RECENT MATHEMATICAL TABLES


Of the 56 tables in this volume we shall give only brief indications of the titles of the first 52. These are as follows: I–II, Common logarithms of numbers, and of the circular functions; III–V, Natural sines, cosines, tangents, cotangents; VI, Stadia reductions; VII, Elevations above sea level from barometric readings; VIII, Coefficients for temperature corrections, barometric; IX–X, Conversion of meters to feet and feet to meters; XI, Conversion of seconds of latitude and longitude to feet; XII, Tables of S; XIII, Conversion of decimals of a day to hours; XIV, Inclination corrections for 50 meter tape; XV, Curvature and refraction; XVI, Corrections for vertical angles; XVII, Common logarithms of m, spherical excess factor; XVIII, Azimuths of Polaris at elongation, 1940–1950; XIX, Conversion of arc into time, and time into arc; XX, Standard time signals; XXI, Mean astrometric refraction, with corrections; XXII, Parallax and altitude of the sun; XXIII–XXIV, Conversion of mean time to sidereal time, and of sidereal time to mean time; XXV, Arc-sin corrections for inverse position computations; XXVI, Conversion of degrees Centigrade to degrees Fahrenheit, and degrees Fahrenheit to degrees Centigrade; XXVII, Common logarithms of versed sines and external secants; XXVIII, Natural versed sines and external secants; XXIX, Methods of expressing gradients; XXX, Conversion of arc of arc into minutes, and minutes into arc; XXXI, Conversion of seconds of latitude and longitude to feet; XXXII, Table of S; XXXIII, Conversion of arc into time, and time into arc; XXXIV, Radii and their logarithms; XXXV, Tangent offsets and middle ordinates; XXXVI, Tangents and externals for 1° curves; XXXIX, Corrections for tangents and externals; XXXXVIII, Long chords and actual arcs; XXXIX, Corrections for subchord lengths; XL, Circumferences and areas of circles; XLI, Squares, cubes, square roots, cube roots; XLII, Conversion of inches and sixteenths to decimals of a foot; XLIII, Conversions of sixteenths of an inch to decimals of an inch; XLIV, Conversion of sixteenths of an inch to decimals of a foot; XLV, Map scales in English measure and metric units; XLVI, Minutes into decimals of a degree; XLVII, Useful constants and formulae; XLVIII, The Greek alphabet; XLIX, Long chords and actual arcs for unit radius; L, Reduction of geographic azimuth to grid azimuth; LI, Ageton table for meridian determinations; LII, Common logarithms of circular functions in hundredths of a degree.

The next four tables involve mils. Table LIII gives the logarithms, to 5D, of sine, cosine, tangent, cotangent, for every mil of the quadrant. Tables LIV–LV give natural values, to 5D, of these same functions, for the same range. Table LVI is for conversion of degrees to mils, and mils to degrees.

The supplement gives one correction in Table II, and 48 in Table LIII. Also two pages to replace two of the four pages of the table of Natural tangents and cotangents in mils.

The supplement calculated by Andoyer to which reference has earlier been made (MTAC, p. 39, 84) may be noted once more, Service Géographique de l’Armée. Tables de Logarithmes à cinq Décimales pour les nombres de 1 à 12 000, et pour les Lignes Trigonométriques dans le Système de la Division de la Circumference en 64 000 parties égales (dixièmes du millième de l’artillerie). Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1916; with differences and proportional parts.

See also the description (MTAC, p. 40) of punched cards for the six natural trigonometric functions, to 5D, for every tenth of a mil in the quadrant. Also RMT 126. In 1942 A. W. Tucker published a sheet of four-place tables, for each 10 mils, of the six logarithmic and natural trigonometric functions.

This volume contains merely a single page of Introduction; Table I, coordinate conversion tables (p. 2–321); and Table II, eight-place table of sines and cosines of angles expressed in mils (p. 322–337). Table I gives the values of $A \sin x$ and $A \cos x$, where $x$ is in mils, a mil being defined as one-sixteenth hundredth of a right angle. $A = 1(1)100$ units, 50 units (and 10 mils) to a page. With left-hand pages giving $A \sin x$ and right-hand pages $A \cos x$, four pages are therefore required for each 10 mils, and hence 320 for the quadrant. The table is to 4D. If the straight line to a point 7654 yards distant make an angle of 81 mils with a line of reference a coordinate of the point, such as $A \cos x$, is found as 7629.81 ($7600 \cos 81 + 54 \cos 81 = 7575.98 + 53.83$). The result will be correct to within a unit in the second decimal place. When higher accuracy is required, Table II may be used, since this gives, to 8D, the values of sines and cosines, with first differences, for every mil in the quadrant. Identically the same second differences are given at the bottom of each of the pages 322–337 of the table, whereas it is only correct for page 332. This fact is undoubtedly due to the unscientific methods of the Government printer rather than to the personnel of the Mathematical Tables Project. *Note added in proof:* The necessary correction sheets (TM 4–238 Cl, 3 p.) were issued in August, 1943.


Since details of this excellent work have already been given (see RMT 88), it will now simply be noted that in this edition a correction has been made on p. 224. The gear ratio of the decimal equivalent .4737 is 9/19, instead of 9/10 given in previous editions.


The prefaces to the first and second editions, by Andreev, occupy p. 3–7, while a statement of the purpose and description of the tables is on p. 8–13. The Table (p. 14–733) is for percentages 1%(1%)240%, and for numbers 100(1)999. Results are given to 1D. Each page of the Table is arranged in 30 horizontal lines (for percentages) and 10 vertical columns (for numbers), so that the whole range of 240 percentages occupies 8 pages for each ten numbers, and therefore the complete set of tables occupies $90 \times 8 = 720$ pages. Moreover, on each page there are two tables of proportional parts, for percentages on the left margin, and for numbers on the right margin, the latter being subdivided into three sections, for 10 horizontal lines each. There were 10 000 copies in this edition.

The volume may obviously also be viewed as another Russian table for obtaining the product of two numbers. Compare N. 16.

S. A. Joffe

125[C, D].—J. T. Peters, *Siebenstellige Logarithmentafel. I: Logarithmen der Zahlen, Antilogarithmen, Additions- und Subtractionslogarithmen nebst einem Anhang mit Formeln und Konstanten;* and II: *Logarithmen der trigonometrischen Funktionen für jede zehnte Sekunde des Neugrades, log \sin und log tg von 0°.0000 bis 3°.0000, sowie log cos und log ctg von 97°.0000 bis 100°.0000 für jede Sekunde (1°° = 0°.0001) des Neugrades.* Berlin,
Reichsamt für Landesaufnahme, 1940, 2 v.; vii, 493, and vi, 666 p. 17.2 × 26 cm. 33.50 marks and 45.00 marks.

The second volume of mathematical tables by Peters was (in collaboration with Bau-

schinger) an Eight-place Table of the Logarithms of all Numbers from 1 to 200 000 (1910, revised ed., 1936); proportional parts were given throughout. The three principal eight-

place tables of logarithms of numbers previously published were those of (1) John Newton, London, 1658, for numbers up to 100 000; (2) Service Géographique de l'Armée, abridged from the Tables du Cadastre (see MTAC, p. 34, 85), Paris, 1891, up to 120 000; (3) Mendizábal Tamborrel, Paris, 1891, up to 125 000 (see MTAC, p. 40). The Bau-

schinger-Peters volume naturally superseded all of these. This table was followed in 1922 by a work of Peters alone, namely a Ten-place Table of the Logarithms of all Numbers from 1 to 100 000. From this last volume the present Seven-Place Table has been prepared.

