

HW2

Dilara Madinger

Impressions of the Lorenz Attractor

Having walked along many rivers, there is a phenomenon that occurs in the rushing current, typically in the Spring. Even in the swiftest waters, there can clearly be seen rebellious currents along the banks of the river that flow in opposition to the main stream. Their speed is substantially less than the main, however, these currents resiliently oppose the flow of the river in elongated, elliptical paths that circle back to the main flow.

At the point where these currents and the primary stream meet, eddies of all sizes can appear. Some of these are quite small, while others are huge and resemble whirlpools, which might be seen on the open sea. The strangest observance is the lifespan of these eddies. Some last only a blink of an eye, while others persist for several seconds, if not longer. Still others form, consume others that are formed nearby, and then diverge again into multiple eddies before sputtering out.

The Lorenz Attractor reminds me of this experience. I imagine that one of these planes represents what can be seen, or what is visible from the bank of the river. The other plane is what is unseen, the mysterious activities, which must be occurring underneath or within the waters. At the transitions between the planes, it's as if the two agree that it is time for the unseen to become the seen and vice versa. Thus, the dance between the seen and unseen carries on, and I am left pondering a mystery, because as the pattern of the Lawrence Attractor implies, I am only seeing a small portion of what is really happening.

