Special Functions: A Graduate Text (Cambridge Studies in Advanced Mathematics)

By Richard Beals, Roderick Wong

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The subject of special functions is often presented as a collection of disparate results, which are rarely organised in a coherent way. This book answers the need for a different approach to the subject. The authors' main goals are to emphasise general unifying principles coherently and to provide clear motivation, efficient proofs, and original references for all of the principal results. The book covers standard material, but also much more, including chapters on discrete orthogonal polynomials and elliptic functions. The authors show how a very large part of the subject traces back to two equations - the hypergeometric equation and the confluent hypergeometric equation - and describe the various ways in which these equations are canonical and special. Providing ready access to theory and formulas, this book serves as an ideal graduate-level textbook as well as a convenient reference.

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Review
"We're indebted to these distinguished senior analysts for writing a very fine textbook, just after the publication of Olver et al.'s Handbook of Mathematical Functions has put an updated spotlight on this classical, but continuingly important, topic. The subject is presented convincingly and at the appropriate level for the intended audience. Although there have been many monographs on special functions since Whittaker and Watson, we can anticipate that Beals and Wong will become a classic textbook for graduate students in math, applied math, and physics. Don't delay in becoming familiar with it!"
ROBERT E. O'MALLEY, JR.. Mathematical Reviews

About the Author
Richard Beals is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Yale University.

Roderick Wong is Professor of Mathematics and Vice President for Research at the City University of Hong Kong.

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