

Overview of Complex Systems

Principles of Complex Systems
Course 300, Fall, 2008

Prof. Peter Dodds

Department of Mathematics & Statistics
University of Vermont



Licensed under the *Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 License*.

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Outline

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Basics:

- ▶ **Instructor:** Prof. Peter Dodds
- ▶ **Lecture room and meeting times:**
220 Votey, Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
- ▶ **Office:** 203 Lord House, 16 Colchester Avenue
- ▶ **E-mail:** pdodds@uvm.edu
- ▶ **Website:**
<http://www.uvm.edu/pdodds/teaching/2008-08UVM-300/> (田)
- ▶ **Suggested Texts:**
 - ▶ “Critical Phenomena in Natural Sciences: Chaos, Fractals, Selforganization and Disorder: Concepts and Tools” by Didier Sornette^[12].
 - ▶ “Critical Mass: How One Thing Leads to Another” by Philip Ball^[3]

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Admin:

Paper products:

1. Outline

Office hours:

- ▶ 9:00 am to 10:30 am
Tuesday and Thursday
Rm 203, Math Building

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Grading breakdown:

- ▶ **Projects/talks (55%)**—Students will work on semester-long projects. Students will develop a proposal in the first few weeks of the course which will be discussed with the instructor for approval. Details: 15% for the first talk, 20% for the final talk, and 20% for the written project.
- ▶ **Assignments (40%)**—All assignments will be of equal weight and there will be three or four of them.
- ▶ **General attendance/Class participation (5%)**

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

How grading works:

Questions are worth 3 points according to the following scale:

- ▶ 3 = correct or very nearly so.
- ▶ 2 = acceptable but needs some revisions.
- ▶ 1 = needs major revisions.
- ▶ 0 = way off.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Schedule:

Week # (dates)	Tuesday	Thursday
1 (9/2, 9/4) 2 (9/9, 9/11) 3 (9/16, 9/18) 4 (9/23, 9/25)	lecture lecture lecture Project presentations	lecture lecture lecture Project presentations
5 (9/30, 10/2) 6 (10/7, 10/9) 7 (10/14, 10/16) 8 (10/21, 10/23)	lecture lecture lecture lecture	lecture lecture lecture guest lecture: Stuart Kauffman
9 (10/28, 10/30) 10 (11/4, 11/6) 11 (11/11, 11/13) 12 (11/18, 11/20)	lecture lecture lecture lecture	lecture lecture lecture lecture
13 (11/25, 11/27) 14 (12/2, 12/4) 15 (12/9, 12/11)	Thanksgiving lecture Project Presentations	Thanksgiving lecture Project Presentations

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Important dates:

1. Classes run from Tuesday, September 2nd to Thursday, December 11.
2. Add/Drop, Audit, Pass/No Pass deadline—Monday, September 15.
3. Last day to withdraw—Friday, October 31.
4. Reading and exam period—Friday, December 12th to Friday, December 19th.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

More stuff:

Do check your zoo account for updates regarding the course.

Academic assistance: Anyone who requires assistance in any way (as per the ACCESS program or due to athletic endeavors), please see or contact me as soon as possible.

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

- ▶ Santa Fe Institute (SFI)
- ▶ New England Complex Systems Institute (NECSI)
- ▶ Michigan's Center for the Study of Complex Systems (CSCS (田))
- ▶ Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems (NICO (田))
- ▶ Also: Indiana, Davis, Brandeis, University of Illinois, Duke, Warsaw, Melbourne, ..., UVM (CSC)

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Books:

- ▶ “Modeling Complex Systems” by Nino Boccarda^[6]
- ▶ “Critical Phenomena in Natural Sciences” by Didier Sornette^[12]
- ▶ “Complex Adaptive Systems: An Introduction to Computational Models of Social Life,” by John Miller and Scott Page^[10]
- ▶ “Micromotives and Macrobehavior” by Thomas Schelling^[11]
- ▶ “Social Network Analysis” by Stanley Wasserman and Katherine Faust^[14]
- ▶ “Handbook of Graphs and Networks” by Stefan Bornholdt and Hans Georg Schuster^[7]
- ▶ “Dynamics of Complex Systems” by Yaneer Bar-Yam^[4]

Course Information

[Major Centers](#)[Resources](#)[Projects](#)[Topics](#)

Basic Definitions

[Complexity](#)[Emergence](#)[Self-Organization](#)[Modeling](#)[Statistical Mechanics](#)[Universality](#)[Symmetry Breaking](#)[Tools and Techniques](#)[Measures of Complexity](#)

References

Useful Resources:

- ▶ **Cosma Shalizi's notebooks:**
<http://www.cscs.umich.edu/crshalizi/notebooks/> (田)
- ▶ **Complexity Digest:**
<http://www.comdig.org> (田)

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

- ▶ Semester-long projects.
- ▶ Develop proposal in first few weeks.
- ▶ May range from novel research to investigation of an established area of complex systems.
- ▶ We'll go through a list of possible projects soon.

