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3718 VINELAND RD., ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32811 U.S.A TEL: 407-422-2476 FAX: 407-839-0294 Circle number 23 on Reader Service Card (Prentice Hall, 1991); in addition, *The Ideas of Particle Physics* by Guy D. Coughlan and James E. Dodd (Cambridge U. P., 1991) provides a thorough qualitative discussion of contemporary topics in particle physics. None is perfect for a one-semester course for seniors, but this text by Das and Ferbel would not be my first choice among them.

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Bénard Cells and Taylor Vortices

E. L. KoschmiederCambridge U. P., New York,
1993. 337 pp. \$64.95 hc
ISBN 0-521-40204-2

Recently, there has been a remarkable revival of interest in fluid dynamics within the physics community. Interest is particularly strong in the formation of sometimes-intricate ordered and disordered patterns. Of course, it is always possible to find complicated patterns in complicated systems; the physicist's goal is to find interesting and complex behavior in systems that are simple enough to understand. Consequently, much of the work on pattern formation has centered on the two systems discussed in Lothar Koschmieder's volume: Rayleigh-Bénard convection, in which a layer of fluid is subjected to a vertical temperature gradient, and Taylor-Couette flow, in which a fluid fills the gap between two rotating cylinders. It has been the hope that insights gained in one system will illuminate problems in the other and increase our understanding of more general flows.

Koschmieder has been an important contributor to experimental research on both Taylor-Couette and Rayleigh-Bénard flows for many years. He entered the field long before the current interest arose within the physics community, and his perspectives are welcome. His book is a good review of these problems, giving us a thorough and accessible account of linear and nonlinear stability problems and of turbulent flows. author consistently discusses what he feels are the open questions and controversial issues. He also provides historical insights not often found in current research papers. The book does succeed in many respects. It is not, however, immune to criticism. For one, Koschmieder clearly expresses a dislike for letters journals, leading him to overlook some important contributions. For example, the seminal paper on chaos in Taylor—Couette flow by Jerry P. Gollub and Harry L. Swinney in *Physical Review Letters* **35**, 927 (1975) is not mentioned. He also claims there has been no attempt to understand spiral turbulence since initial studies in the 1960s, but this neglects new results reported by John J. Hegseth and coauthors in *Physical Review Letters* **62**, 257 (1989).

Other omissions occur by deliberate choice: Koschmieder does not cover binary fluid convection, in spite of the many novel patterns found over the last several years in water-alcohol mixtures; he argues that it does not meet his criteria for verified results. However, there are instances in the study of this problem in which theory and experiment have converged and comparable experiments have been performed in several different laboratories; this work should be included in a second edition. Some omissions occur because the book includes results only through 1991. Thus Koschmieder does not cover recent work on spiral defect chaos, rotating convection or the phase dynamics of Taylor-Couette structures.

Bénard Cells and Taylor Vortices, in spite of its shortcomings, should be read and considered by those interested in pattern formation in fluids. Koschmieder's critical views of both experiment and theory, such as the use of model equations, are not widely held among workers in the field; thus they may challenge our thinking. However, for a balanced perspective, this book must be supplemented by those with other viewpoints, such as Tom Mullin's The Nature of Chaos (Oxford U. P., New York, 1993), and by the overview of pattern formation by Michael C. Cross and Pierre C. Hohenberg in Reviews of Modern Physics 65, 851 (1993).

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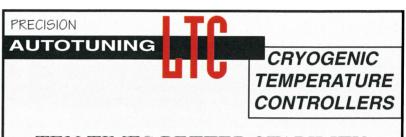
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