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**Mathematics : Dynamical Systems and Ergodic Theory**

Pacault, A., Vidal, C. (Eds.)

**Synergetics****Far from Equilibrium**

This volume gathers most of the lectures and communications presented at the meeting held in Bordeaux from the 27th to the 29th of September and entitled "Far from equilibrium : instabilities and structures". This meeting is part of a series of several other interdisciplinary conferences such as Elmau 1972, London 1974, Dortmund 1976, Elmau 1977, Tokyo 1978. The old science classification scheme proposed by Auguste Comte tends to be every day a bit more blurred out: one gives here, if needed, one additional illustration of this trend. The three key words "far from equilibrium", "instabilities" and "structures" best illustrate the new concepts which emerge from the description of the dynamics of various systems relevant to many different research areas. Laser emission, chemical reactions, fluid motions, exhibit very particular phenomena when, under appropriate external action, they occur far from equilibrium. These proceedings include the experimental description of such phenomena as well as theoretical attempts in understanding them. Most of the topics investigated here belong to the domains of physics and chemistry but one should be careful not to underestimate the underlying potential biological interest. If the study of simple systems (e. g. , described by a few variables) has been quite successful for several centuries, the recent bearing of our attention on complex systems constitutes a genuine epistemological breakthrough bridging the gap which used to exist between the sciences and the humanism.

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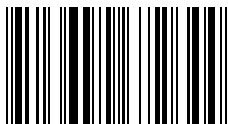
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