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

The **narrative hierarchy**—explaining things on many scales:

- ▶ 1 to 3 word encapsulation, a soundbite,
- ▶ a sentence/title,
- ▶ a few sentences,
- ▶ a paragraph,
- ▶ a short paper,
- ▶ a long paper,
- ▶ a chapter,
- ▶ a book,
- ▶ ...

Course
Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Topics:

Measures of complexity

Scaling phenomena

- ▶ Zipf's law
- ▶ Non-Gaussian statistics and power law distributions
- ▶ Sample mechanisms for power law distributions
- ▶ Organisms and organizations
- ▶ Scaling of social phenomena: crime, creativity, and consumption.
- ▶ Renormalization techniques

Course Information

[Major Centers](#)[Resources](#)[Projects](#)[Topics](#)

Basic Definitions

[Complexity](#)[Emergence](#)[Self-Organization](#)[Modeling](#)[Statistical Mechanics](#)[Universality](#)[Symmetry Breaking](#)[Tools and Techniques](#)[Measures of Complexity](#)

References

Topics:

Multiscale complex systems

- ▶ Hierarchies and scaling
- ▶ Modularity
- ▶ Form and context in design

Complexity in abstract models

- ▶ The game of life
- ▶ Cellular automata
- ▶ Chaos and order—creation and maintenance

Course Information

[Major Centers](#)[Resources](#)[Projects](#)[Topics](#)

Basic Definitions

[Complexity](#)[Emergence](#)[Self-Organization](#)[Modeling](#)[Statistical Mechanics](#)[Universality](#)[Symmetry Breaking](#)[Tools and Techniques](#)[Measures of Complexity](#)

References

Topics:

Integrity of complex systems

- ▶ Generic failure mechanisms
- ▶ Network robustness
- ▶ Highly optimized tolerance: Robustness and fragility
- ▶ Normal accidents and high reliability theory

Complex networks

- ▶ Small-world networks
- ▶ Scale-free networks

Course Information

[Major Centers](#)[Resources](#)[Projects](#)[Topics](#)

Basic Definitions

[Complexity](#)[Emergence](#)[Self-Organization](#)[Modeling](#)[Statistical Mechanics](#)[Universality](#)[Symmetry Breaking](#)[Tools and Techniques](#)[Measures of Complexity](#)

References

Collective behavior and contagion in social systems

- ▶ Percolation and phase transitions
- ▶ Disease spreading models
- ▶ Schelling's model of segregation
- ▶ Granovetter's model of imitation
- ▶ Contagion on networks
- ▶ Herding phenomena
- ▶ Cooperation
- ▶ Wars and conflicts

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Topics:

Large-scale Social patterns

- ▶ Movement of individuals

Collective decision making

- ▶ Theories of social choice
- ▶ The role of randomness and chance
- ▶ Systems of voting
- ▶ Juries
- ▶ Success inequality: superstardom

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Information

- ▶ Search in networked systems (e.g., the WWW, social systems)
- ▶ Search on scale-free networks
- ▶ Knowledge trees, metadata and tagging

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Complex: (Latin = with + fold/weave (com + plex))



Adjective:

1. Made up of multiple parts; intricate or detailed.
2. Not simple or straightforward.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Possible properties of a **Complex System**:

- ▶ Many interacting agents or entities
- ▶ Relationships are nonlinear
- ▶ Presence of feedback
- ▶ Complex systems are open (out of equilibrium)
- ▶ Presence of memory
- ▶ Modular/multiscale/hierarchical structure
- ▶ Evidence of emergence properties
- ▶ Evidence of self-organization



Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Examples of Complex Systems:

- ▶ human societies
- ▶ cells
- ▶ organisms
- ▶ ant colonies
- ▶ weather systems
- ▶ ecosystems
- ▶ animal societies
- ▶ disease ecologies
- ▶ brains
- ▶ social insects
- ▶ geophysical systems
- ▶ the world wide web

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Relevant fields:

- ▶ Physics
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Information Sciences
- ▶ Cognitive Sciences
- ▶ Biology
- ▶ Ecology
- ▶ Geosciences
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ Medical Sciences
- ▶ Systems Engineering
- ▶ Computer Science
- ▶ ...

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Complicated versus Complex.