Except for 99 numbers the abridgement was readily effected. For 96 of these numbers the correct seven-place values were determined by consulting a twelve-place manuscript table containing the logarithms of numbers from 1 to 100 000 with an error of at most a unit in the twelfth place; this manuscript was already used in preparing the above mentioned work of 1910. The three remaining doubtful cases were recalculated and a table of the logarithms of the numbers 1 to 100 000 was completed, with no error in the seventh place as much as 0.5. The formula used by Peters for calculating the logarithm of primes, was the rapidly converging series

\[
\log x = \frac{1}{2} \log (x + 1) + \frac{1}{2} \log (x - 1) + M \left( \frac{1}{2x^2 - 1} + \frac{1}{3(2x^2 - 1)} + \cdots \right).
\]

While this table will be of value it should be borne in mind that no seven-place table has been published to supersede the work of 73 years ago by Edward Sang, A New Table of Seven-Place Logarithms of all Numbers from 20 000 to 200 000, London, Layton, 1871 (final printing 1915). Its preparation was based on a Sang fifteen-place manuscript of the logarithms of all numbers to 370 000, now in the Library of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The second section (p. 187–387) of the first volume under review contains a Seven-place Table of the Antilogarithms of numbers or seven-place numbers for the mantissas 00 000 to 99 999. As the basis of his calculations Peters used the work of Holger Prytz, Tables d'Anti-Logarithmes, published by the Royal Academy of Sciences of Copenhagen in 1886. It contains fifteen-place antilogarithms for mantissas 000(001)999. Peters finally developed a twelve-place antilogarithm table, with mantissas 00 000(00 001)99 999, in which the error in the seventh place was always less than 0.502. In preparing his seven-place table with an error in the seventh place less than 0.5 in every case, comparison was made with R. Shortrede's seven-place table of antilogarithms which is the second table in his Logarithmic Tables to Seven Places of Decimals, Edinburgh, 1844. There were other editions of this table but none of them, apparently, in the year 1854 which Peters gives.

The prefaces of Peters often contain interesting material, and the present one is no exception when he introduces matters now presented. One of the principally used logarithmic tables making possible the determination of both the logarithm of a number and the number corresponding to a given logarithm, exhibits also a table of antilogarithms in the solution of both problems. Why, it may be asked, does one then still calculate a table of antilogarithms? As principal reason for this, Peters remarks, we present the following: The differences of a table of antilogarithms are only about half as large as the differences of an ordinary table of logarithms. H. Bruns writes about this in his Grundlinien des wissenschaftlichen Rechnens (Leipzig, 1903) p. 49: "For these reasons it were indeed very much more to the point to tabulate, not the logarithm but the inverse function 'Number x = 10^x.' In the usual seven-place arrangement for log x the first differences run from 43 to 435, and the group of three-figure differences amounts to 48%. In the corresponding tabulation of the Number one would have on the contrary the differences running from 22 to 231, and the total of the three-figure differences is less than 37%, while the extent of the table has only increased from 180 to 200 pages." A further advantage of employing tables of antilogarithms lies in the fact
that one may more readily determine the number corresponding to a given logarithm with an antilogarithmic table than with a logarithmic.

The third section (p. 389-474) of the first volume is devoted to Tables of Addition and Subtraction Logarithms. For the calculation of these the fundamental tables were those of M. H. Andoyer, "Tables fondamentales pour les logarithmes d'addition et de soustraction," Bull. Astronomique, s. 2, v. 2, 1922, p. 5-32. They give sixteen-place values of $A$ and $S$, for $D = 0.00(0.01)9.00$. (Compare RMT 116). With this as a basis Peters developed ten-place tables for $A$ with $D = 0.0000(0.0001)6.94$; and for $S$ with $D = 0.3000(0.0001)6.94$. The corresponding seven-place tables made from these had an error less than 0.502 in the seventh place. The final checking to assure that no error in the seventh place was as much as half a unit was carried through by G. Witt, who had made an important contribution to the Anhang of Peters and Stein in Peters' Zehnstellige Logarithmentafel, v. 1.

If $D = \log a - \log b$, and $\log a > \log b$, from the $A$ table, p. 389-134, is found $\log (a + b) = \log a + A$.

In connection with the $S$ table, p. 435-474, there are two cases. When $D > 0.3000$, $\log (a - b) = \log a - S$. If, however, $\log a - \log b < 0.3000$, set $\log a - \log b = S$ and find the $D$ corresponding to $S$ in the $S$ table, then is $\log (a - b) = \log a - D$.

At the top of every page of the first of the four tables to which we have referred is $\log N$; of the corresponding pages of the second table, $N$; of the third table, $A$; and of the fourth table, $S$. In the right-hand columns of all of the pages are differences, $d$, and at the bottoms of the pages, proportional parts.

The final section of the first volume (p. 475-493) is devoted to an admirable collection of Formulas and Constants [goniometry (higher trigonometry); series; plane and spherical trigonometry; solutions of quadratic, cubic and linear simultaneous equations; theory of errors].

The second volume contains seven-place tables of the logarithms of the trigonometric functions, sine, tangent, cotangent, cosine, for each $0^\circ.001$. (Compare MTAC, p. 33-39). As basis for preparation of this table Peters used his Ten-place Table of the Logarithm of the Trigonometric functions from $0^\circ$ to $90^\circ$ for each $0^\circ.001$. Since $0^\circ.01 = 0^\circ.009$ he took every ninth value from the ten-place table and then inserted in each interval $0^\circ.01$ nine new values at intervals $0^\circ.001$. Thus a ten-place table was made for values of $\log \cos 0^\circ.000$ to $\log \cos 50^\circ.000$, $\log \tan 3^\circ.000$ to $\log \tan 50^\circ.000$ and $\log \sin 3^\circ.000$ to $\log \sin 50^\circ.000$ for each thousandth of a grade, or for each tenth centesimal second. The range $0^\circ.000$ to $\cos 3^\circ.000$ receives special treatment where tables of the usual $S = \log (\sin w/\cos w)$ and $T = \log (\tan w/\cos w)$ are introduced for determining $\log \sin w = S + \log w$ and $\log \tan w = T - \log w$, $w$ being in grade units. The preparation of the ten-place table of $S$ and $T$ called for twelve-place calculation. The still missing value for each log cot was at once written down by simply subtracting the corresponding value of $\log \tan$ from ten.

The next step was to derive from this manuscript a seven-place table in which the error in the seventh decimal would be at most 0.005 of a unit. In seeking out all the doubtful values, comparison was made with the eight-place table derived from the tables du cadastre, namely: Tables des Logarithmes à huit Décimales des Nombres entiers de 1 à 120 000 et des Sineus et Tangentes de dix Secondes en dix Secondes d'Arc dans le Système de la Division Centésimale du Quadrant, Paris, 1891. In this extraordinarily correct table Peters found only two errors, the first of which he states as follows: $\log \sin 25^\circ.830 = 9.596 26245$, should be $9.596 26245'$, so that $\log \sin 25^\circ.830 = 9.596 2624$. The second error noted, in $\log \cot 34^\circ.536$, is one of those published in 1891 by Mendizábal Tamborrel, and reprinted in MTAC, p. 85.

This table occupies p. 136-665. Proportional parts are at the bottoms of the pages throughout. The pages 1-133 are occupied with a seven-place table of $\log \sin w$ and $\log \tan w$, for the range $w = 0^\circ.0000$ to $w = 3^\circ.0000$, for each centesimal second. G. Witt was again a calculator for this volume. It does not seem as if the typographical display of either volume could have been improved.

The preface of the first volume is dated Berlin, February, 1940; and of the second, July, 1940. These volumes were received at the Copyright Office of Library of Congress on June 12, and December 3, 1940, respectively. There are film copies in the Library of Brown
University. We have yet to learn whether or not the marvellous Peters published one or more other volumes in the final year of his life.

