

Chapter Index

Wordfinder	.....	XIV
Chapter 1	Preparing for a Journey Through Deterministic Chaos and Complex Systems	1
Section 1.1	Deterministic Chaos?	3
Section 1.2	Complexity and the Failure of Reductionism	8
Section 1.3	Pure Mathematics and Crazy Numbers	12
Section 1.4	What is the Point of Geometry?	18
Section 1.5	Painting a Rainbow by Tracking Vanishing Pixels in Linespace	25
Section 1.6	Beware of Averages!	36
Section 1.7	Noisy Telephone Lines and Cantorian Dusts	45
Section 1.8	Monte Carlo Explorations with a Cluster of Drunks	50
Section 1.9	Empirical Facts and General Truths	60
Section 1.10	Escape From Time Space Into Phase Space	64
Exercises		71
References		77
Chapter 2	Mandelbrot Sets, Julia Lace and Fatou Dusts	79
Section 2.1	A Three-fold Path to Geometric Understanding	81
Section 2.2	The Mandelbrot Set – A Prison for Restless Pixels	85
Section 2.3	Julia Lace and Fatou Dusts	103
References		105
Chapter 3	The Normal Distribution of Drunks	107
Section 3.1	Can Tumbling Coins Tell Us Anything About Staggering Drunks?	109
Section 3.2	Seductive (Often Meaningless) Patterns in Random Time Sequences	112
Section 3.3	Technical Names for the Bell Curve	114
Section 3.4	Mathematical Description of the Structure of the Gaussian Probability Curve	115
Section 3.5	Stretching Data Mathematically with Gaussian Probability Graph Paper	120
Section 3.6	When are we Likely to Encounter Gaussian Probability Distribution in Stochastic Systems?	124
Section 3.7	Gaussianly Scattered Drunks	126
Section 3.8	Gaussian Variations in the Structure of Powder Mixtures	127

Section 3.9	Using The Gaussian Probability Curve to Characterize Uncertainty in Experimental Data	133
Section 3.10	The Power of Self-cancelling Errors to Improve Experimentally Based Estimates of a Physical Quantity	137
Section 3.11	Using Dot Counting to Estimate Irregular Areas	140
Section 3.12	Finding the Percentage of a Given Material in an Ore	145
Section 3.13	Aperture Size Distribution in a Woven Wire Sieve	147
Section 3.14	Characterizing The Weight Variation in a Population of Candy Covered Chocolate Buttons	150
Section 3.15	Buffon's Needle – A Surprising Pattern of Events	155
Section 3.16	Exploiting the Efficiency of Antithetic Variates to Improve the Efficiency of the Estimates of π by Buffon's Needle Experiments	158
Section 3.17	How Much Work is Needed to Improve One's Confidence in an Average Value?	163
Exercises	.....	167
References	.....	175
Chapter 4	The Rare Events of Cooperative Chaos	177
Section 4.1	"Double or Quits" – A Desperate Gamble	179
Section 4.2	The Surprise of a (Half) Lifetime!	184
Section 4.3	Making Things Normal Again with Logarithms	189
Section 4.4	How Long is a Game of Snakes and Ladders?	193
Exercises	.....	201
References	.....	206
Chapter 5	Prussian Horses and Fishy Statistics	207
Section 5.1	Death Rates from Horse Kicks in the Prussian Cavalry	209
Section 5.2	Using Poisson Graph Paper in the Assessment of Dust Deposition Density in Air Pollution Studies	213
Section 5.3	Stingy with the Yellow Buttons?	215
Section 5.4	Using Poisson Trackers to Monitor Chaos in a Powder Mixer	220
Section 5.5	Segregated and Tumbled Jelly Beans	223
Section 5.6	A Cautionary Tale of Tails	226
Exercises	.....	227
References	.....	229
Chapter 6	Rubber Number Logic and the Swinging Mouse	231
Section 6.1	The Dimensions of Reality	233
Section 6.2	Topolgy, Topography & Stretched Relationships	238

