

SUSTAINABILITY OR COLLAPSE?

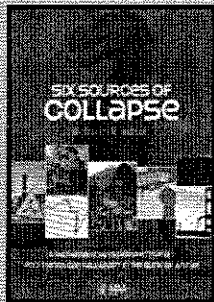
An Exploration of Key Dynamics that May Determine Our Future

How stable is our planet's biosphere?

How robust is our civilization to change?

And how much power do we have to control our own future?

The first step in answering these questions is to understand the processes at work. Lessons come from many disciplines: history, science, economics, engineering, and many others, with a special place for the speaker's own specialty, mathematics, which can help to tie the insights together.



Charles Hadlock is a professor of mathematics at Bentley University in Massachusetts. He has also taught mathematics at Amherst and Bowdoin Colleges and has held a visiting professorship in earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences at MIT. In an earlier career as an international environment consultant with Arthur D. Little, Inc., he focused on analyzing risks on behalf of governments and multinational corporations. His books include *Mathematical Modeling in the Environment* and the recently published *Six Sources of Collapse: A Mathematician's Perspective on How Things Can Fall Apart in the Blink of an Eye*.



Thursday, April 11, 2013 • 3:45 p.m.

Mathematics • Education • Psychology Center 344

Reception Following