R. C. A.

126[D].—Applied Mathematics Panel, National Defense Research Committee, Tables of Trigonometric Functions to five significant figures and for every tenth of a mil, AMP Report no. 24.1, September, 1943. x, 320 p. 21.2 × 27.4. Printed by the photo-offset process from manuscript. This volume is only available to members of the Panel.

This table for every tenth of a mil in the quadrant (6400 mils = 360°), gives the values for sine (5D), tangent (5D), cotangent (4D), and cosine (5D), on left-hand pages, and for secant (5D), cotangent (5D), cotangent (4D), cosecant (4D) on right-hand pages. The table is based on original calculations and is the most extensive table yet published of the natural trigonometric functions with the mil as argument; compare RMT 121, 122. Such tables are of importance in ballistics.

The preparation of this table was started with values of trigonometric functions, taken from Peters' Seven-Place Values of Trigonometric Functions for every Thousandth of a Degree (see RMT 79) at intervals of 4 mils = .225 degrees from 0° to 45°. With interpolations a five-place table was obtained for sin x, cos x, tan x, and cot x, at intervals of one mil. The values of tenths of mils were obtained by linear interpolation from the values at intervals of one mil. Among formulae used was sec x = cos(1 + tan2 x). In making a final revision the Mathematical Tables Project of New York computed sin x and cos x for x = [0(1)200; 8D] where x is expressed in mils. These were then subtabulated (using linear interpolation) for tenth-mil intervals. Values of cot x, cot x, and csc x were then obtained directly by division. These five functions were then rounded off to five decimal places and punched into International Business Machines cards. And so on, with numerous checks, I. B. M. equipment being used throughout.

R. C. A.

127[D].—Hans Hof, Seven Place Full Natural Trigonometric Tables, [v. 1] Sine, [v. 2] Tangent, [v. 3] Cosine, [v. 4] Cotangent, Ann Arbor, Mich., Box 470, University Research Assoc., 1943. Each volume contains 184 p. (including the title page). 21.1 × 27.9 cm. $4.00 per v. The v. numbers indicate merely the order of publication; v. 4 will not be published before next month.

On the back of each title page is "copyright 1943 By Hans Hof," and on the opposite page of each volume is the following: "All values have been checked carefully and found correct within approximately one point in the last or seventh place. To insure this and the many values given, this book has been lithoprinted from the original. The author and publisher will appreciate any notification of errors." In no volume is there any other text.

The three volumes contain 552 pages of tables of the natural sines, cosines, and tangents, to 7D, for every second of the quadrant. Thus each page is devoted to 15 minutes, and the table runs from the bottom to the top of each page, the volume being turned sideways for use. Under each minute are the values of the functions for 0′′ followed by twelve solid groups of 35 figures for each 5 seconds. Exceptions to this statement occur in the first five or six degrees of the sine and tangent volumes where only some of the required zeros were typed, or inserted by hand, in the manuscript reproduced; there is no uniformity of procedure in this regard. For the most part, in the sine and cosine volumes, the decimal point occurs only before the first and last numbers of each column, but where zeros are inserted at random, a decimal point is usually placed before them. In the tangent volume decimal points are scattered indiscriminately over the page. There are a number of cases in top and bottom lines where the decimal points are missing. There are no rulings and the top and bottom margins of each page are less than half an inch wide. In general the
printing is clear but there is great variation between dark and light on different pages, or even on the same page. Not a few figures are blurred or indistinct, but the context usually indicates what they must be. One of several places where this is not the case (in the reviewer’s copy at least) is at \( \sin 66^\circ 24' 11'' \).

The arrangement of the sine-cosine volumes, for example, is the very inconvenient one of Gifford’s table, even though this form is especially in demand in optical establishments. Throughout these two volumes, the sines always occur at the tops of the pages, \( 0^\circ - 89^\circ \), and the seconds, \( 0'' - 60'' \) in the extreme left-hand columns. Thus the sines and cosines of the same angles must be sought in different places. The curiously titled v. 1 and v. 3 will naturally be bound together.

The author has not responded to the editors’ request for information as to his method of computing or compiling his tables. Do they involve any original calculations whatever? Or were they, perhaps, the result of merely rounding off values in volumes of Gifford (see MTAC, p. 9), or in the volume of Peters (see RMT 78, and 128)? There is evidence against the Peters surmise, since a test sample led to so many differently rounded values.

This is the first printed seven-place table of these functions for every sexagesimal second of arc. During the last five years at least, the British Nautical Almanac Office has been in possession of a completed manuscript of such tables, with the cotangent, prepared by Peters and Comrie. It is most earnestly hoped that the Director of the Nautical Almanac may see his way clear to arrange for publication of this manuscript at an early date.

Hof's work was published in this country almost simultaneously with the American edition of the Peters-Comrie volume of Eight-place Table of the Trigonometric Functions for every sexagesimal Second of the Quadrant (see N 6 and RMT 128). The latter publication is of proved accuracy to the last decimal place, and it is admirably arranged and printed. Unit errors in the seventh places of Hof’s tables are readily shown to be extremely numerous, the whole work is very poorly printed and ill arranged, and the price is decidedly excessive.

R. C. A.


The original of this work, as well as the British War Office reprint, has been already reviewed in MTAC, p. 11–12, 65. At the latter reference, last April, we urged “most strongly” that the Alien Property Custodian arrange for the reproduction of this great work of Peters and Comrie. For, it would then be available not only for scientific workers in this country but also for our British friends, since copies of their War Office reproduction can not be procured by those not in Government employ. It is therefore with satisfaction that we greet this October publication.

The 901 pages of the table are reproduced exactly as in the original. The new title-page is indicated above; to the copyright notice on the back of the title-page has now been added, “Copyright vested in the Alien Property Custodian, 1943, pursuant to law.” Instead of the original German we now have an English Preface and an English Introduction, each occupying a single page. These exact translations from the German were prepared by Mr. L. J. Comrie, although there is no reference to this fact in the volume; the wording is naturally quite different from that of the corresponding parts of the War Office edition.

The type page and side margins are just as large as in the original, but the height of the volume has been reduced by more than half an inch. In turning over the 900 pages the reviewer did not notice more than about a score of places where the figures were blurred or indistinct, and in not more than four of these cases was it impossible to guess what the
numbers must be. The green buckram binding, with inked title on the back, is stronger than that of the original. There were 1000 copies in the present edition.

Of course the publishers do not intentionally mislead when they advertise that the work was published in 1939 at $24.00, because it was priced at 60.00 Marks. Any member of the American Mathematical Society, however, and many others, could have bought this volume for $15.00, plus transportation charges. Of the four copies of this work which I know of reaching America, the cost, apart from the one sent to Library of Congress for copyright purposes, was less than $18.00 a copy. The cost of reproducing such a large work must be considerable. But might not the return to the publishers have been greater if it had been listed at $12.00? However that may be, there can be no doubt as to the importance of having this publication available at the present time.

R. C. A.

129[I, K].—R. L. Anderson and E. E. Houseman, Tables of Orthogonal Polynomial Values Extended to $N = 104$, Ames, Iowa, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, 1942. 14.4 X 22.2 cm. (Research Bulletin 297, p. 593–672, Agricultural Experiment Station, Statistical Section.)

