Contents

Foreword . . . . . **xiii**
J.-P. Kahane

Chapter 1. **Introduction** **1**
G. Cherbit

Chapter 2. **Sundry observations** **3**
B. Mandelbrot

Bibliography 9

Chapter 3. **Models of irregular curves** **10**
S. Dubuc

3.1 Examples of irregular curves 11
3.1.1 Curves associated with trigonometric series (11)
3.1.2 Von Koch–Mandelbrot curves (12)
3.1.3 Hyperbolic curves (15)
3.2 Curves modelled by a functional equation 17
3.3 Notions of dimension. 18
3.3.1 Hausdorff dimension (18)
3.3.2 Dimension of internal similarity (19)
3.3.3 Bouligand's dimensional order (19)
3.3.4 The ε-entropy and ε-capacity of Kolmogoroff (20)
3.3.5 Other notions of dimension (20)
3.4 Calculating the size of a curve 21
3.5 Applications 22
References 24

Chapter 4. **Dyadic interpolation** **27**
G. Deslauriers and S. Dubuc

4.1 Elementary properties of dyadic interpolation 27
4.2 Rapid calculation of the fundamental function 29
4.3 Schwartz distributions and dyadic interpolation 30
4.4 Applications to the interpolation scheme 33
References 35

Chapter 5. Stochastic processes and covering procedures 36
M. Weber

5.1 Some covering procedures—their interrelationships and examples . . . 36
5.1.1 Hausdorff measure and dimension (36)
5.1.2 Some applications (39)
5.1.3 Capacity dimension (42)
5.1.4 The dimensions of Schnirelman–Pontjrajin and of Kolmogorov (44)
5.1.5 The Menger–Urysohn dimension (45)
5.2 Applications to the study of the regularity of stochastic processes . . . 46
5.2.1 (46)
5.2.2 (52)
5.2.3 Ultrametric structures (55)
References 58

Chapter 6. Attractors and dimensions 60
P. Girault

6.1 Introduction 60
6.2 Some definitions 61
6.2.1 Hausdorff measure and dimension (61)
6.2.2 Fractal dimension (61)
6.2.3 The notion of attractors (62)
6.3 Some theorems on the dimension of attractors 65
6.4 The Lorenz equations. 68
6.5 Some point transformations 71
6.5.1 The Henon attractor (71)
6.5.2 An attractor with non-empty interior (74)
6.6 The Navier–Stokes equations 74
References 81

Chapter 7. Construction of fractals and dimension problems 83
F. M. Dekking

7.1 A mathematical description of fractals 83
7.2 Self-similarity properties. 88
7.3 Problems associated with determining the Hausdorff dimension 93
7.3.1 Solubility (93)
7.3.2 Self-affine fractals (94)
7.3.3 Piecewise self-affine fractals (96)
References 96

Chapter 8. Introduction to packing measures and dimensions 98
J. Peyrière

8.1 Introduction 98
8.2 Hausdorff measure and dimension 99
8.3 Packing measures and dimension 100
8.4 A method for determining dim and Dim 101
8.5 The case of brownian trajectories 102

Chapter 9. Some remarks on the Hausdorff dimension 103
J.-L. Jonot

9.1 The spaces $\mathbf{R}_v^N$ 108
9.1.1 The valued field $\mathbf{R}_v$ (108)
9.1.2 Representation in $\mathbf{R}_v^2$ of the unit circle (109)
9.1.3 The normed vector space $\mathbf{R}_v^N$ (109)
9.2 Hausdorff dimension of a subset of $\mathbf{R}^N$ 112
9.3 Volume interpretation of the Hausdorff dimension 115

Chapter 10. Fractals, materials and energy 120
A. Le Mèhauté

10.1 Fractals: where are they to be found? 120
10.2 On scales of measurement 124
10.3 The TEISI model 127
10.4 Fractality and dissipation 128
10.5 Why should the world be fractal? 130
10.6 Conclusion 134

Chapter 11. Problems concerning the concept of fractal in electrochemistry 135
M. Keddam

11.1 Foreword 135
11.1.1 Some *a priori* considerations concerning the involvement of the fractal dimension in electrochemistry (136)
11.1.2 Some comments on the TEISI model (136)
11.2 Theoretical considerations 137
11.2.1 Summary (140)
11.3 Experimental considerations. 140
References 141