- ▶ Complicated: Mechanical watches, airplanes, ...
- ▶ Engineered systems can be made to be **highly robust but not adaptable**.
- ▶ But engineered systems can become complex (power grid, planes).
- ▶ They can also fail spectacularly.
- ▶ Explicit distinction: Complex Adaptive Systems.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Course
Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Nino Boccarda in *Modeling Complex Systems*:

[6] “... there is no universally accepted definition of a complex system ... most researchers would describe a system of connected agents that exhibits an emergent global behavior not imposed by a central controller, but resulting from the interactions between the agents.”

[Course Information](#)

- [Major Centers](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Projects](#)
- [Topics](#)

[Basic Definitions](#)

- [Complexity](#)
- [Emergence](#)
- [Self-Organization](#)
- [Modeling](#)
- [Statistical Mechanics](#)
- [Universality](#)
- [Symmetry Breaking](#)
- [Tools and Techniques](#)
- [Measures of Complexity](#)

[References](#)

The Wikipedia on Complex Systems:

“Complexity science is not a single theory: it encompasses more than one theoretical framework and is highly interdisciplinary, seeking the answers to some fundamental questions about living, adaptable, changeable systems.”

Course
Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Philip Ball in *Critical Mass*:

[3] “...complexity theory seeks to understand how order and stability arise from the interactions of many components according to a few simple rules.”

Cosma Shalizi:

“The "sciences of complexity" are very much a potpourri, and while the name has some justification—chaotic motion seems more complicated than harmonic oscillation, for instance—I think the fact that it is more dignified than "neat nonlinear nonsense" has not been the least reason for its success.—That opinion wasn't exactly changed by working at the Santa Fe Institute for five years.”

Course Information

- [Major Centers](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Projects](#)
- [Topics](#)

Basic Definitions

- [Complexity](#)
- [Emergence](#)
- [Self-Organization](#)
- [Modeling](#)
- [Statistical Mechanics](#)
- [Universality](#)
- [Symmetry Breaking](#)
- [Tools and Techniques](#)
- [Measures of Complexity](#)

References

Nonlinear (OED)

1. a. Math. and Physics. Not linear; ... involving or possessing the property that the magnitude of an effect or output is not linearly or proportionally related to that of the cause or input. First cited use 1844.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Nonlinear (OED)

b. *colloq.* **to go non-linear:** to lose one's head; to rave, esp. about a particular obsession. First cited use 1985.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

[Course Information](#)[Major Centers](#)[Resources](#)[Projects](#)[Topics](#)[Basic Definitions](#)[Complexity](#)[Emergence](#)[Self-Organization](#)[Modeling](#)[Statistical Mechanics](#)[Universality](#)[Symmetry Breaking](#)[Tools and Techniques](#)[Measures of Complexity](#)[References](#)

Steve Strogatz in *Sync*:

“... every decade or so, a grandiose theory comes along, bearing similar aspirations and often brandishing an ominous-sounding C-name. In the 1960s it was cybernetics. In the '70s it was catastrophe theory. Then came chaos theory in the '80s and complexity theory in the '90s.”



[HOME](#)
[ABOUT US](#)
[CONTACTS](#)
[NEWS & EVENTS](#)
[LINKS](#)
[FAQs](#)
[JOURNAL](#)
[SITE & PAPERS](#)
[MAP](#)

Welcome to the COMPLEXITY SOCIETY

"The Application of Complexity Science to Human Affairs"

The Complexity Society provides a focal point for people in the UK interested in complexity. It is a community that uses complexity science to rethink and reinterpret all aspects of the world in which we live and work.

Its core values are OPENNESS, EQUALITY and DIVERSITY.

- Open to all, open to ideas, open in process and activities
- Equality, egalitarian, non-hierarchical, participative
- Diverse, connecting and embracing a wide range of views, respecting differences

The society objectives are to promote the theory of complexity in education, government, the health service and business as well as the beneficial application of complexity in a wide variety of social, economic, scientific and technological contexts such as sources of competitive advantage, business clusters and knowledge management.

Complexity includes ideas such as complex adaptive systems, self-organisation, co-evolution, agent based computer models, chaos, networks, emergence and fractals.

Membership is open to all and current members include people from universities, business, and government funded organisations.

Membership

To join TCS apply here.

Complexity Society Newsletter

The August 2007 edition is now available.

Complexity Digest

The current issue of Complexity Digest 2007.29 is now available on-line.

Recent Events:

Summer School in Complexity Science organised by Imperial College, London, Wye College, Kent, UK. 8-17th July 2007.

Forthcoming Events:

ECES'07 European Conference on Complex Systems, Dresden, Germany. 1-5th October 2007.

New Paper:

The Fractal Imagination: New Resources for Conceptualising Creativity.

Journal

'Emergence: Complexity & Organization (ECO)', A journal of research, theory and practice on Organisations as complex systems.