The orthogonal polynomials considered in this Bulletin are

$$
\xi_1 = \lambda_0 \xi_0 = \lambda_0 [1], \quad \xi_2 = \lambda_1 \xi_1 = \lambda_1 \left\{ x - \frac{n + 1}{2} \right\},
$$

$$
\xi_3 = \lambda_2 \xi_2 = \lambda_2 \left\{ \xi_1^2 - \frac{n^2 - 1}{12} \right\}, \quad \xi_4 = \lambda_3 \xi_3 = \lambda_3 \left\{ \xi_1^3 - \frac{3n^2 - 7}{20} \xi_1 \right\},
$$

(1)

$$
\xi_5 = \lambda_4 \xi_4 = \lambda_4 \left\{ \xi_1^4 - \frac{3n^2 - 13}{14} \xi_1^2 + \frac{3(n^2 - 1)(n^2 - 9)}{560} \right\},
$$

$$
\xi_6 = \lambda_5 \xi_5 = \lambda_5 \left\{ \xi_1^5 - \frac{5(n^2 - 7)}{18} \xi_1^3 + \frac{15n^4 - 230n^2 + 407}{1008} \xi_1 \right\},
$$

where $x$ is a variable which takes the values 1, 2, 3, ..., $n$, and the $\lambda_r$, which depend on $n$, (except for $\lambda_0 = 1$), are so chosen that the values of the $\xi_r$ ($r = 1, 2, \ldots, 5$), corresponding to the $n$ values of $x$ are integers reduced to lowest terms. For example, taking $n = 4$, the values of $\xi_2$ corresponding to $x = 1, 2, 3, 4$ are $-3/10, 9/10, -9/10, 3/10$, respectively, so that by choosing $\lambda_1 = 10/3$ the corresponding values of $\xi_3'$ are $-1, 3, -3, 1$, respectively. It is clear that $\lambda_1 = 1$ or 2 according as $n$ is odd or even. If $x$ takes any sequence of equispaced values $x_1, x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_n$, then $\xi_1$ can be defined by

$$
\xi_1 = \left[ x - \frac{x_1 + x_n}{2} \right] / (x_2 - x_1)
$$

and the $\xi_1'$ are then given by equations (1) in terms of this variable. It is evident that $x$ can be assumed to take the values 1, 2, ..., $n$ without loss of generality.

The principal use of these orthogonal polynomials is in fitting a polynomial in $x$ by the method of least squares. Let $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n$ denote the values of a variable $y$ corresponding to the values 1, 2, ..., $n$, respectively, of a variable $x$, and let these values of $y$ be of equal precision, that is, let $\sigma$ be the standard deviation of $y_1$ for $x = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. If the polynomial

$$(2) \quad Y = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \cdots + a_k x^k, \quad (k < n - 1)$$

is to be fitted to these data by the method of least squares, the $a$'s can be evaluated by solving simultaneously the $k + 1$ normal equations

$$
\Sigma x^j y_2 = a_0 \Sigma x^j + a_1 \Sigma x^{j+1} + \cdots + a_k \Sigma x^{j+k}, \quad (j = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, k)
$$

where $\Sigma$ denotes summation over $x = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. The sums of powers up to the $2k$th of
the natural numbers are required, and the solution of these equations can be very laborious, especially when \( k \geq 3 \) and \( n \) is large. However, if \( Y \) is expressed as

\[
Y = A_0 \xi_0' + A_1 \xi_1' + \cdots + A_k \xi_k'
\]

where \( \xi_0', \xi_1', \cdots, \xi_k' \) are polynomials of degree 0, 1, 2, \cdots, \( k \) in \( x \), respectively, and possessing the orthogonal property

\[
\begin{align*}
\sum_x \xi_r' \xi_s' &= 0 \quad \text{for } r \neq s \\
\sum_x (\xi_r')^2 &= 0,
\end{align*}
\]

then the normal equations for the \( A_r \)'s, namely,

\[
\sum_x x^r \cdot y_2 = A_0 \sum_x \xi_0' \xi_1' + A_1 \sum_x \xi_1' \xi_2' + \cdots + A_k \sum_x \xi_k' \xi_0',
\]

reduce to

\[
\sum_x \xi_r' \cdot y_2 = A_r \sum_x (\xi_r')^2, 
\]

and the determination of the \( A_r \)'s is greatly simplified, especially when \( Y \) is expressed as

\[
(4) \quad Y = A_0 \xi_0' + A_1 \xi_1' + \cdots + A_k \xi_k'
\]

for the \( A_r \)'s, namely,

\[
(5) \quad \sum_x \xi_r' \cdot y_2 = A_r \sum_x (\xi_r')^2, \quad (r = 0, 1, 2, \cdots, k),
\]

reduce to

\[
(6) \quad \sum_x \xi_r' \cdot y_2 = A_r \sum_x (\xi_r')^2, \quad (r = 0, 1, 2, \cdots, k),
\]

and of the values of \( \sum_x (\xi_r')^2 \), than have been available heretofore

The first fifteen pages of this Bulletin are devoted to methods of calculation and use, and to references cited. The tables begin on p. 610, and for \( n = 3(1)104 \) give the exact values of \( \xi_r' \) to \( \xi_t \) (or, to \( \xi_r \) for \( n \equiv 5 \)) corresponding to \( x = \frac{n}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \) (1)n, or \( x = \frac{n}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \) (1)n, according as \( n \) is even or odd; when \( n < 9 \), the full set of values for \( x = 1(1)n \) is given.

This abridged tabulation is made possible by the fact that for \( x = \frac{n}{2} + m \) the values of \( \xi_2 \) are equal, and also of \( \xi_4 \); similarly \( \xi_2', \xi_4' \), and \( \xi_6' \) assume values which are of opposite sign. The value of \( \sum_x (\xi_r')^2 \) and of \( \lambda_r \), is given for each value of \( n \) and \( r \) below the corresponding column of values of \( \xi_r' \).

The portion of these tables for \( n = 3(1)52 \) is a reproduction, with some variation of format, of Table XXIII in R. A. Fisher and F. Yates, Statistical Tables for Biological, Agricultural and Medical Research, Edinburgh, 1938, and contains the erratum noted in MTE 9, p. 86, namely, the sum of \( (\xi_r')^2 \) for \( r = 39 \) should read “4,496,388” and not “496,388” as tabulated. This error has been corrected in the second edition (1943) of the source table.

P. L. Chebyshev\(^1\) considered the determination of such polynomials for the general case where the \( y \)'s are of varying weight and \( x \) takes any set of \( n \) distinct values. For the case where \( x \) takes any \( n \) equispaced values Chebyshev listed\(^2\) polynomials \( \varphi_0, \varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3, \varphi_4, \varphi_5 \), satisfying (5) and gave\(^3\) a recurrence formula relating \( \varphi_r \) to \( \varphi_{r-1}, \varphi_{r-2}, \) and \( \varphi_1 \) for \( r \geq 2 \). In consequence polynomials satisfying (5) are sometimes referred to as Chebyshev polynomials, but this terminology is reserved, by specialists in orthogonal polynomials, for another set of orthogonal polynomials which he investigated also.\(^4\)

Much later the subject was treated independently by F. Esscher,\(^4\) by C. Jordan,\(^6\) and by R. A. Fisher.\(^6\) Fisher gave explicit expressions\(^6\) for polynomials \( \xi_0, \xi_1, \xi_2, \cdots, \xi_5 \) when the \( y \)'s are of equal weight and \( x \) takes any equispaced values, which become the expressions in braces in (1) when \( x \) takes the values 1, 2, \cdots, \( n \). The coefficients of \( x_r \) in \( \xi \) are always unity. Miss F. E. Allan\(^8\) pointed out that Fisher's \( \xi_r \) are related to Chebyshev's \( \varphi_r \) by

\[
(8) \quad \xi_r = \frac{r!}{(2r)!} \varphi_r, \quad (r = 0, 1, 2, \cdots).
\]
Making this substitution in Chebyshev's recurrence formula and advancing the subscript to \( r + 1 \) it follows that

\[
\xi_{r+1} = \xi_r + \frac{r^2(n^2 - r^2)}{4(n^2 - 1)} \xi_{r-1}.
\]

Miss Allan, using equation (11) below, has provided a simple proof of this recurrence formula. It has been used in the preparation of this Bulletin to find the values of \( \xi_{r+1} \) for \( x = 1, 2, \ldots, n \) from the corresponding values of \( \xi_r \) and \( \xi_{r-1} \). The value of \( \lambda_{r+1} \) was then determined and the \( \xi_{r+1} \) values obtained from \( \lambda_{r+1} = \frac{\xi_{r+1}}{\xi_{r-1}} \).

