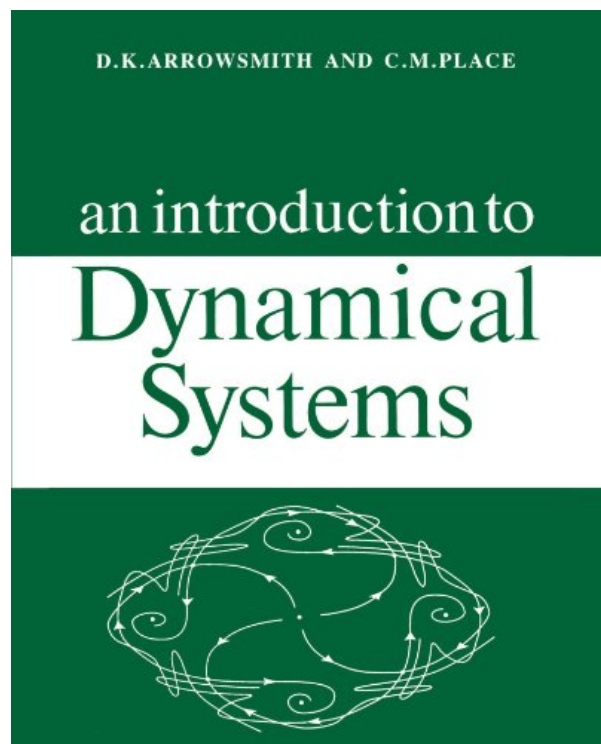


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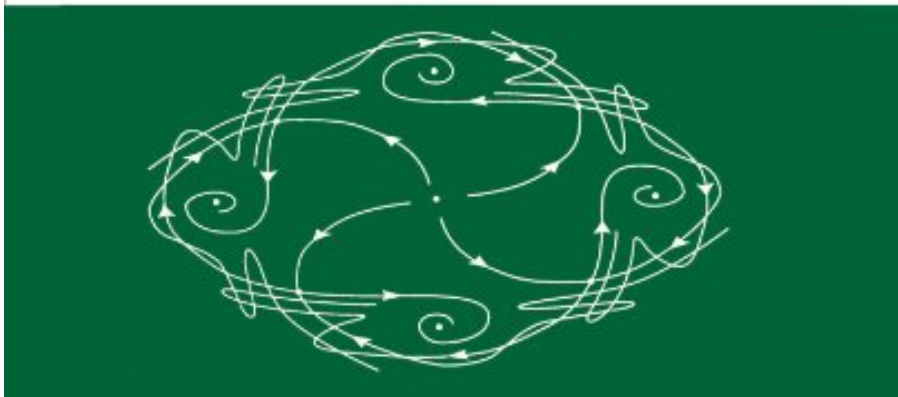


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Review

"...a very good textbook. It brings the reader in a short time through the fundamental ideas underlying the theory of dynamical systems theory." Mathematical Reviews

"...a good textbook on the subject." Physics in Canada

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Largely self-contained, this is an introduction to the mathematical structures underlying models of systems whose state changes with time, and which therefore may exhibit "chaotic behavior." The first portion of the book is based on lectures given at the University of London and covers the background to dynamical systems, the fundamental properties of such systems, the local bifurcation theory of flows and diffeomorphisms and the logistic map and area-preserving planar maps. The authors then go on to consider current research in this field such as the perturbation of area-preserving maps of the plane and the cylinder. The text contains many worked examples and exercises, many with hints. It will be a valuable first textbook for senior undergraduate and postgraduate students of mathematics, physics, and engineering.

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"...a true introduction to the modern theory of dynamical systems....It has many clear figures and it has copious exercises which were readily solvable and instructive." *Kenneth R. Meyer, SIAM Review*

Most helpful customer reviews

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Great reference or grad school level course text on general nonlinear dynamics

By Scott C. Locklin

This book served as the "hidden basis" for a course in nonlinear dynamics by the late John David Crawford back at the University of Pittsburgh (the overt basis was Glendinning's book, which has proved less appealing as a reference). It's subsequently been useful to me in its treatment of Melnikov's method, and to

review ideas in bifurcation theory.

