

Book Review: *Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos*

Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos. R. L. Dewar and B. I. Henry, eds., Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 7–25 January, 1991, World Scientific, Singapore, 1992.

Chaos emanates now from quiet Australia! The three-week school which was held in January 1991 (the “summer” school in Australia) gave to its participants an insight into the world of chaos. The 13 authors of the proceedings present a flavor of the modern state of the “chaotic” art without either giving a systematic presentation or emphasizing basic unsolved problems. Therefore the possible benefit derivable by a reader of this proceedings would seem to be at the least very problematic.

Articles written by R. H. G. Helleman, W. A. Coppel, K. J. Palmer, C. J. Thompson, R. Delbourgo, C. M. Savage, and A. J. Lichtenberg contain the well-established general ideas. The remaining articles describe chaos and time reversal (G. R. W. Quispel), wave interactions and solitons in fluids (R. Grimshaw), and description and analyses of Libchaber’s experiments in turbulence (I. Procaccia). C. J. Thompson’s article on “The Chaos in Economics and Management” is the most unusual one in this book and, to my taste, the most interesting one.

In conclusion, I doubt the benefits of this book, which is just one more of the exponentially increasing number of “chaotic” descriptions of chaos. Unlike the phenomenon itself, this proceedings is not too sensitive to previously published literature.

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