

Book Review: *Statistical Mechanics: Rigorous Results*

Statistical Mechanics: Rigorous Results. David Ruelle, Addison-Wesley, 1989, 224 pp.

In a special preface to this reprint of his 1969 book Ruelle says, "The rigorous results in this book largely originated in an unusual historic circumstance, where a small group of people applied the powerful methods of twentieth-century mathematics to a field that had lain fallow for several decades. The approach was remarkably successful, and so was the book." He then goes on to say, "The book—luckily—has aged well, and only a small part of its contents has been superseded by new results."

This book is truly a classic and satisfies the publisher's criteria for reprinting in its series of Advanced Book Classics works of "intrinsic value, ...timeless quality, ...global appeal"

Rather less can be said for the logo the publisher chose for this series, but the price for a hardbound edition (\$26.95) is reasonable. (It would have been even better to have it in a less expensive paperback edition.)

In any case, the book is highly recommended for all those who want to know beyond the anecdotal level what the subject is really all about.

Joel L. Lebowitz
Department of Mathematics
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903