Preface

This book developed from the urgent need of a text for students in their undergraduate and graduate career. While many excellent books on classical chaos as well as on quantum chaos are on the market, only a joint collection of some of them could be proposed to the students from my experience. Here, I try to give a coherent but concise introduction to the subject of classical Nonlinear Dynamics and Quantum Chaos on an equal footing, and adapted to a four hour semester course.

The stage is set by a brief introduction into the terminology of the physical description of nonintegrable problems. Chapter 2 may as well be seen as part of the introduction. It presents the definition of dynamical systems in general, and useful concepts which are introduced while discussing simple examples of one-dimensional mappings. The core of the book is divided into the two main Chaps. 3 and 4, which discuss classical and quantum aspects, respectively. Both chapters are linked wherever possible to stress the connections between classical mechanics, semiclassics, and a pure quantum approach. All the chapters contain problems which help the reader to consolidate the knowledge (hopefully!) gained from this book.

Readers will optimally profit from the book if they are familiar with the basic concepts of classical and quantum mechanics. The best preparation would be a theory course on classical mechanics, including the Lagrange and Hamiltonian formalism, and any introductory course on quantum theory, may it be theoretical or experimental.

This book could never have been prepared without the precious guidance of Tobias Schwaibold, Aldo Rampioni, and Christian Caron from Springer. I am very grateful for their support and patience. I acknowledge also the help of my students in preparing this text, in particular Andreas Deuchert, Stephan Burkhardt, Benedikt Probst, and Felix Ziegler. Many important comments on the manuscript came from my colleagues in Heidelberg, Heinz Rothe and Michael Schmidt, as well as from Giulio Casati, Oliver Morsch, and Vyacheslav Shatokhin, to all of whom I am very grateful. Finally, I thank my teachers in the very subject of the book, Andreas Buchleitner, Detlef Dürr, Italo Guarneri, Shmuel Fishman, and Peter Schlagheck, for their continuous support.

Heidelberg, December 2013

Sandro Wimberger
Nonlinear Dynamics and Quantum Chaos
An Introduction
Wimberger, S.
2014, XIII, 206 p. 75 illus., 68 illus. in color., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-06342-3