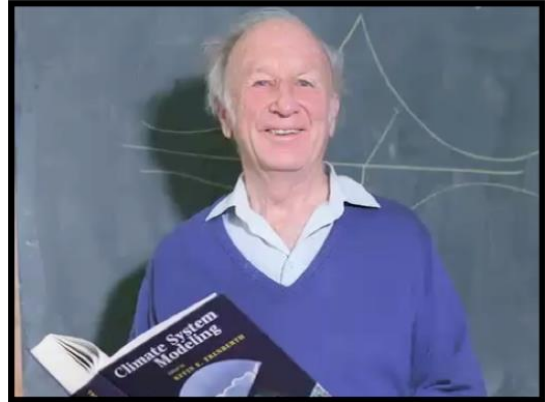


The Butterfly Effect

In 1961, meteorologist Edward Lorenz developed a computer program to predict weather patterns.

One day, he was in a hurry and set a computer calculation that was supposed to be .506127 to .506. He figured a thousandth of a percent would be irrelevant.

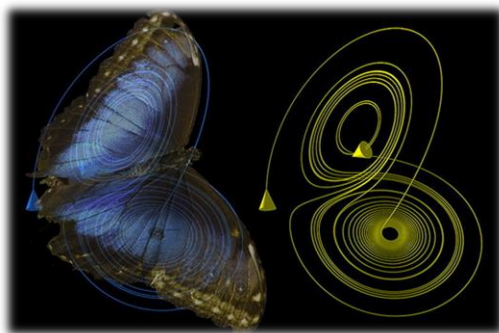
Later in the day, he restarted the program and found a radically different prediction in weather patterns. He produced a paper stating that a very small change in initial conditions could have a radical change in results.



A fellow scientist said that if Lorenz was correct, a single flap of a seagull's wing could change the course of the weather forever.

In 1972, Lorenz presented a paper called *Does the Flap of a Butterfly's Wing in Brazil Set Off a Tornado in Texas?* The idea that a little change somewhere in the world could produce huge changes somewhere else became known as the Butterfly Effect.

Lorenz's findings were first published in 1963 in a paper entitled *Deterministic Nonperiodic Flow*. Lorenz shared the 1983 Crawford Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and was awarded the 1991 Kyoto Prize, Japan's highest private award for global achievement.



Although Lorenz gave a name to the phenomenon, the idea that small causes may have large effects in general and in weather specifically was earlier recognized by French mathematician and engineer Henri Poincare and American mathematician and philosopher Norbert Wiener.

What's the corollary in the spiritual realm?

Well, we see it every day in the work of associates in Life Care and Century Park.

A small act of faithfulness today – in love and service – can have huge ramifications in the future, far beyond anything we can anticipate, producing results that we may never see.

(more)

But it is not necessary for us to know the ultimate impact of these quiet actions. Our task is to simply focus on being faithful to God in small things – carrying out the plans for which He created us. The result? Eternal rewards in heaven.

In the parable of the talents, Jesus said: *Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord* (Matthew 25:23 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter