used. Ralph has left a lasting influence on those who knew him and on the mathematical community.

Boas is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mary, Emeritus Professor of Physics at DePaul University; his daughter Anne; and two sons, Ralph, and Harold who will become Full Professor of Mathematics at Texas A&M University as of 1 September.

A memorial service will be held at Northwestern University in the Fall. A more detailed synopsis of Boas's life will appear in a Memorial Issue of the *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*.

George Gasper
Northwestern University

Meetings and Conferences

Following the symposia of Bar le Duc in 1984, Segovia in 1986, and Erice in 1990, the 4th International Symposium on Orthogonal Polynomials and Their Applications will be held in Evian, France, October 19 to 23, 1992. The accommodations, as well as the meetings, will be found at the Village-Vacances-Familles (VVF) of Evian, situated on Lac Lemman in the French Alps. If you plan to participate, please contact (as soon as possible):

Claude Brezinski, ISOPA4
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59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex France
e-mail: (labano@frcitl81.bitnet)

The 1994 Congress of Wiskundig Genootschap (Dutch Mathematical Society) will be held in Leiden in April. Richard Askey will give the Stieltjes Lecture. Contact:

Prof. G. Van Dijk
Rijksuniversiteit Leiden
Afdeling Wiskunde en Informatica
P.O. Box 9512
2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

From Leuven, Belgium, Walter van Assche informs us that a conference on Rational Approximation will take place in Antwerp sometime in 1993. For information please contact Annie Cuyt (cuyt@ccu.uia.ac.be).

A conference on Applications of Hypergroups and Related Measure Algebras is being planned for the summer of 1993 in Seattle. Contact

Alan L. Schwartz hypergrp@arch.umsl.edu
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Should you know of any meetings or conferences which might be of interest to the members, please send in the information so it can be posted here.

Look for special offers on SIAM books for SIAM AG members throughout this newsletter.

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Please include type of credit card, credit card number, expiration date, and the code BKAG92 when ordering.

Shipping and Handling Charges

USA: Add \$2.75 for the first book and \$.50 for each additional book Canada: Add \$4.50 for the first book \$1.50 for each additional book.

Outside USA/Canada: Add \$4.50 per book.

Special prices expire October 31, 1992.

Abstracts of Contributed Papers

This column is planned for abstracts of upcoming talks or recent papers. The following talk will be given at the December IMACS Conference in Bangalore, India.

“On Computing the Poles and Zeros of a Meromorphic Function by an Extension of the Argument Principle with an Application to Electromagnetic Scattering”, by D.V. GIRI and EUGENE TOMER, *Pro -Tech*, 3708 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, CA 94549.

By a constructive method based on an extension of the classical argument principle we compute the poles and zeros of a meromorphic function.

Motivation for this work comes from the computation of the scattering poles of a perfectly conducting object. These are poles of the resolvent of the electric field integral equation, or of the magnetic field integral equation, and they are identified as the exterior natural resonant frequencies of the scatterer. In the case of the sphere, these complex frequencies have been calculated explicitly in terms of special functions, namely Bessel and Hankel functions of order $n + \frac{1}{2}$.

We first give an application of the method to a polynomial of order 20, and to a rational function. Then we compute numerically the natural frequencies of a thin wire antenna, and the input impedance of a biconical antenna.

Problems

Submitted problems may range from elementary to advanced, either solved or unsolved. This gives several possibilities since the proposer need not disclose whether or not the solution is known.

We begin with problem number 1. The reason for this is that some people use nomenclature like 90-91 to denote problem number 91 in the year 1990, when perhaps they actually mean 91-90; and it is very hard to get excited about problem number E 3384, for example, when you have just worked a long time on E 3348. But we hope to have a famous problem, say number 37, which will not soon be forgotten.

- 1. Prove or disprove

$$\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos(t/2^n) - \cos(\pi 3^n/5)}{1 - \cos(\pi 3^n/5)} = \frac{4 \cos(t)}{\sqrt{5} + 5} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$$

Submitted by R. William Gosper, August 13, 1992.

- 2. Is it true that

$$x^2 t^x {}_2F_1(x + 1, x + 1; 2; 1 - t)$$

is a convex function of x whenever $-\infty < x < \infty$ and $0 < t < 1$?

Submitted by George Gasper, August 19, 1992.

Solutions

Solutions should appear eventually, whereupon they will be printed together with the original statement of the problem.

Survey of Members

It is becoming clear that the members of the Group represent a fairly wide range of professional interests. We need to have some specific data on this, so a survey seems to be in order. Of course we could send out a questionnaire, but since the Group is pretty small it seems more appropriate that you simply tell us briefly about your professional interests.

In particular we seek answers to the following two questions. *Do you apply the special functions or is your interest theoretical, perhaps both, or neither? Or something else?* Please send your reply and comments to Charles Dunkl by October 15, 1992. We plan to report on the survey in the Winter issue.

Contest for the Logo Design

We considered adopting a logo of some kind, so at the business meeting in Los Angeles it was decided to hold a *Logo Design CONTEST*. The contest will be open to all current members of the group, except for those on the editorial committee of the *Newsletter* since they will be the judges.

The winner will be awarded a *prize*, of course a book on orthogonal functions, namely

Orthogonal Functions by GIOVANNI SANSONE
Dover reprint, 1991.

Please send your entries, along with any comments, to the Editor at the address below by October 15, 1992.