As the other reviewer pointed out, it is weak in the section on symbolic dynamics. In its defense, I only know of one book which treats symbolic dynamics in a way that isn't utterly confusing, so perhaps leaving a lot of it out helps keep the student on track towards what the author is trying to present. Certainly, if he stuck to his theorem heavy style, one could get very lost in symbolic dynamics land. I'll also complain he never mentions Painlevé's property. There are probably deep "theorist" reasons I'll never understand for his not mentioning this weird little thing. I hear the full treatment of Painlevé's property is pretty complex, but I have always found it very helpful in understanding what integrability really is, in my "seat of the pants" way. I also would have liked more detail on Peixoto's theorem. Sure it's only useful in R^2 ; if you're on the 'applied' side of things (or a student, learning by examining practical examples) -how often will you leave R^2 -land?

These complaints are minor, and they're probably effectively complaints that the book's author has a different purpose in mind than I would for writing such an introductory text, were I actually qualified to do such a thing. Wiggins writes very clearly, and he writes for physicists rather than mathematicians, and brings an amateur in the subject to a fairly high level of sophistication by the end of the text. The problem sets are also excellent.

30 of 31 people found the following review helpful.

Effective overview of a useful subject

By Dr. Lee D. Carlson

The subject of dynamical systems has been around for over a century now, having been defined by Henri Poincaré in the early 1900s, but having its roots in Hamiltonian and Lagrangian mechanics in the 19th century. In this book the author has done a fine job of overviewing the subject of dynamical systems, particularly with regards to systems that exhibit chaotic behavior. There are 292 illustrations given in the book, and they effectively assist in the understanding of a sometimes abstract subject.

After a brief introduction to the terminology of dynamical systems in Section 1.1, the author moves on to a study of the Poincaré map in the next section. Recognizing that the construction of the Poincaré map is really an art rather than a science, the author gives several examples of the Poincaré map and discusses in detail the properties of each. Structural stability, genericity, transversality are defined, and, as preparation for the material later on, the Poincaré map of the damped, forced Duffing oscillator is constructed. The later system serves as the standard example for dynamical systems exhibiting chaotic behavior.

The simplification of dynamical systems by means of normal forms is the subject of the next part, which gives a thorough discussion of center manifolds. Unfortunately, the center manifold theorem is not proved, but references to the proof are given.

Local bifurcation theory is studied in the next part, with bifurcations of fixed points of vector fields and maps given equal emphasis. The author defines rigorously what it means to bifurcate from a fixed point, and gives a classification scheme in terms of eigenvalues of the linearized map about the fixed point. Most importantly, the author cautions the reader in that dynamical systems having time-dependent parameters and passing through bifurcation values can exhibit behavior that is dramatically different from systems with constant parameters. He does give an interesting example that illustrates this, but does not go into the singular perturbation theory needed for an effective analysis of such systems.

An introduction to global bifurcations and chaos is given in the next part, which starts off with a detailed construction of the Smale horseshoe map. Symbolic dynamics, so important in the construction of the actual proof of chaotic behavior is only outlined though, with proofs of the important results delegated to the references. The Conley-Moser conditions are discussed also, with the treatment of sector bundles being the best one I have seen in the literature. The theory is illustrated nicely for the case of two-dimensional maps with homoclinic points. The all-important Melnikov method for proving the existence of transverse homoclinic orbits to hyperbolic periodic orbits is discussed and is by far one of the most detailed I have seen

in the literature. The author employs many useful diagrams to give the reader a better intuition behind what is going on. He employs also the pips and lobes terminology of Easton to study the geometry of the homoclinic tangles. Homoclinic bifurcation theory is also treated in great detail. This is followed by an overview of the properties of orbits homoclinic to hyperbolic fixed points. A brief introduction to Lyapunov exponents and strange attractors is also given.

This book has served well as a reference book and should be useful to students and other individuals who are interested in going into this area. It is a subject that has found innumerable applications, and it will continue to grow as more tools and better computational facilities are developed to study the properties of dynamical systems.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent focus on what is important

By A Customer

Dynamical systems is a vast subject to which no single book can provide an adequate introduction, but the authors do an excellent job of focusing on what is important and avoiding the temptation to go off on enticing tangents. Their treatment is clear, and this book is highly recommended for any student seeking a solid foundation for further work.

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