Section 6.3	Stokes' Law Versus Galileo	244
Section 6.4	Rubber Number Logic for Studying the Flow of Viscous Fluid Through Pipes	253
Section 6.5	Dimensionless Numbers as Indicators of Similar Structure and Behavior	256
Exercises	.....	262
References	.....	265
Chapter 7	Congregating Drunks, Soot and Other Pigments	267
Section 7.1	Congregating Drunks Create Surprising Patterns!	269
Section 7.2	Characterizing the Structure of Fractal Agglomerates	275
Section 7.3	Fractal Fingers Generated by Electrolytic Deposition	282
Section 7.4	Creating Fractal Fingers of Moving Fluid in a Hele–Shaw Cell	287
Exercises	.....	289
References	.....	304
Chapter 8	Infinite Coastlines and Other Wiggly Lines	305
Section 8.1	Easy Questions and Impossible Answers	307
Section 8.2	Beware! Richardson Plots May Have More Than One Straight Line Data Relationship Lurking in the Scatter of the Data Points	311
Section 8.3	Characterizing Profiles Which Manifest Various Fractal Structures Around Their Perimeter	314
Section 8.4	Estimating Fractal Dimensions by Penny Plating Procedures ..	324
Section 8.5	Mosaic Amalgamation – Another Variation of the Minkowski Sausage Method for Characterizing Rugged Curves	331
Section 8.6	Fractal Rabbits and Manitoulin Island	334
Section 8.7	How to Tell a Vulcan from Another Carbon Black	340
Section 8.8	Putting Fractal Dimensions to Work in Applied Science	344
Section 8.9	More Ideas for Putting Fractals to Work	359
Exercises	.....	363
References	.....	383
Chapter 9	Invisible Carpets, Swiss Cheese and a Slice of Bread	387
Section 9.1	Fractalicious Bread and Cheese	389
Section 9.2	Exploring the Fractal Structure of Felts and Filters	403
Section 9.3	Characterizing the Porous Nature of Bone and Sandstone	408
Exercises	.....	411
References	.....	415

Chapter 10	A New Wrinkle on Surface Fractals	417
Section 10.1	Characterizing Canyons and the Effect of Sunshine	419
Section 10.2	Simulating Passoja's Method for Studying the Roughness of Metal Fractures	425
Section 10.3	How Many Islands are there in a Lake?	427
Exercises		434
References		436
Chapter 11	Zipf's Law and the Surprising Patterns of Word Occurrences	437
Section 11.1	Hyperbolic Word Frequencies	439
Section 11.2	The Size Distribution of Population Centers	443
Section 11.3	Beware of Procrustean Thinking	445
Section 11.4	Levy Flights – A Generalized Theory of Brownian Motion	450
References		461
Chapter 12	Climbing Fig Trees to Discover Fascinating Numbers	463
Section 12.1	Magic Numbers for Communicating with Space Aliens?	465
Section 12.2	Population Ecology – Malthus Modified	466
Section 12.3	Climbing Attractor Fig Trees by Means of Parabolic Cobwebs	477
Exercises		482
References		482
Chapter 13	Coincidences, Clusters and Catastrophes	483
Section 13.1	Strange Coincidences and Significant Clusters	485
Section 13.2	Simulating Significant and Nonsignificant Patterns of Accidents and Diseases	487
Section 13.3	The Importance of Understanding Coincidences and Clustering in Fine Particle Science	499
Section 13.4	The Catastrophic Behavior of Dripping Taps and Tumbling Rocks	515
Section 13.5	Avalanches and Earthquakes	528
Exercises		530
References		532
Chapter 14	Mathematical Watersheds and Rooting Around in Drainage Basins	535
Section 14.1	The Concepts of Fluxions	537
Section 14.2	Using Newton's Method for Discovering the Roots of Equations	543
References		552

Chapter 15	Fourier Analysis, Fractal Dimension and Formation Dynamics	553
Section 15.1	Hot Rocks and Musical Notes	555
Section 15.2	Harmonious Rocks and Fractal Profiles	561
Section 15.3	Fourier Analysis, Fractal Structure and Fortune Hunting	569
References		574
Author Index		575
Subject Index		579