©2007 The Complexity Society [Privacy Policy](#) [Disclaimer](#)

Page last updated: 13 August, 2007

Course Information

[Major Centers](#)
[Resources](#)
[Projects](#)
[Topics](#)

Basic Definitions

[Complexity](#)
[Emergence](#)
[Self-Organization](#)
[Modeling](#)
[Statistical Mechanics](#)
[Universality](#)
[Symmetry Breaking](#)
[Tools and Techniques](#)
[Measures of Complexity](#)

References

“The society objectives are to promote the theory of complexity in education, government, the health service and business as well as the beneficial application of complexity in a wide variety of social, economic, scientific and technological contexts such as sources of competitive advantage, business clusters and knowledge management.”

“Complexity includes ideas such as complex adaptive systems, self-organisation, co-evolution, agent based computer models, chaos, networks, emergence, wombats, and fractals.”

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Course
Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References



The Wikipedia on [Emergence](#):

“In philosophy, systems theory and the sciences, emergence refers to the way complex systems and patterns arise out of a multiplicity of relatively simple interactions. ... [emergence is central to the physics of complex systems and yet very controversial.](#)”

Emergence:

Examples:

- ▶ Fundamental particles \Rightarrow Life, the Universe, and Everything
- ▶ Genes \Rightarrow Organisms
- ▶ Brains \Rightarrow Thoughts
- ▶ Fireflies \Rightarrow Synchronized Flashes
- ▶ People \Rightarrow World Wide Web
- ▶ People \Rightarrow Behavior in games not specified by rules (e.g., bluffing in poker)
- ▶ People \Rightarrow Religion

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Friedrich Hayek (Economist/Philosopher/Nobelist):

- ▶ Markets, legal systems, political systems are emergent and not designed.
- ▶ 'Taxis' = made order (by God, Sovereign, Government, ...)
- ▶ 'Cosmos' = grown order
- ▶ Archetypal limits of **hierarchical** and **decentralized** structures.
- ▶ **Hierarchies** arise once problems are solved.
- ▶ **Decentralized structures** help solve problems.
- ▶ Dewey Decimal System versus tagging.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Thomas Schelling (Economist/Nobelist):

- ▶ “Micromotives and Macrobehavior” [?]
- ▶ Segregation, wearing hockey helmet, seating choices

Course Information

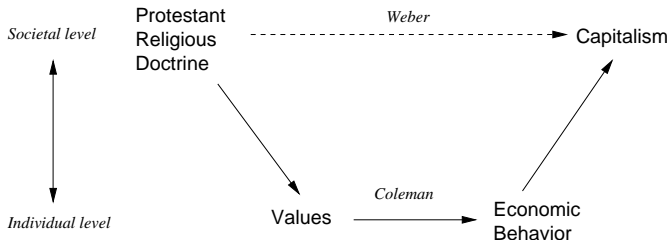
Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

James Coleman in *Foundations of Social Theory*:



Understand macrophenomena arises from microbehavior which in turn depends on macrophenomena. [8]

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Higher complexity:

- ▶ Many system scales (or levels) that interact with each other.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Even mathematics: ^[9]

Gödel's Theorem (roughly):
we can't prove every theorem that's true.

Suggests a **strong form of emergence**:

Some phenomena cannot be formally deduced from elementary aspects of a system.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

The idea of emergence is rather old...

“The whole is more than the sum of its parts” –Aristotle

Philosopher G. H. Lewes first used the word explicitly in 1875.

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence**
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Definitions

There appears to be **two types of emergence**:

Weak emergence:

System-level phenomena is different from that of its constituent parts yet can be connected theoretically.

Strong emergence:

System-level phenomena fundamentally cannot be deduced from how parts interact.

(Strong emergence is what Mark Bedau calls **magic**...)

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence**
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Complex Systems enthusiasts often decry **reductionist** approaches . . .

But reductionism seems to be misunderstood.

Reductionist techniques can explain weak emergence (e.g., phase transitions).

'A Miracle Occurs' explains strong emergence.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

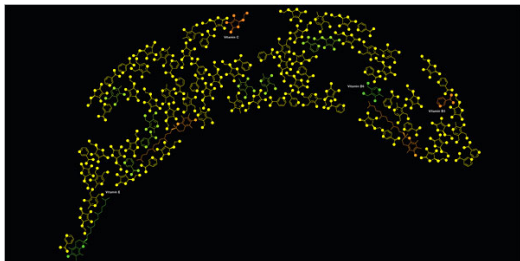
Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

The emergence of taste:

- ▶ Molecules \Rightarrow Ingredients \Rightarrow Taste
- ▶ See Michael Pollan's [article on nutritionism](#) (田) in the New York Times, January 28, 2007.



nytimes.com

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Reductionism and food:

- ▶ *Unhappy Meals*, Michael Pollan, NY Times, January 2007
- ▶ “even the simplest food is a hopelessly complex thing to study, a virtual wilderness of chemical compounds, many of which exist in complex and dynamic relation to one another...”
- ▶ “So ... break the thing down into its component parts and study those one by one, even if that means ignoring complex interactions and contexts, as well as the fact that the whole may be more than, or just different from, the sum of its parts. This is what we mean by reductionist science.”

