



Synergetics: Explorations in the Geometry of Thinking

R. Buckminster Fuller

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Using an inspired combination of geometric logic and metaphors from familiar human experience, Bucky invites readers to join him on a trip through a four-dimensional Universe, where concepts as diverse as entropy, Einstein's relativity equations, and the meaning of existence become clear, understandable, and immediately involving. In his own words: "Dare to be naive... It is one of our most exciting discoveries that local discovery leads to a complex of further discoveries."

Synergetics: Explorations in the Geometry of Thinking Details

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From Reader Review Synergetics: Explorations in the Geometry of Thinking for online ebook

Jack Challis says

Polyhedra have several interesting properties, and even more uninteresting ones. The structural aspects of networks of polyhedra are an imperfect analogy for the structural aspects of physical law. Certain universal principles (dimensionality, principle of least action, symmetries implying conservation laws) are briefly developed but give much more space to the lunatic ramblings of Fuller.

Academic Eric says

Stephen R. Covey quotes from this book on page 14 of his new book, the 3rd Alternative.

Abhijeet Melkani says

"Time has branded them and fettered they are lodged in the room of the infinite possibilities they have ousted. But can those have been possible seeing that they never were? Or was that only possible which came to pass? Weave, weaver of the wind."-James Joyce

Welcome to the masterpiece of Bucky the weaver. I have already been dishonest by rating this book because I have never really been able to place it definitely in my mind. There's sheer insightful brilliance and there's sheer madness all over this book. (and some day I hope to come back with a summary of what is what).

Buckminster Fuller said once that he was 'blessed' with very weak eyesight early in childhood that enabled him to 'see' things differently - he relied on his sense of touch, etc. to come up with a comprehensive view. Whatever the reason he always has something extraordinary and extravagant to say about everything. And he is flipping in and out of everything linking one thing to another and seldom in a linear sequence so you're not going to get much in a single read.

Reading interpretations by different authors will completely miss the point so let me suggest a strategy: Read the first three sections (up to Universe) and the last (Numerology) plus the intro and then reread and reread them until you get a gross idea of what he is saying. Then perhaps foray into other sections. I have never really finished this book but I have tried many times out of a strange curiosity and these are the sections I totally respect.

"The task is, not so much to see what no one has yet seen; but to think what nobody has yet thought, about that which everybody sees." - Erwin Schrödinger

aneurysm1985 says

In short: only read *Synergetics* after reading an 'interpretation' of Bucky's ideas by other writers.

Synergetics is a book that is impossible to rate with a star-rating. So I won't.

This is a an 800 page condensation of Buckminster Fuller's 50-year investigations into geometry, mathematics, physics, and metaphysics. It is formatted like a textbook, with every paragraph assigned a categorisation number ("524.101", "524.11", etc).

The fact that the book is almost exclusively about physics and metaphysics makes it harder for the layperson to understand than some of Bucky's other books. By contrast, his other books are about his more practical, everyday-life inventions and philosophies. Be warned!

Bucky does little to extend an olive branch to his readers. His text is heavy with his unusual jargon, as well as paragraph-length sentences. By his own account, Bucky preferred to be *not understood* than *misunderstood*. Therefore, he would rather you re-read a sentence out of sheer necessity, rather than skim through and misunderstand his points.

Despite reading horror stories of the book being utterly incomprehensible, I managed to get a good sense of what Bucky describes in *Synergetics*. I achieved this mostly by forcing myself to focus on the words, rather than relying on Bucky to pave an easy path. Having a reasonable understanding of high school Physics also helped.

The other reason why I was able to understand the book is because I had read a 'plain-English primer' of Bucky's ideas via the great biography *Buckminster Fuller's Universe: An Appreciation* (1989), which remains the best book I have read about Bucky. This is the approach I recommend for other readers, in conjunction with the books *A Fuller Explanation* by Amy C. Edmondson and *Bucky: A Guided Tour of Buckminster Fuller* by Hugh Kenner.

Not being a mathematician, I am unable to verify the worthiness of the concepts described within this book. Bucky claims that it all fits within the parameters of conventional mathematics, though he emphasises a 60°, triangle-based coordinate system, rather than a 90°, square-based coordinate system. This flows into his philosophical conception of 'the geometry of thought', as described in the book.

By now you've already decided whether you want to read this book or not. For most people, reading **books about Bucky** will suffice. Others will be drawn to the magnetic allure of *Synergetics* through its reputation. As mentioned, I recommend reading only **after** being pre-primed by other writers' interpretations!

***Side note:** I was a little alarmed with how easily Bucky dismisses the concept of evolution. If he really disputes the Darwinian concept of simple organisms evolving into complex organisms, he really should have devoted more than a flimsy one-page dismissal to the topic. His arguments are easily demolished. I presume this oversight does not cloud the validity of the rest of his book...*

Mark Siegmund says

the most profound book I have ever read

Paul Brooks says

Incredibly technical, and i assume even most mathematicians would say that it is abstract. In this book, Bucky defines his vision in a very precise way. Definitely not an easy read, but THE book to read for any serious students of the Master himself.

Whoisabishag says

Ian you have got to read this"!" AlienAPI

Jon says

A thoroughly bizarre and bizarrely thorough examination of science and its relationship to the metaphysics. One cannot tell where Fuller lies between brilliance and madness, but his ideas are definitely thought-provoking and his passion can be infectious.

Addy says

Difficult to read and visualize, been reading this for maybe 10 years to get this far...but seems worth it, always interesting.

Set Forth says

This book challenges your thinking from the scope of the universe to the mathematical realm of geometrical analysis. Mathematics can be quite fun if the right apparatus are in place. Geo-palatial intensity is an all time high.

Andy says

May never finish it. But a great book