Chapter 12. Some remarks concerning the structure of galactic clusters and Hubble's constant 142
P. Mills

References 144

Chapter 13. Disorder, chance and fractals in biology 145
G. Cherbit

13.1 Glomerular filtration 145
13.2 Perturbation of the rate of growth of a culture 147
13.3 Bacterial division 149
Bibliography 150

Chapter 14. Fractals, semi-fractals and biometry 151
J.-P. Rigaut

14.1 Introduction 151
14.2 History 152

14.3 Experimental methods . . . 155
14.3.1 What are we looking for? (155)
14.3.2 Variation of the perimeter as a function of the resolution (155)
14.3.3 Methods based on other principles (157)
14.3.4 Our method for studying the outlines of objects (158)
14.4 A semi-fractal model . . . 159
14.4.1 Origins (159)
14.4.2 A semi-fractal equation (161)
14.4.3 Interpretation of the equation—the semi-fractal model (163)
14.5 The lung as a semi-fractal object . . . 165
14.5.1 From the lung to steel via the geranium (165)
14.5.2 Alveolar outlines are semi-fractal (165)
14.5.3 A semi-fractal object possesses outlines with infinitely self-similar convolutions (167)
14.5.4 A new model for the alveolar structure (169)
14.5.5 A semi-fractal object can exhibit a discontinuity in its structure (169)
14.5.6 Curvatures—relevant or not? (171)
14.6 A gallery of semi-fractal monsters . . . 171
14.6.1 Motivation (171)
14.6.2 A curious coincidence? (171)
14.6.3 A rudimentary semi-fractal monster (172)
14.6.4 The semi-fractal monster... of Archimedes (172)
14.6.5 Towards 'coherent' semi-fractal monsters (173)
14.6.6 What do our monsters resemble? (174)
14.7 The frustration of the little quadrat . . . 174
14.7.1 A curious experimental fact (174)
14.7.2 Theoretical considerations in the setting of the stationary model (176)
14.7.2 The stationary model is not applicable to our observations (178)
14.7.4 An explanation of fractal type: the 'frustrated little quadrat' (178)
14.8 Discussion . . . 182
References . . . 184

Chapter 15. Reconstruction of images from projections . . . 188
N. de Beaucoudary, L. Garnero and J.-P. Hugonin

15.1 Data-collection methods using separate sections . . . 189
15.1.1 Absorption (189)
15.1.2 Emission (189)
15.1.3 Projections (191)
15.1.4 The principle of the reconstruction (191)
15.2 Tomographic reconstruction of images using the three-dimensional Radon transform . . . 195
15.2.1 Emission (195)
15.2.2 Another example (195)
15.3 Codings with non-separated sections and not reducible to the three-dimensional Radon transform . . . 197

Chapter 16. Creation of fractal objects by diffusion . . . 203
M. Rosso, B. Sapoval, J.-F. Gouyet and J.-D. Colonna

16.1 Introduction . . . 203
16.2 Internal similarity and fractal properties of the diffusion front . . . 204

16.3 Dynamic behaviour of the diffusion front . . . 207
16.4 Conclusion . . . 211
References . . . 211

Chapter 17. Irreversibility and the arrow of time . . . 212
J. Chanu

Bibliography . . . 213

Chapter 18. Thermodynamic entropy and information . . . 214
M. Courbage

18.1 Information and thermodynamics . . . 214
18.2 Distance—information from one probability distribution with respect to another . . . 215
18.3 Concluding remarks . . . 220
References . . . 220

Chapter 19. Dimension and entropy of regular curves . . . 222
M. Mendès-France

19.1 By way of introduction . . . 222
19.2 Dimensions of plane curves . . . 223
19.3 Soluble curves . . . 225
19.4 Entropy of finite curves . . . 226
19.5 Entropy of an infinite curve . . . 227
References . . . 229

Chapter 20. Local dimension, momentum and trajectories . . . 231
G. Cherbit

20.1 Local dimension—generalized velocity . . . 235
20.1.1 α-Differentiability (235)
20.1.2 Local dimension (235)
20.1.3 α-Velocity (236)
20.1.4 The notion of D-length (236)
20.2 Summary . . . 237
References . . . 238

Chapter 21. Space–time dimensionality . . . 239
G. Cherbit

References . . . 242

Hausdorff seminars . . . 244

Index . . . 245