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

- ▶ “people don’t eat nutrients, they eat foods, and foods can behave very differently than the nutrients they contain.”
- ▶ Studies suggest diets high in fruits and vegetables help prevent cancer.
- ▶ So... find the nutrients responsible and eat more of them
- ▶ But “in the case of **beta carotene ingested as a supplement**, scientists have discovered that it actually **increases the risk of certain cancers**. Big oops.”

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Thyme's known antioxidants:

4-Terpineol, alanine, anethole, apigenin, ascorbic acid, beta carotene, caffeic acid, camphene, carvacrol, chlorogenic acid, chrysoeriol, eriodictyol, eugenol, ferulic acid, gallic acid, gamma-terpinene isochlorogenic acid, isoeugenol, isothymonin, kaempferol, labiatic acid, lauric acid, linalyl acetate, luteolin, methionine, myrcene, myristic acid, naringenin, oleanolic acid, p-coumoric acid, p-hydroxy-benzoic acid, palmitic acid, rosmarinic acid, selenium, tannin, thymol, tryptophan, ursolic acid, vanillic acid.

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

“It would be great to know how this all works, but **in the meantime** we can enjoy thyme in the knowledge that it probably doesn't do any harm (since people have been eating it forever) and that it may actually do some good (since people have been eating it forever) and that even if it does nothing, we like the way it tastes.”

Gulf between theory and practice: baseball and bumblebees.

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Yaneer Bar-Yam (founder and head of NECSI) on emergence:

Suggests there are **four types of emergence**. **No, five!**

One very weak, one weak, two strong, and a dynamic strong version.

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

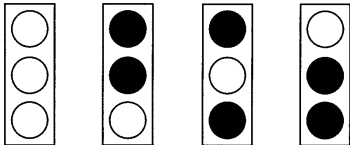
Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Example—string of three bits with one odd parity bit:



Global constraint on bits not seen in individual bits.

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Strong: constraints on the global structure may not be observable by viewing behavior of individual parts.

Not a pure micro-to-macro story.

Still... seems that analysis of the system is possible by thinking about the parts.

And centralized control is a simple system-level feature.

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Self-Organization

“Self-organization is a process in which the internal organization of a system, normally an open system, increases in complexity without being guided or managed by an outside source.”
(also: Self-assembly)



Course Information

- [Major Centers](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Projects](#)
- [Topics](#)

Basic Definitions

- [Complexity](#)
- [Emergence](#)
- [Self-Organization](#)**
- [Modeling](#)
- [Statistical Mechanics](#)
- [Universality](#)
- [Symmetry Breaking](#)
- [Tools and Techniques](#)
- [Measures of Complexity](#)

References

Emergence but no Self-Organization?

H_2O molecules \Rightarrow Water

Random walks \Rightarrow Normal distributions

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Self-organization but no Emergence?

Water above and near the freezing point.

Emergence may be limited to a low scale of a system.

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

Course
Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Eric Beinhocker (*The Origin of Wealth*):^[5]

Dynamic:

- ▶ **Complexity Economics:** Open, dynamic, non-linear systems, far from equilibrium
- ▶ **Traditional Economics:** Closed, static, linear systems in equilibrium

Agents:

- ▶ **Complexity Economics:** Modelled individually; use inductive rules of thumb to make decisions; have incomplete information; are subject to errors and biases; learn to adapt over time
- ▶ **Traditional Economics:** Modelled collectively; use complex deductive calculations to make decisions; have complete information; make no errors and have no biases; have no need for learning or adaptation (are already perfect)

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Networks:

- ▶ **Complexity Economics:** Explicitly model bi-lateral interactions between individual agents; networks of relationships change over time
- ▶ **Traditional Economics:** Assume agents only interact indirectly through market mechanisms (e.g. auctions)

Emergence:

- ▶ **Complexity Economics:** No distinction between micro/macro economics; macro patterns are emergent result of micro level behaviours and interactions
- ▶ **Traditional Economics:** Micro-and macroeconomics remain separate disciplines

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Evolution:

- ▶ **Complexity Economics:**

The evolutionary process of differentiation, selection and amplification provides the system with novelty and is responsible for its growth in order and complexity

- ▶ **Traditional Economics:**

No mechanism for endogenously creating novelty, or growth in order and complexity

Course
Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

- ▶ The central concepts **Complexity** and **Emergence** are not well defined.
- ▶ There is **no general theory of Complex Systems**.
- ▶ But the problems exist...
Complex (Adaptive) Systems abound...
- ▶ • We use whatever tools we need.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Course
Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Nino Boccara in *Modeling Complex Systems*:

“Finding the emergent global behavior of a large system of interacting agents using methods is usually hopeless, and researchers therefore must rely on computer-based models.”