Starting from Chebyshev's expression of \( \varphi_r \) as proportional to the \( r^{th} \) difference of the product

\[
x(x - 1)(x - 2) \cdots (x - r + 1)(x - n)(x - n - 1) \cdots (x - n - r + 1),
\]

Miss Allan derived two general formulae (p. 316 and p. 319) for \( \xi_r \), the latter being given in the third and subsequent editions of Fisher's book, and she tabulated the polynomials \( \xi_r \) up to \( \xi_n \). The corresponding general formulae have been derived by A. C. Aitken for the polynomials

\[
T_r = \frac{(2r)!}{(r)!^2} \xi_r = \varphi_r / (r)!^4, \quad (r = 0, 1, 2, \ldots),
\]

the values of which are always integers for \( x = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, n \). Aitken also gave procedures for building up the polynomial values from terminal values and differences. These procedures have been used by the authors of this Bulletin to check the values of \( \xi_r \) obtained by means of the recurrence relation (9).

Chebyshev obtained a formula for \( \Sigma \varphi_r \xi_r^2 \), which in terms of the \( \xi_r \) becomes

\[
\Sigma \xi_r^2 = \frac{(r)!^4}{(2r)! (2r + 1)!} (n + r)(n + r - 1) \cdots (n + 1)n(n - 1) \cdots (n - r) = \frac{(r)!^4}{(2r)! (2r + 1)!} n(n^2 - 1^2)(n^2 - 2^2) \cdots (n^2 - r^2), \quad (r = 0, 1, 2, \ldots).
\]

This formula is derived directly by Miss Allan, and the corresponding formula for the \( T_r \) is derived by Aitken. A modification of this formula was used by the authors of this Bulletin to compute the values of \( \Sigma \xi_r \xi_r^2 \) given in the tables.

The reviewer has been surprised to notice that the authors of this Bulletin do not even mention Chebyshev, whose contributions to the subject are clearly indicated in the papers by Allan and Chebyshev which they cite.

C. Eisenhart

**RECENT MATHEMATICAL TABLES**

130[I, K].—Truman Lee Kelley (1884- ), *The Kelley Statistical Tables*, New York, Macmillan, 1938, v, 136 p. 21.5 × 27.8 cm. $4.50.

This book contains six different statistical tables, of which the first is the largest and most important.

Table I. The area (p) under the normal curve is given by

\[ p = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt \]

and its ordinate (z) by

\[ z = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-t^2} \]

Equation (1) may be inverted to yield x as a function of p. This inverse function x(p) is called by statisticians the normal deviate corresponding to the probability level p. If x(p) is substituted in equation (2) the ordinate z becomes a function, z(p), of the area p to which it is the boundary ordinate.

The table gives, in parallel columns with argument p, the functions x(p), z(p) and the algebraical expressions \( \sqrt{pq} \), \( \sqrt{1-p^2} \) and \( \sqrt{1-q^2} \), where \( q = 1-p \). All five functions are tabulated for \( p = [0.5000 \! (0.0001) \! 0.9999; 8D] \). The complementary argument q (which statisticians call the complementary probability level) is given in the right-hand column. No differences are given. The table covers 100 well-printed pages of convenient size; the layout is good, although we should have preferred the eight decimals divided into the more conventional groups of five and three, rather than four and four.

Most tables of the normal curve—e.g. (a), (c), (h) and (l)—give p and z as functions of x. The inverted form of normal deviates x(p) is fairly common in statistical usage; see, for example, (b), (g) and (j), but the ordinate z as a function of the probability p has little or no application, although it is given in (j). Kondo and Elderton’s 10-decimal normal deviates x(p), which are also given in (j) for p = 0.5000(0.001)0.9999, formed the starting-point of the present tables. Both (j) and Kelley’s Tables go beyond the present-day requirements of users; four-decimal accuracy in x and z is all that is wanted for most applications. The fine interval of 0.0001 in p is certainly a convenience for some problems such as the calculation of probits (d)1 in toxicology, but for statistical routine work of the nature of tests of significance a three-decimal (if not a two-decimal) argument is all that is required; the one-page tables given in (b) and (g) are handier to use.

The functions \( \sqrt{pq} \), \( \sqrt{1-p^2} \) and \( \sqrt{1-q^2} \) are entirely independent of the columns x and z. The author states that he has included them in the same table simply because the requisite arguments were available. The functions \( \sqrt{1-p^2} \) and \( \sqrt{1-q^2} \) are important in correlation work, particularly when partial correlations have to be computed from correlations of the next lower order from formulae such as

\[ r_{12\cdot k} = \frac{r_{12} - r_{13}r_{23}}{\sqrt{(1-r_{12}^2)(1-r_{23}^2)}}. \]

The function \( \sqrt{pq} \) is useful in work with the binomial distribution, in particular for the calculation of standard deviation \( \sqrt{pq}/\sqrt{N} \) of a percentage p based on a sample of N observations. When \( \sqrt{Npq} \) is required, it is often more convenient to multiply q by the integer Np (the observed number having a certain characteristic) and use a table of square roots.

Table II is a small 2-page table of the incomplete T-function, known to statisticians as the probability integral P of the statistic \( x^2 \) (i) (k), and given by

\[ P = \frac{2^{rac{n}{2}}}{(\frac{n}{2} - 1)!} \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} x^{n-1} e^{-x^2} dx. \]

Four decimals are given for \( P \), while the parameter n (called the degrees of freedom) takes the values 1(1)10, 12, 15, 19, 24 and 30. The argument \( x/\sqrt{n} \) has the range 0.0(0.1)4·1; for n greater than about 12 or 15 the interval of 0·1 is too large.
Tables III, IV and V. Since no differences are given in Tables I and II, auxiliary tables of Lagrangian coefficients are provided for interpolation on a calculating machine. The range of argument is 0 to 1; further details are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Interval</th>
<th>Decimals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Cubic</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Quintic</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Septic</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11 (exact)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unfortunately these tables are bound in with the main tables, so that it is awkward to use them for interpolation in Tables I and II. They would have been more convenient under a separate cover. Errors are discussed in MTE 24. The accuracy of the various interpolation formulae is fully discussed and demonstrated over the whole range of the table. Inverse interpolation becomes necessary, as the author wishes to cover cases when \( p(x) \) or \( z(x) \) are required; the processes described are very cumbersome, because the simple methods of inverse interpolation (e), which make use of printed differences, are not applicable here.

Table VI gives square roots of all integers from 1 to 1000, to 7 decimals up to 99, and thereafter to 6; in other words, there are always 8 figures. The layout, in which consecutive values are in lines rather than in columns, is not convenient.

In conclusion it may be said that the value of these tables lies in the accurate record of normal deviates at a very fine interval. This should be useful in fundamental work on statistical distributions derived from the normal law. The working statistician, on the other hand, wants a larger number of statistical functions to fewer decimals, rather than a few functions to many decimals.

