Preface: Recent Advances in Fractional Dynamics

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Preface: Recent Advances in Fractional Dynamics

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This Special Focus Issue contains several recent developments and advances on the subject of Fractional Dynamics and its widespread applications in various areas of the mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences. *Published by AIP Publishing*. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.4960960]

The currently widely- and extensively-investigated concept of *fractional calculus* (that is, calculus of integrals and derivatives of any arbitrary real or complex order) seems to have stemmed from a question raised in the year 1695 by Marquis de l'Hôpital (1661–1704) to Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646–1716), which sought the meaning of Leibniz's *modern* notation $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$ for the derivative of order $n \in \mathbb{N}_0 := \{0, 1, 2, ...\}$ when $n = \frac{1}{2}$ (What if $n = \frac{1}{2}$?). In his reply, dated 30 September 1695, Leibniz wrote to l'Hôpital as follows:

"...This is an apparent paradox from which, one day, useful consequences will be drawn...."

In addition, of course, to the theories of differential, integral, and integro-differential equations, and special functions of mathematical physics as well as their extensions and generalizations in one and more variables, some of the areas of present-day applications of fractional calculus include and so on (see, for details, Refs. 1–3).

1.	Fluid Flow
2.	Rheology
3.	Dynamical Processes in Self-Similar and Porous Structures
4.	Diffusive Transport Akin to Diffusion
5.	Electrical Networks
6.	Probability and Statistics
7.	Control Theory
8.	Viscoelasticity
9.	Electrochemistry of Corrosion
10.	Chemical Physics
11.	Dynamical Systems
12.	Mathematical Bio-Sciences

The first work, devoted exclusively to the subject of fractional calculus, is the book by Oldham and Spanier.⁴ One of the most recent works on the subject of fractional calculus is the book by Podlubny.² Some of the latest (but certainly not the last) works on the subject of fractional calculus and its applications are the volume edited by Hilfer¹ and the monograph emphasizing upon the theory and applications of fractional differential equations by Kilbas *et al.*³ Indeed, in the meantime, numerous other works (books, edited volumes, and conference proceedings) have also appeared (see, for example, Refs. 5–8). And, indeed, today there exist **at least six** international scientific research journals which are devoted *almost entirely* to the subject of fractional calculus and its applications:

- (i) Journal of Fractional Calculus
- (ii) Fractional Calculus and Applied Analysis
- (iii) Fractional Differential Calculus
- (iv) Journal of Fractional Calculus and Applications
- (v) Communications in Fractional Calculus and
- (vi) **Progress in Fractional Differentiation and** Applications.

A fairly common practice for scientific research journals and scientific research periodicals is indeed to publish special issues as well as conference proceedings. Quite frequently, these special issues are devoted exclusively to specific topics and/or are dedicated respectfully to commemorate the celebrated works of renowned research scientists. The present Special Focus Issue, entitled "*Recent Advances in Fractional Dynamics*" (**RAFD**), contains a collection of several peerreviewed and duly edited articles dealing with various applications of the Riemann-Liouville, Liouville-Caputo, and other related operators of fractional calculus in problems involving dynamical systems. The subject-matter of each of these articles is described reasonably adequately by the title of the article. With this purpose in view, a listing of the articles in this Special Focus Issue is provided below (see Refs. 9–21).

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