

Book Review

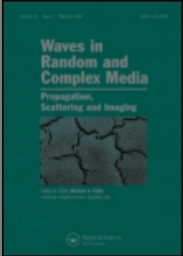
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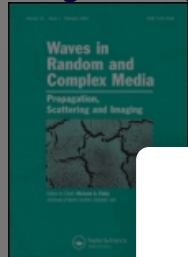
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Waves in Random and Complex Media

Introduction to Wave Scattering, Localization and Mesoscopic Phenomena. Second edition

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Ping Sheng & Bart van Tiggelen



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BOOK REVIEW

Introduction to Wave Scattering, Localization and Mesoscopic Phenomena. Second edition

PING SHENG

(Springer-Verlag Heidelberg 2006, 333 pp, \$179.00 hardback, (ISBN 3 54029 155 5))

For any researcher working with waves in disordered media, it is crucial to have a solid reference to elementary principles with the details worked out in a complete and transparent way. This is very helpful for new students that join the group, and quite useful when preparing courses or presentations. The study of wave propagation in random media is characterized by a great deal of unavoidable technical, mathematical approaches, which in spite of their complexity do not even provide the rigorous answers. Mean field theories, diagrammatic expansions and diffusion approximations have been designed to capture the basic physics as accurately as possible, yet despite the many glorious experimental confirmations, they often leave enough room for lively debates at conferences and Summer Schools: everybody working on radiative transfer, Anderson localization or effective medium approaches knows that. Nevertheless, great principles have emerged from these calculations that have become solid guide lines to new studies.

The first edition of the book by Ping Sheng was released in 1995 by Academic Press. What I always liked about this book is that it provided *both* the global picture – the basic issues and concepts – *and* the technical calculation that is supposed to provide the approximate answer. What I did not like about the book was that it was so rapidly sold out. One of my students once came back excited from his holiday since he had finally been able to



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