Nino Boccara in *Modeling Complex Systems*:

Focus is on dynamical systems models:

- ▶ differential and difference equation models
- ▶ chaos theory
- ▶ cellular automata
- ▶ networks
- ▶ power-law distributions

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Philip Ball in *Critical Mass*:

[3] “... very often what passes today for ‘complexity science’ is really something much older, dressed up in fashionable apparel. The main themes in complexity theory have been studied for more than a hundred years by physicists who evolved a tool kit of concepts and techniques to which complexity studies have barely added a handful of new items.”

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling**
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

- ▶ Statistical Mechanics is “a science of collective behavior.”
- ▶ Simple rules give rise to collective phenomena.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

The Ising Model:

- ▶ Idealized model of a ferromagnet.
- ▶ Each atom is assumed to have a local spin that can be **up** or **down**: $S_i = \pm 1$.
- ▶ Spins are assumed arranged on a lattice (e.g. square lattice in 2-d).
- ▶ In isolation, spins like to align with each other.
- ▶ Increasing temperature breaks these alignments.
- ▶ The *drosophila* of statistical mechanics.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

2-d Ising model simulation:

<http://www.pha.jhu.edu/javalab/ising/ising.html> (田)

Course Information

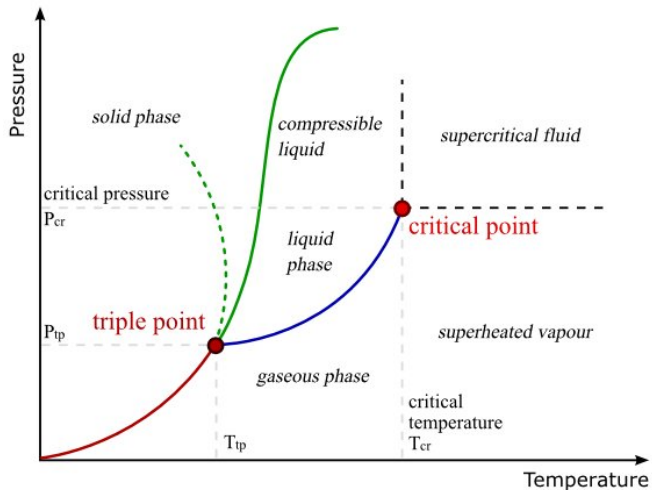
- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Phase diagrams



Qualitatively distinct macro states.

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

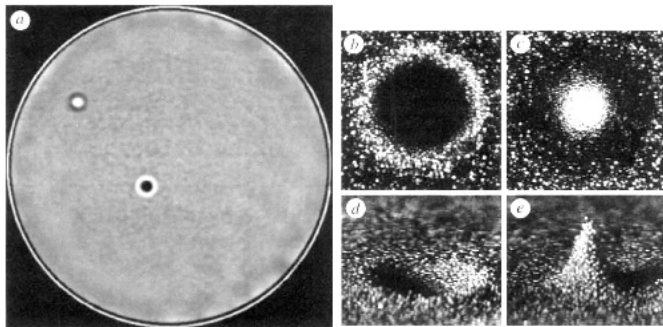
Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Phase diagrams

Oscillons, bacteria, traffic, snowflakes, ...



Umbanhowar et al., *Nature*, 1996 [13]

Course Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

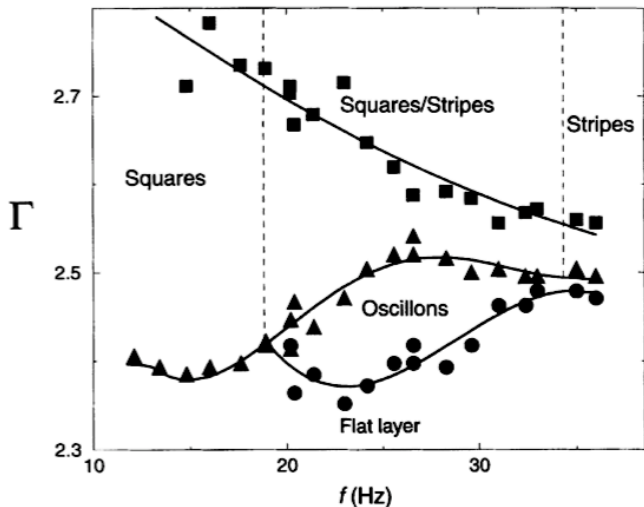
Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References



