CONTENTS

About the Authors vii

Series Editor's Introduction viii

Preface ix

Chapter 1. Introduction to Fractals 1
- Mandelbrot 1
- What Are Fractals? 2
  - *Sets* 2
  - *Self-Similarity* 3
  - *Scale Invariance* 5
  - *Power Law Relations* 5
- Fractal Dimension: Quantifying Fractal Properties 15
- The Formal Definition of Fractals 20
  - *Topological Dimension* 21
  - *Hausdorff Besicovitch Dimension* 21
- Discussion 23

Chapter 2. Fractal Analysis of Frequency Distributions 26
- Power Laws 26
  - *Three Methods: Histogram PDF, Multiscale PDF, and Cumulative Distribution* 27
  - *Examples With Lots of Data* 32
  - *Examples With a Small Amount of Data* 36
- Summary 39

Chapter 3. Fractal Patterns Embedded in Two Dimensions 40
- Estimating the Fractal Dimension of Empirical Data 45
  - *The Divider Method: How Long Is the Coast of Britain?* 46
  - *The Box-Counting Method* 48
  - *Applying the Method in Practice* 53
- Summary and Discussion 54

Chapter 4. Social Processes That Generate Fractals **56**
How We Do Our "To Do" Lists: Preferential Priorities 56
How We Kill: Attendant Causes, Self-Organized Criticality, and Agent-Based Models 57
How We Network: Preferential Attachment 59
How We Decide Where to Live: Diffusion Limited Aggregation 60
How We Look for Food: Lévy Flights 61
How We Live Together: Balancing Cohesive and Disruptive Forces 62
Summary and Discussion 62

Chapter 5. Advanced Topics in Fractal Analysis **64**
Multiscaling Fractal Patterns 65
Patterns Embedded in Three Dimensions 67
Self-Affine Fractals 67
Fractal Time Series 68
Multifractals 72
Lacunarity 73
Conclusion 74

Chapter 6. Final Considerations **75**
Should I Try Fractal Analysis? 75
Caveats 76

References **79**

Author Index **85**

Subject Index **88**