

Book Review: *Multicritical Phenomena*

Irreversibility and Nonpotentiality in Statistical Mechanics. Anton Schober, ed., Hadronic Press Inc., Nonantum, Massachusetts, 1984.

This volume contains a number of reprints of articles that study the origin of irreversibility in systems containing a large number of particles. The leit-motif for these studies is expressed in Prigogine's recent work: "From Being to Becoming: Time and Complexity in the Physical Sciences."

Most of the reprinted articles ascribe the origin of irreversibility to one of the following three causes: (1) non-Hamiltonian dynamics due to non-local effects caused by short-range interactions; (2) microscopic friction forces which depend on the velocities of the particles; or (3) introduction of stochastic equations such as the Fokker-Plank equation as the appropriate molecular description of the system.

It is my impression that none of these points of view sheds light on the "problem" of irreversibility and indeed that no such "problem" exists.

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