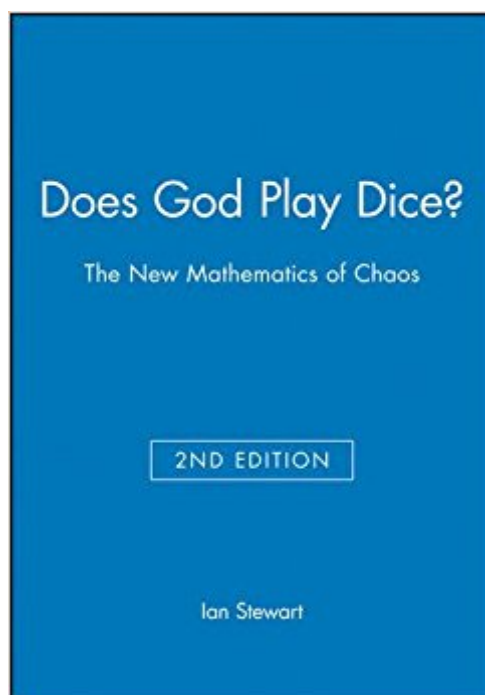


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Does God Play Dice? The New Mathematics Of Chaos



Synopsis

The revised and updated edition includes three completely new chapters on the prediction and control of chaotic systems. It also incorporates new information regarding the solar system and an account of complexity theory. This witty, lucid and engaging book makes the complex mathematics of chaos accessible and entertaining. Presents complex mathematics in an accessible style. Includes three new chapters on prediction in chaotic systems, control of chaotic systems, and on the concept of chaos. Provides a discussion of complexity theory.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the second book I read from Ian Steward. I was looking for another book on the subject of chaos, and having been impressed by a book of his called "The Mathematics of Life," I decided to read this one. I wasn't disappointed. He begins with the Greeks, Eudoxus, Ptolemy, and others and moves through time to Copernicus, Kepler, and Galilei showing how the foundations of mathematics were developed. Later we learn of the works of Euler, Lagrange and his generalized coordinates, Hamilton's work on the state of dynamical systems, and Galton's contributions to the normal distribution. As the 20th century came to a close, statistical methodology took its place alongside deterministic modeling as an equal partner. By chapter six, we are into strange attractors and flows in a plane such as sinks, sources, saddles, and limit cycles. Then there is quasiperiodicity, suspensions, solenoids, and Poincaré sections which can give us interesting pictures of the dynamical behavior. Any text on chaos is, of course, going to cover logistic mapping and bifurcation

diagrams, as well - so does Steward. Chapter ten introduces Mitchell Feigenbaum and the Feigenvalue - a value of 4.669 - the rate at which successive period doublings accumulate faster and faster. Chapter eleven gets into fractals, Julia sets and the infamous Mandelbrot set. I found chapter sixteen very interesting. I'll just quote Steward here, "The central thrust of the chapter is the possibility of changing the theoretical framework of quantum mechanics altogether, replacing quantum uncertainty by deterministic chaos as Einstein would have liked.

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