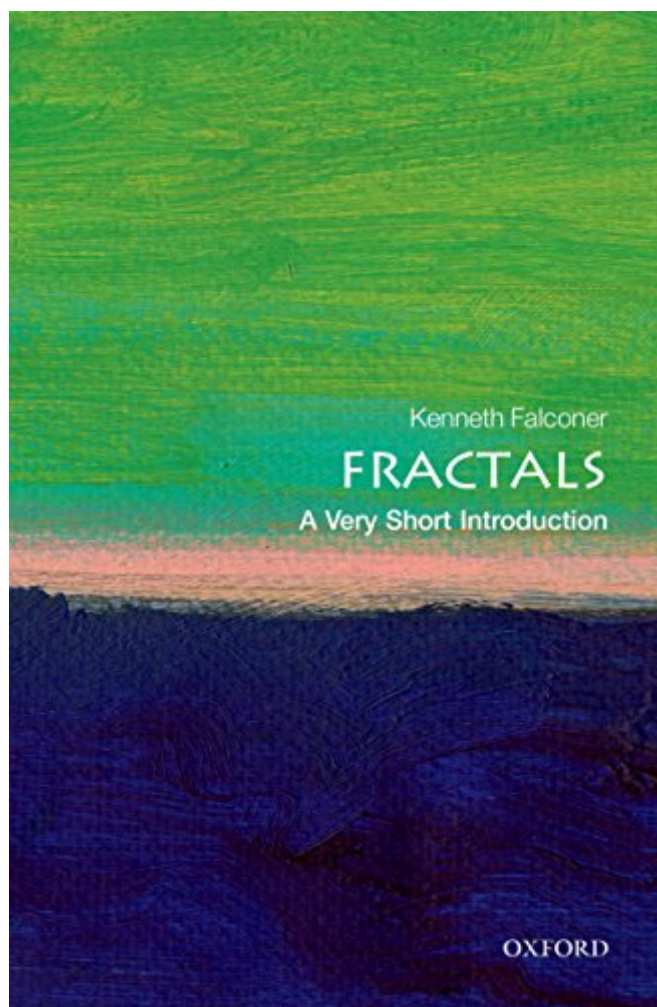


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Fractals: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

Many are familiar with the beauty and ubiquity of fractal forms within nature. Unlike the study of smooth forms such as spheres, fractal geometry describes more familiar shapes and patterns, such as the complex contours of coastlines, the outlines of clouds, and the branching of trees. In this Very Short Introduction, Kenneth Falconer looks at the roots of the 'fractal revolution' that occurred in mathematics in the 20th century, presents the 'new geometry' of fractals, explains the basic concepts, and explores the wide range of applications in science, and in aspects of economics. This is essential introductory reading for students of mathematics and science, and those interested in popular science and mathematics. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This covers the basics well. It prepared me to read through Mandelbrot's "Fractal Geometry of

Nature" with a good understanding of the ideas. It took me from "layperson" to "less laypersony."
Great!

This is thrilling because you can plot examples yourself. Meaning that the whole thing is simple but the result will spray a complex beauty at your face. Behold! You are about to fall in love :-) Very entertaining book.

This book is well written but accessible only to those with some basic knowledge of geometric series and trigonometry. Whatever "special" maths required are explained as succinctly as possible -- such as the basics behind complex numbers, squaring complex numbers, and a simple overview of the log laws. Falconer first explains the concept behind a fractal, then how to construct the classics of the Koch Curve and Sierpinski Triangle (and a few modifications of them), using this as a template for future consideration. He also stresses the idea of itineraries and iterative processes. Discussion of self-similarity leads us through templates and self-affine fractals, and paves the way for a most interesting and informative chapter on fractal dimension.

The writing was clear and concise---a good introduction. It is especially good at explaining the differences in the various fractals.

Love this series. Well written and argued.

Clear, concise, adn to the point.

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