

PARTIALLY DETERMINISTIC STRUCTURES

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Abstract

This presents the basic agreements on randomness as accepted in mathematics and theoretical physics (randomness as the intrinsic probabilistic measure in the axiomatized theory of probabilities; randomness as an algorithmic complexity in the algorithmic theory of probabilities) and in experimental physics (randomness as the decreasing correlation, as the absence of a discrete spectrum, as the presence of a local instability or fractal structures, and at last as nonreproducibility, noncontrollability, unpredictability, etc.).

Based on the agreement about randomness as unpredictability, the relations between the observed, Y , and model (predicted), Z , structures were formalized. The formalization leads to the idea of partially deterministic, i.e. partially predictable, structures which is similar to the previously introduced ideas of partially deterministic process and fields [1,2].

The degree of determinism $D(Y|Z)$ of the observation Y relative to the model Z that is defined as a "share" of the model Z in the observation Y , is proposed as a quantitative measure of the prediction quality. Formally, the quantity $D(Y|Z)$ can be expressed as a generalized scalar product $\{Y, Z\}$ which, in a sense, characterizes the projection of Y onto Z :

$$D(Y|Z) = \{Y, Z\} / \{Y, Y\}^{1/2} \{Z, Z\}^{1/2}.$$

The equality of $D(Y|Z)$ to unity means the perfect determinism (perfect predictability) of Y , using the model Z ; a small value of $D(Y|Z)$, as compared with unity, corresponds to randomness (perfect unpredictability) of Y on the basis of the model Z , while the intermediate values of D between zero and unity are interpreted as partial determinism.

In the specific case, when we speak of a system of spatial points, whose position is characterized by the radius vector $\vec{Y}_j$, the operation $\{Y, Z\}$ can be defined as the number of cases where the distance $|\vec{Y}_j - \vec{Z}_j|$ is not larger than ε , i.e.

$$\{Y, Z\} = \sum_{j=1}^N \theta(\varepsilon - |\vec{Y}_j - \vec{Z}_j|),$$

where $\theta(x)$ is the unity function: $\theta(x) = 1$ for $x \geq 0$ and $\theta(x) = 0$ for $x < 0$.

Then the quantity $D(Y|Z)$ acquires the meaning of the relative number of coincidences between $\vec{Y}_j$ and $\vec{Z}_j$ within the sphere of radius ε . If $\vec{Z}_j$ is a regular (hypothetic) lattice and $\vec{Y}_j$ are coordinates of atoms in the real lattice, $D(Y|Z)$ can be used as the characteristic of regularity of the lattice. If, however, $\vec{Z}_j$ is not a fully regular (not perfectly periodical) structure, $D(Y|Z)$ characterises the level of mismatch between the structures Y and Z .

References

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2. Yu.A.Kravtsov and V.G.Petnikov. Partially deterministic wave fields in optics. JOSA-A, 1987, v.4, N 1, 11-16