T E N L E C T U R E S O N

W A V E L E T S

Ingrid Daubechies

CBMS-NSF Regional Conference Series in Applied Mathematics 61

This monograph contains 10 lectures presented by Dr. Daubechies as the principal speaker at the 1990 CBMS-NSF Conference on Wavelets and Applications. The author has worked on several aspects of the wavelet transform and has developed a collection of wavelets that are remarkably efficient. The opening chapter provides an overview of the main problems presented in the book. Following chapters discuss the theoretical and practical aspects of wavelet theory, including wavelet transforms, orthonormal bases of wavelets, and characterization of functional spaces by means of wavelets. The last chapter presents several topics under active research, such as multidimensional wavelets, wavelet packet bases, and a construction of wavelets tailored to decompose functions defined in a finite interval. Because of their interdisciplinary origins, wavelets appeal to scientists and engineers of many different backgrounds.

1992 / xix + 357 pages / Softcover / ISBN 0-89871-274-2
siam. List Price \$37.50 / SIAM AG Price \$30.00 / Order Code CB61

See page 3 for shipping and handling information.

About the Newsletter

The Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the *SIAM Activity Group on Orthogonal Polynomials and Special Functions*. To join the Group, please contact

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Like all newsletters, this one needs more input from the members it is supposed to serve. For example how about submitting an abstract of your latest paper, or of your upcoming talk; or how you plan to spend the summer, who is visiting from where, and things like that. Send your contributions for the Winter Edition by October 15, 1992 to the Editor (note his new e-mail address)

Eugene Tomer
1691 -11th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
Tel/Fax: (415) 665-9555
etomer@netcom.com (new e-mail address)

Or, if you prefer, you may send them to the Chair of the Activity Group

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cfd5z@virginia.edu

Even if there is no news, let us hear from you anyway. You may be in good company.

Titles of Interest from SIAM

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Orthogonal Polynomials and Special Functions

Richard Askey

CBMS-NSF Regional Conference Series in Applied Mathematics 21

Originally presented as lectures, the theme of this volume is that one studies orthogonal polynomials and special functions not for their own sake, but to be able to use them to solve problems.

1975 / vii + 110 pages / Softcover / ISBN 0-89871-018-9

List Price \$21.50 / SIAM AG Price \$15.05 / Order Code CB21

The Theory of Best Approximation and Functional Analysis

Ivan Singer

CBMS-NSF Regional Conference Series in Applied Mathematics 13

Presents results and problems in the modern theory of best approximation, which constitutes both a unified foundation for the classical theory of best approximation and a powerful tool for obtaining new results.

1974 / vii + 95 pages / Softcover / ISBN 0-89871-010-3

List Price \$18.00 / SIAM AG Price \$12.60 / Order Code CB13

Problems in Applied Mathematics: Selections from SIAM Review

Edited by Murray S. Klamkin

1990 / xxv + 588 pages / Softcover / ISBN 0-89871-259-9

List Price \$36.50 / SIAM AG Price \$25.55 / Order Code OT20

Solitons and the Inverse Scattering Transform

Mark J. Ablowitz and Harvey Segur

SIAM Studies in Applied Mathematics 4

1981 / x + 425 pages / Hardcover / ISBN 0-89871-174-6

List Price \$66.00 / SIAM AG Price \$46.20 / Order Code AM04

Lie-Bäcklund Transformation in Applications

Robert L. Anderson and Nail H. Ibragimov

SIAM Studies in Applied Mathematics 1

1979 / x + 124 pages / Hardcover / ISBN 0-89871-151-7

List Price \$24.00 / SIAM AG Price \$16.80 / Order Code AM01

Methods for Solving Systems of Nonlinear Equations

Werner C. Rheinboldt

CBMS-NSF Regional Conference Series in Applied Mathematics 14

1974 / ix + 104 pages / Softcover / ISBN 0-89871-011-1

List Price \$18.00 / SIAM AG Price \$12.60 / Order Code CB14

Sinc Methods for Quadrature and Differential Equations

John Lund and Kenneth L. Bowers

Here is an elementary development of the Sinc-Galerkin method with the focal point being ordinary and partial differential equations. This is the first book to explain this powerful computational method for treating differential equations.

1992 / x + 304 pages / Hardcover / ISBN 0-89871-298-X

List Price \$42.50 / SIAM AG Price \$34.00 / Order Code OT32

Spline Models for Observational Data

Grace Wahba

CBMS-NSF Regional Conference Series in Applied Mathematics 59

An introduction into the more theoretical aspects of the use of spline models. It develops a theory and practice for the estimation of functions from noisy data on functionals.

1990 / xii + 169 pages / Softcover / ISBN 0-89871-244-0

List Price \$24.75 / SIAM AG Price \$19.80 / Order Code CB59

ICIAM 91: Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Edited by Robert E. O'Malley, Jr.

Proceedings in Applied Mathematics 61

1992 / xvii + 391 pages / Hardcover / ISBN 0-89871-302-1

List Price \$61.50 / SIAM AG Price \$49.20 / Order Code PR61

Multivariate Splines

Charles K. Chui

CBMS-NSF Regional Conference Series in Applied Mathematics 54

1988 / v + 189 pages / Softcover / ISBN 0-89871-226-2

List Price \$21.00 / SIAM AG Price \$16.80 / Order Code CB54

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