Course Information

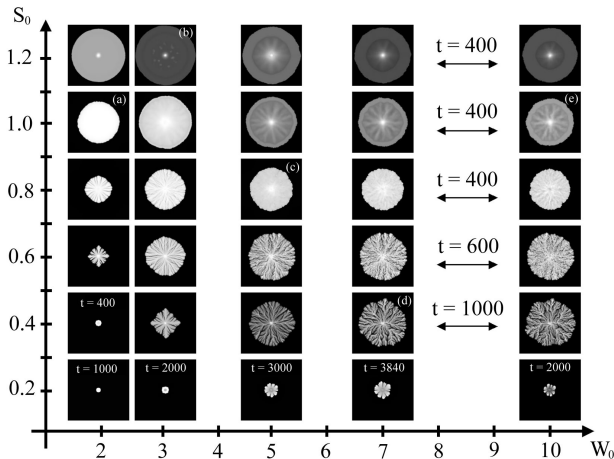
- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Phase diagrams



W_0 = initial wetness, S_0 = initial nutrient supply

<http://math.arizona.edu/~lega/HydroBact.html>

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Analytic issues:

- ▶ 1-d: simple (Ising & Lenz, 1925)
- ▶ 2-d: hard (Onsager, 1944)
- ▶ 3-d: extremely hard...
- ▶ 4-d and up: simple.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

- ▶ Origins of Statistical Mechanics are in the studies of people... (Maxwell and co.)
- ▶ Now physicists are using their techniques to study everything else including people...
- ▶ See Philip Ball's "Critical Mass" [3]

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Universality:

The property that the macroscopic aspects of a system do not depend sensitively on the system's details.

- ▶ The Central Limit Theorem.
- ▶ Lattice gas models of fluid flow.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

- ▶ Sometimes details don't matter too much.
- ▶ Many-to-one mapping from micro to macro
- ▶ Suggests not all possible behaviors are available at higher levels of complexity.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Fluid flow is modeled by the Navier-Stokes equations.

Works for many very different fluids:

- ▶ The atmosphere, oceans, blood, galaxies, the earth's mantle...

and ball bearings on lattices...?

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

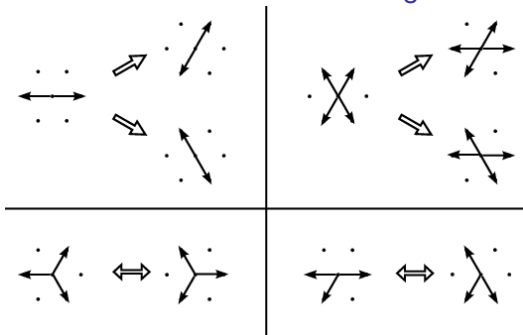
Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Lattice gas models

Collision rules in 2-d on a hexagonal lattice:



Lattice matters...

No 'good' lattice in 3-d.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Course
Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Philip Anderson's paper: "More is Different."
Science (1972).^[1]

- ▶ Argues against idea that the only real scientists are those working on the fundamental laws.
- ▶ Symmetry breaking \Rightarrow different laws/rules at different scales...

Symmetry Breaking

“Elementary entities of science X obey the laws of science Y”

- ▶ X
- ▶ solid state or many-body physics
- ▶ chemistry
- ▶ molecular biology
- ▶ cell biology
- ▶ .
- ▶ psychology
- ▶ social sciences

- ▶ Y
- ▶ elementary particle physics
- ▶ solid state many-body physics
- ▶ chemistry
- ▶ molecular biology
- ▶ .
- ▶ physiology
- ▶ psychology

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Anderson:

[the more we know about] “fundamental laws, the less relevance they seem to have to the very real problems of the rest of science.”

Scale and **complexity** thwart the constructionist hypothesis.

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking**
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Symmetry Breaking

- ▶ Page 291–292 of Sornette^[12]:
Renormalization \Leftrightarrow Anderson's hierarchy.
- ▶ But Anderson's hierarchy is not a simple one: the rules change.

Course Information

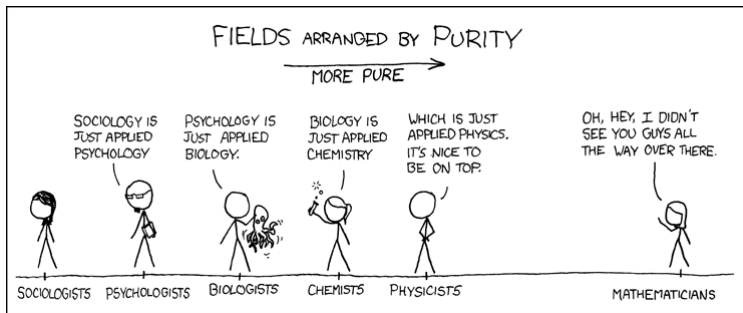
Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

More is different:



from <http://www.xkcd.com>

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Tools and techniques:

- ▶ Differential equations, difference equations, linear algebra.
- ▶ Statistical techniques for comparisons and descriptions.
- ▶ Methods from statistical mechanics and computer science.
- ▶ Computer modeling (specialized, Swarm, Starlogo, and more...)