Some Related Tables

(c) Fisher and Yates, *idem*, Table II.
(d) Fisher and Yates, *idem*, Table IX.
(f) J. R. Miner, *Tables of \( \sqrt{1 - r^2} \) and \( I - r^2 \)*. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins, 1922.
(g) K. Pearson, *Tables for Statisticians and Biometricians*, part I, third ed., London, Biometrika, 1930, Table I.
(h) K. Pearson, *idem*, Table II.
(i) K. Pearson, *idem*, Table XII.
(j) K. Pearson, *Tables for Statisticians and Biometricians*, part II. London, Biometrika, 1931, Table II.

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H. O. Hartley

1 The quantity \( x + 5 \) is equivalent to a table of probits as used in biometric work.

2 Miner’s table (f) of \( \sqrt{1 - r^2} \) gives 6 decimals for \( r = 0.0000(0.0001)1.0000 \). Its layout is less convenient than that of the present table.


In Hermite’s original papers, “Sur un nouveau développement en série des fonctions,” Institut de France, Acad. Sci., *Comptes Rendus*, v. 58, 1864, p. 93–100, 266–273, his polynomials were defined by

\[
U_n(x) = e^{x^2} \frac{d^n e^{-x^2}}{dx^n}
\]

which satisfies the equation \( U_n'' - 2xU_n' + 2nU_n = 0 \).
Mr. Smith's Hermitean polynomials are defined, like those in Jahnke and Emde, compare RMT 113, and in W. Hahn's "Bericht"\(^1\) by

\[ H_n(x) = (-1)^n e^{x^2} \frac{d^n e^{-x^2}}{dx^n}, \]

and are of the form

\[ H_n(x) = x^n - \frac{n(n-1)}{2} x^{n-2} + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)}{2 \cdot 4} x^{n-4} - \ldots, \]

\[ U_n(x) = (-\sqrt{2})^n H_n(\sqrt{2}x). \]

Mr. Smith states that he had not been able to find in print any list of numerical values of the roots of Hermitean polynomials, and that apparently none had been computed except for special cases. Hence he computed the zeros for \( n = 3(1)27; 60\).

The functions of the parabolic cylinder, \( u_n(x) \), are connected with the Hermitean polynomials by the equation

\[ u_n(x) = e^{-x^2} H_n(x) \]

which satisfies the differential equation

\[ u_n''(x) + (n + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4}x^2)u_n(x) = 0. \]

Since \( H_n(x) \) and \( u_n(x) \) vanish for the same values of \( x \), methods due to Sturm are applied to this equation for obtaining first approximations to the zeros for small values of \( n \). He remarks that while this procedure is perfectly general it is easier for relatively large values of \( n \) to obtain the approximations by extrapolation from the zeros of polynomials corresponding to \( n - 1, n - 2, \ldots \), by well-known difference methods.

He then notes that better values may be obtained from these first estimates by Newton's method of successive approximations. For comparatively small values of \( n \), however, a direct application of this method is not feasible; in this case he indicates an adaptation of the method suitable for machine calculation.

R. C. A.

\(^1\)W. Hahn, "Bericht über die Nullstellen der Laguerreschen und der Hermiteschen Polynome," Deutsche Mathem.-Ver., Jahress., v. 44, 1934, p. 215–236. It is here pointed out, following Hermite, that the \( H_n(x) \) first occurred in 1836 in a paper of Sturm, and that in 1839 they are incidentally mentioned in a paper by Chebyshev.

J. B. Russell (Jn. Math. Phys., M.I.T., v. 12, 1933, p. 291–297) has defined a Hermite function by the relation \( \phi_n(x) = 2^n e^{-x^2} H_n(x) \) and given a table of \( \phi_n(x) \) for \( n = 0(1)11 \), and \( x = [0.00(0.04)1.00(0.10)4.00(0.20)7.00, 7.50, 8.00; to at least SS].\)


In this table are given the non-negative zeros of \( P_n(x) \), to 6D, from \( n = 2 \) to \( n = 40 \) inclusive. The zeros for \( n = 2 \) to \( n = 7 \) were abridged from the zeros to 15D in J. W. L. Glaisher's article, B.A.A.S., Report, 1879, p. 53. These zeros may have been found seven years earlier. In any case they antedate the values of these same zeros to 16 D, given in Heine, Kugelfunktionen, v. 2, Berlin, 1881, p. 15–16, and are in essence equivalent to those given by Gauss in 1816.

In 1934 Mr. Higdon computed the zeros of the polynomials from \( n = 8 \) to \( n = 25 \) of the present article. He used a method based on some theorems by Sturm, referred to in RMT 131. Mr. Smith's computations were for zeros of polynomials from \( n = 26 \) to \( n = 40 \). For this purpose he developed two formulae (p. 263–271) which may be used to compute approximate values for the zeros. One of these formulae is intended primarily for the values near zero and the other for values near unity, either of the formulae being suitable for computing the middle values. The method by which the formulae were obtained is an adaptation of the one which was used in a paper by F. Zernike ("Eine asymptotische Entwicklung für die größte Nullstelle der Hermiteschen Polynome," Akad. v. Wetens., Proc., v. 34, 1931, p. 673–680).
Unit errors in Mr. Higdon's zero values, from \( n = 8 \) to \( n = 16 \), found upon comparing them with those of A. N. Lowan, et al., RMT 92, are as follows: \( n = 8 \), for .525533, read .525532; \( n = 11 \), for .519095, read .519096; \( n = 12 \), for .367832, read .367831; \( n = 14 \), for .827202, read .827201; \( n = 16 \), for .095012, read .095013, and for .281605, read .281604.

R. C. A.

133[L].—A. N. Lowan and Milton Abramowitz, "Table[s] of the integrals \( \int_0^\infty J_0(t)dt \) and \( \int_0^\infty Y_0(t)dt \)," Jn. Math. Phys., M.I.T., v. 22, 1943, p. 2–12. 17 × 25.2 cm.

Accompanying these tables is not a single reference to the literature of the subject. Integrals of Bessel functions have occurred for a long time in physical investigations and until recently adequate tables have been unavailable. In KOPPE'S work on the propagation of waves along a weighted string and in ORR'S work on radiation from an alternating current, integrals of Bessel functions of integral order occurred. Estimates of the value for large values of the order and argument were given by POLLACZEK. Integrals of the Bessel functions of the second kind occurred in the work of HAVELOCK on ship waves and wave resistance. The need of tables was met to some extent by the 7-place tables of WATSON which covered the range \( x = .02(0.02)1 \) and included values at the first 16 zeros of the integrand \( J_0(t) \) or \( Y_0(t) \). Four-place tables for the same range were given by GLAZENAP. Graphs of the first integral, divided by \( x \), were given in the papers of DEBYE and FISCHER.

This first integral has occurred recently in some work on the intensities of electron diffraction rings by BLACKMAN who gives an equivalent definite integral

\[
R(A) = \int_0^\infty \sin^2 \left( A \left( 1 + u^2 \right) \right) du / \left( 1 + u^2 \right) = \int_0^A J_0(2t)dt
\]

and a plot of \( R(A) \) which indicates that a maximum value 7.2 occurs when \( A \) is about 1.25. This function \( R(A) \) is a particular case of a function of 4 variables studied by BUCHHOLZ in his work on the spreading of alternating currents in the earth.

The tables under review are given for the range \( x = [0.01)10; 10D \), and are a by-product of the computation of Bessel functions of complex arguments. Power series are used for the first integral while the computation of the second integral is effected with the aid of the first integral multiplied by a logarithm and two power series the first of which is evaluated by iterated Taylor expansions, by a method similar to that described in the Introduction of Tables of Sine, Cosine and Exponential Integrals, v. 1, prepared by the Mathematical Tables Project.

