



Sociophysics: An Introduction

By Parongama Sen, Bikas K. Chakrabarti

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This book discusses the study and analysis of the physical aspects of social systems and models, inspired by the analogy with familiar models of physical systems and possible applications of statistical physics tools. Unlike the traditional analysis of the physics of macroscopic many-body or condensed matter systems, which is now an established and mature subject, the upsurge in the physical analysis and modelling of social systems, which are clearly many-body dynamical systems, is a recent phenomenon. Though the major developments in sociophysics have taken place only recently, the earliest attempts of proposing "Social Physics" as a discipline are more than one and a half centuries old. Various developments in the mainstream physics of condensed matter systems have inspired and induced the recent growth of sociophysical analysis and models. In spite of the tremendous efforts of many scientists in recent years, the subject is still in its infancy and major challenges are yet to be taken up. An introduction to these challenges is the main motivation for this book.

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Review

"This well-conceived and comprehensive volume offers a stimulating introduction to the physics of society, mainly from a statistical physicist's point of view. I recommend this book to novices and experienced readers alike - it covers an exciting range of research problems." -- Nicole J. Saam, Institute of Sociology, Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

"This book is written for those who have always wondered "Why couldn't we model society in a computer?" Sociophysics offers a new perspective on collective phenomena such as opinion formation, popularity, election outcomes, or economic and crowd dynamics. Sociophysics is on the rise. This book provides a nice introduction of some related models." -- Dirk Helbing, ETH Zürich

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