

## **Book Review: *A Survey of Nonlinear Dynamics* (“*Chaos theory*”)**

**A Survey of Nonlinear Dynamics (“Chaos theory”).** R. I. Ingraham, World Scientific, Singapore, 1992.

On looking at the ever-increasing number of “chaotic” books on library shelves, it is hard to believe that some “order” exists in their appearance. Those books are almost indistinguishable and barely reflect the author’s appreciation and the needs of the audience for the subject. The situation is becoming alarmingly similar to one prevailing in the field of general physics, where almost each respectable university has its own favorite textbooks, preferably written by a faculty member.

The book under review covers the whole world of chaos in less than 100 small-format pages. A totally breathless description (“survey”) of a large number of topics is given which includes systems in both discrete and continuous time, Hamiltonian and dissipative systems, ordinary and partial differential equations, measures of chaos, renormalization group analysis, critical phenomena, and quantum chaos. Finally, less than two pages are devoted to a description of relevant experiments. It is not clear who would be a potential reader of this little book: the layman will find it too complicated and a “lazy scientist” will find it too trivial. It may be that there is some need for this book by lecturers on chaotic subjects who, like teachers of general physics courses, now have an increasing spectrum of slightly different textbooks that cover all possible nuances of the subject.

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