H. B.


Since this paper contains practically no reference to the literature of the subject, it may be well to give indications in this regard, so as to articulate what is new in the tables under review. Integrals of the type $\int_0^\infty J_m(x)x^n\,dx$ were studied in a general way by Lommel\(^1\) but the first use of the integral tabulated in this paper may have been in 1889 when the brothers Lodge\(^2\) obtained the integral
\[
\int_0^\infty [1 - J_0(x)]\,dx/x
\]
in some physical investigations. The integral $J_0(x)$ (see Edinb. Math. So., Proc., s. 2, v. 3, p. 276) was transformed into a definite integral by Lerch\(^3\) in 1896. The result involves the gamma function of a complex variable and a parameter $\omega$ whose real part lies between 0 and $\frac{1}{2}$. The notation adopted here is essentially that of B. van der Pol\(^4\) who showed that the equation
\[\frac{\partial J_n(x)}{\partial n} = \int_0^\infty J_0(x-t)J_n'(t)\,dt\quad n \geq 1\]
could be used to calculate the derivative of the Bessel function with respect to $n$. The suffix $n$ was added by P. Humbert\(^5\) when the Bessel-integral function was defined for an arbitrary value of $n$ by the equation
\[J_{in}(x) = - \int_0^\infty J_n(t)\,dt/x.\]
Humbert gave a generating function for the functions of integral order
\[\text{li}e^\omega(t^{1/2}) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} t^n J_n(x)\]
and obtained a recurrence relation
\[(n-1)J_{in-1}(x) - (n+1)J_{in+1}(x) = (2n/x)J_n(x).\]

He also gave many series and definite integrals for the Bessel-integral functions. In 1938 Hogg\(^6\) obtained an expansion for $\int_0^\infty J_0(t)\,dt/\sqrt{1+t^2}$ which is derived again by the present authors for the special case $\tau = 0$.

The asymptotic expansions which are given in this paper, and in the adjoining one of V. G. Smith,\(^7\) appear to be new. The coefficients are calculated here to a large number of significant figures so that the series can be used for accurate computations. Smith’s expansion is convenient for $0 < x < 25$ while that of this paper is thought to be better for $x > 25$.

In Table I the function $F(x) = J_0(x) + \ln(x)$ is tabulated with $\delta^2 F(x)$, $\delta^4 F(x)$ and $\delta^8 F(x)$, for $x = [0(1)3; 10D]$. The function $J_0(x)$ is tabulated with central differences $\delta^8$ and $\delta^4$ in Table II, for $x = [3(1)10; 10D]$, and without differences for $x = 10(1)22$, the values for $x = 0(1)3$ being given in Table I. Table III contains reduced derivatives of $F(x)$; the function $A_n(x)$ which is tabulated for $n = [0(1)13; 12D]$, $x = 10(1)21$, is defined by the equations
\[A_n(x) = F^{(n)}(x)/n!, \quad A_0(x) = F(x).\]
These new tables will be much welcomed.

H. B.


This paper contains tables of confluent hypergeometric functions for certain complex arguments. When normalized in a certain way, the confluent hypergeometric functions are also called Whittaker functions; see WHITTAKER and WATSON, Modern Analysis, fourth ed., Cambridge, 1927, and Amer. ed., New York, 1943, chapter 16.

In a systematic study of second order ordinary differential equations, the hypergeometric functions play an essential role. If the differential equation possesses less than three regular singular points, the solution can be obtained in elementary functions; with three regular singularities the solution, while no longer expressible in terms of elementary functions, can be solved by hypergeometric functions. When two of the regular singularities coalesce, an irregular singularity is obtained, and the resulting equation has confluent hypergeometric functions as solutions.


All these applications and tables involved only real arguments and real values of the parameters. In the quantum theory of atomic collisions, i.e., in the solution of the Schrödinger wave equation for a Coulomb field, the confluent hypergeometric function occurs with imaginary arguments and certain complex values of the parameters. (See A. SOMMERFELD, Ann. Physik, s. 5, v. 11, 1931, p. 257–330, especially p. 272–273; N. T. MOTT and H. S. W. MASSEY, Theory of Atomic Collisions, Oxford, 1933, p. 36.) The present tables have been prepared with special reference to these quantum mechanical applications.

The confluent hypergeometric function \( y \) may be defined by the series

\[
F(\alpha, \gamma; u) = 1 + \frac{\alpha u}{\gamma!} + \frac{\alpha(\alpha + 1) u^2}{\gamma(\gamma + 1) 2!} + \cdots + \frac{\alpha(\alpha + 1) \cdots (\alpha + n) u^{n+1}}{\gamma(\gamma + 1) \cdots (\gamma + n) (n + 1)!} + \cdots.
\]

The corresponding differential equation is

\[
uy'' + (\gamma - u)y' - \alpha y = 0.
\]

The tables give seven-place values of \( H(m, a, x) \), as defined in the title of the paper, for \( x = 0(1)10 \) and for \( a = 0(1)10, m = 0(1)3 \).
The Bernoulli polynomial $B_n(x)$ of order $m$ and degree $n$ may be defined by means of the generating function

$$
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t^n B_n(x) = \frac{e^{tx} - 1}{x}.
$$

Its properties are given very fully by Nörlund, Milne-Thomson, and Davis. When $m = n$ there is an integral representation

$$
B_n(x) = \int_0^x (t-1)(t-2)\cdots(t-n) dt.
$$

When $x = 0$ the value of the polynomial is denoted by the symbol $B_n(0)$ and the numbers $B_n(n)$ are connected by the recurrence relation

$$
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \binom{n}{i} B_i(n)/i! = (-1)^n B_n(n)/n!.
$$

Values of these numbers for $n = 1(1)5$ were given by Nörlund on p. 192 of his paper, and on p. 459 of his book there are tables for $n = 1(1)12$, values being given also for $B_n(n)/n!$.

On p. 209–210 of his book Davis gives expressions for $B_n(n+1)$ for $n = 0(1)12$ and the values of $B_n(n)$ may be deduced by putting $m = n$. In the present tables both $B_n(n+1)$ and $B_n(n+1)$ are given for $n = 1(1)20$, the values for the higher suffixes being given to twenty or more significant figures. The numbers occur as coefficients in Laplace's formulae of numerical integration. The latter set occurs when forward differences are used as in the Gregory formula of interpolation, and the former set when backward differences are used. The new values provide for much greater accuracy in numerical integration.

H. B.


the variation of arbitrary constants, and obtained a solution in which trigonometrical functions of odd multiples of $t$ up to the fifth were multiplied by exponential factors $e^{xt}$. Laplace thus introduced the idea of a characteristic index which for his case and for the order of approximation adopted was $\pm 4q$. At this time he was interested in the question of the stability of the solar system and his thoughts on this question may have led to the search for this second form of his solution. Laplace pointed out, moreover, that his method was applicable also to the more general equations with periodic coefficients which occur in astronomical investigations. The equation in which $P(t)$ has the form of a cosine series of even multiples of $t$ was studied in detail a hundred years later by G. W. Hill and is commonly called Hill's equation because he introduced a novel method of treatment based on the use of infinite determinants, a method which was made rigorous by Henri Poincaré and von Koch.

These linear differential equations with periodic coefficients became important also in acoustics and were used by Rayleigh in his paper on the maintenance of vibrations by forces of double frequency. Many other writers like A. Stephenson and C. V. Raman have used these equations in the study of the stability of a dynamical system or of some peculiarities of the oscillations.