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Measures of Complexity

Overview

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

How do we measure the complexity of a system?

Frame 97/108



(1) **Entropy**: number of microstates that could underlie a particular macrostate.

- ▶ Used in information theory and statistical mechanics/thermodynamics.
- ▶ Measures how uncertain we are about the details of a system.
- ▶ Problem: Randomness maximizes entropy, perfect order minimizes.
- ▶ Our idea of 'maximal complexity' is somewhere in between...

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

(Aside)

What about entropy and self-organization?

Isn't entropy supposed to always increase?

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

Two ways for order to appear in a system without offending the second law of thermodynamics:

- (1) Entropy of the system decreases at the expense of entropy increasing in the environment.
- (2) The system becomes more ordered macroscopically while becoming more disordered microscopically.

Course
Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Course
Information

Major Centers

Resources

Projects

Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity

Emergence

Self-Organization

Modeling

Statistical Mechanics

Universality

Symmetry Breaking

Tools and Techniques

Measures of Complexity

References

(2) Various kinds of information complexity:

- ▶ Roughly, what is the size of a program required to reproduce a string of numbers?
- ▶ Again maximized by random strings.
- ▶ Very hard to measure.

Measures of Complexity

(3) Variation on (2): what is the size of a program required to reproduce members of an ensemble of a string of numbers?

Now: Random strings have very low complexity.

Course
Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

Large problem: given any one example, how do we know what ensemble it belongs to?

One limited solution: divide the string up into subsequences to create an ensemble.

See *Complexity* by Badii & Politi [2]

Course Information

- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

So maybe no one true measure of complexity exists.

Cosma Shalizi:

“Every few months seems to produce another paper proposing yet another measure of complexity, generally a quantity which can't be computed for anything you'd actually care to know about, if at all. These quantities are almost never related to any other variable, so they form no part of any theory telling us when or how things get complex, and are usually just quantification for quantification's own sweet sake.”

Course
Information


Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics


Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

References I

 P. W. Anderson.
More is different.
Science, 177(4047):393–396, August 1972. [pdf](#) (田)

 R. Badii and A. Politi.
Complexity: Hierarchical structures and scaling in physics.
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 1997.

 P. Ball.
Critical Mass: How One Thing Leads to Another.
Farra, Straus, and Giroux, New York, 2004.

 Y. Bar-Yam.
Dynamics of Complex Systems”.
Westview Press, Boulder, CO, 2003.

Course Information





- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

References II

-  E. D. Beinhocker.
The Origin of Wealth.
Harvard Business School Press, Cambridge, MA,
2006.
-  N. Boccara.
Modeling Complex Systems.
Springer-Verlag, New York, 2004.
-  S. Bornholdt and H. G. Schuster, editors.
Handbook of Graphs and Networks.
Wiley-VCH, Berlin, 2003.
-  J. S. Coleman.
Foundations of Social Theory.
Belknap Press, Cambridge, MA, 1994.

Course Information



- Major Centers
- Resources
- Projects
- Topics

Basic Definitions

- Complexity
- Emergence
- Self-Organization
- Modeling
- Statistical Mechanics
- Universality
- Symmetry Breaking
- Tools and Techniques
- Measures of Complexity

References

References III

-  R. Foote.
Mathematics and complex systems.
Science, 318:410–412, 2007. [pdf](#) (田)
-  J. H. Miller and S. E. Page.
Complex Adaptive Systems: An introduction to computational models of social life.
Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2007.
-  T. C. Schelling.
Micromotives and Macrobehavior.
Norton, New York, 1978.
-  D. Sornette.
Critical Phenomena in Natural Sciences.
Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2nd edition, 2003.

Course Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References


Course
Information

Major Centers
Resources
Projects
Topics

Basic Definitions

Complexity
Emergence
Self-Organization
Modeling
Statistical Mechanics
Universality
Symmetry Breaking
Tools and Techniques
Measures of Complexity

References

 P. B. Umbanhowar, F. Melo, and H. L. Swinney.
Localized excitations in a vertically vibrated granular
layer.

Nature, 382:793–6, 29 August 1996. [pdf](#) (田)

 S. Wasserman and K. Faust.
Social Network Analysis: Methods and Applications.
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 1994.