Another very extensive field in which equations of this type occur was opened up when in 1837 G. Lamé focussed attention on the problem of the separation of variables in the study of the equation of heat conduction, and in the case of thermal equilibrium studied the simple solutions of the partial differential equation having the form of a product of three functions, each of a single variable, now called a Lamé product. In 1868 this idea was used by E. Mathieu in the study of the vibrations of an elliptic membrane and it became important to find when the differential equation had a periodic solution. Such solutions are now known as Mathieu functions and the associated harmonic functions which occur in the solution of potential problems are called the functions of the elliptic cylinder. In 1873 Mathieu used elliptic coordinates also for the thermal problem in which there is conduction of heat and showed that the separation of variables leads to a more general equation which includes the former equation as a special case. This equation is the one on which the theory of spheroidal wave functions is based. It was studied in some detail by C. Niven in 1880 while Heine said in 1881 that he had been unable to complete the attempt to use in the general case the method which proved successful in the treatment of the equation of the elliptic cylinder in his first volume.

Heine succeeded, indeed, in classifying the periodic solutions of Mathieu's equation into four classes, the trigonometrical functions in the expansion used being either all sines or all cosines and the multiples of $t$ either all even or all odd. This classification has been adopted by Whittaker and others as it suggests a convenient notation which, however, is not used by the present writers.

In his early work on Lamé functions Heine used expansions in series of associated Legendre functions and in his later work on the functions of the elliptic cylinder he used also expansions in series of Bessel functions. This plan was adopted by Niven for the study of the spheroidal wave functions and to a slight extent by M. Brillouin in 1904. Its advantages were shown by E. G. C. Poole in 1923 and were particularly emphasized by E. A. Hylleraas in his lectures in 1937 at the Institute of Henri Poincaré. Not only is the approximation more rapid than when power series are used (as in the work of Maclaurin and the associated work of Brillouin) but the recurrence relations by which the coefficients are calculated are essentially the same. This fact seems to depend on the circumstance that the desired functions are solutions of a homogeneous integral equation discovered by M. Abraham in 1899 and in a more general form by E. T. Whittaker, who also obtained a corresponding result for Lamé functions.

The associated Legendre functions and Bessel functions used in the expansions are limiting forms of the spheroidal wave functions and the use of these expansions is analogous to the method of W. Ritz for the direct solution of a problem in the Calculus of Variations. It is perhaps on this account, as Hylleraas points out, that the method of computation is so effective.
This method is essentially that used in the work under review except that the related functions of Gegenbauer are used in place of the associated Legendre functions, the notation being different from that used by Nielsen. A new notation applicable also to the elliptic cylinder functions is adopted for the spheroidal wave functions and special values of the functions are listed. It is necessary to consider both prolate spheroidal functions and oblate spheroidal functions. The functions are also classified according to the type of Gegenbauer function or Bessel function used in the expansion. Eight $U$-functions $U_n(a, c; z)$ are defined by means of series of different types of Bessel functions and eight $V$-functions $V_n(a, c; z)$ are defined by means of different types of series of Gegenbauer functions. Questions of convergence are discussed, expansions are obtained in the form of power series and relations are obtained among the $U$-functions, among the $V$-functions and between the $U$-functions and $V$-functions. The corresponding solutions of the wave-equation are denoted by an $S$-notation and an $R$-notation. Different kinds of functions are distinguished which in turn are classified as even or odd. Combinations are formed also to correspond to the Hankel functions and serve for the solution of radiation problems in electromagnetic theory. Functions are also described as angular or radial, the angular functions being periodic in $t$ where $z = \cos t$. The separation constants are calculated with the aid of continued fractions by a method due to Lindstedt, which was used successfully by Hough in 1897 in an application of harmonic analysis to the dynamical theory of the tides. This method was recommended by Poole in 1923 and was used successfully by Ince and Goldstein in their work on the tabulation of Mathieu functions from 1927 on.

Another change of notation is effected by the introduction of a normalization factor, and the coefficients $D_{n,l}$ which are tabulated to 5D in the first 5 tables for $l = 0(1)4$ are the coefficients in the expansion in a series of Bessel functions $J_n(cz)$ of a function $J_0(c, z)$ which is a multiple of the $U$-function of the Mathieu type. Seven coefficients are tabulated and values are given also for the separation constant $b_l$. The next 4 tables give for $l = 1(1)4$ the values of the coefficients in the expansion in a series of Bessel functions $J_n(cz)$ of a function $J_0(c, z)$ which is a multiple of the $U_0(c, z)$ function of the Mathieu type. Seven coefficients and the separation constants are given. In the list of errata a misprint is noted in the equation (310). The values of the separation constants supplement those of Goldstein and Ince as they are for small values of $c$ and small interval while $c$ is used as variable instead of a multiple of $c^2$.

The next table gives the separation constant $A_l$ as in the equation on p. 62, for the prolate spheroidal functions, to 5D, for $c = 0(1)6(2)5$. The meaning of the suffixes is not given; one of them is presumably $m$, the other $l$. The values $m = 0, 1, 3$ are chosen, $l$ being zero in the last case and ranging from 0 to 3 in the first case and from 0 to 2 in the second. This meaning is more or less confirmed by the next table of the coefficients $d$ in the expansion of the $S$ and $R$-functions for the prolate spheroid. The range of $c$ is the same as before but $m$ also has the value 2 which is missing in the table of the $A_l$'s. About 16 coefficients are given for each case. The remaining tables refer to the oblate spheroidal wave functions. The table of $B'$s on p. 107 refers to the $B$ in the equations on p. 69, and it is to be noted that the value $m = 2$ is now given in the table but only with $l = 1$, whereas in the table of the coefficients $f$ the value $l = 0$ is also considered.

The tables are evidently intended to be used chiefly for the solution of electromagnetic problems. In the problems of wave mechanics connected with the hydrogen molecule ion the internal equation is the same as the equation considered in the present paper but the external equation is a little different. The short table calculated by Hylleraas is consequently not comparable with these tables. The only comparison that can be made is with the few numerical results obtained by Maclaurin and M. Brillouin in their work on electrical oscillations and with the new results obtained recently by Page and Adams. It can, then, be said that these tables form a distinct addition to our knowledge of spheroidal wave functions.

H. B.

References have been made to Errata in RMT 121 and 122 (War Dept.), 123 (Brown & Sharpe), 125 (Service Géographique), 132 (Higdon), and in 118 (Holland, Jones and Lamb; Byerly); see also in the second article of this issue, nos. 8 and 45. For errors made by Meissel and Watson see the first article in this issue.

21. J. Bourget, [Tables of the first nine roots of \( J_s(x_n) = 0 \), \( s = [0(1)5; 3D] \)], Paris, École Normale Sup., Annales, v. 3, 1866, p. 82–87.

On comparing the 54 entries of these tables to 3D, with the tables to 5S or 6S for \( s = [0(1)10(5)20(10)50 \ldots 1000] \), of J. R. Airey, B.A.A.S., Report, 1922, p. 271 (see MTAC, p. 72), it was found that 27 of the Bourget entries were erroneous. Four of the worst errors were as follows: \( J_4(x_0) \), for 32.050, read 32.065; \( J_4(x_0) \), for 33.512, read 33.537; \( J_4(x_0) \), for 8.780, read 8.772; \( J_4(x_0) \), for 34.983 read 34.989. All 27 of these errors are faithfully reproduced in each of the five editions of Jahnke and Emde, Table of Functions; see RMT 113. So also for Table V (p. 302) in Gray and Mathews, Treatise on Bessel Functions, second ed., London, 1922; for Table XXXIII (p. 82) in J. B. Dale, Five-Figure Tables of Mathematical Functions, London, 1903; and for Table V (p. 286) in W. E. Byerly, An Elementary Treatise on Fourier's Series . . . , Boston, 1895. These 27 errors (and one more added) are reproduced with equal faithfulness in Rayleigh, The Theory of Sound, v. 1, London, 1877, p. 274 (also in the German ed., v. 1, Brunswick, 1879, p. 364, and in