Kolmogorov complexity as a language

Alexander Shen LIF CNRS, Marseille; on leave from ИППИ РАН, Москва

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	<i>p</i> = string	<i>p</i> = prefix of a sequence
x = string	plain	prefix
	<i>K</i> (<i>x</i>), <i>C</i> (<i>x</i>)	KP(x), K(x)
<i>x</i> = prefix	decision	monotone
of a sequence	KR(x), KD(x)	KM(x), $Km(x)$

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Conditional complexity C(x|y): minimal length of a program $p : y \mapsto x$. There is also a priori probability (in two versions: discrete, on strings; continuous, on prefixes)

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Random object or random process?

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- "well shuffled deck of cards": any meaning?

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int getRandomNumber()
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[xkcd cartoon]

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- ► algorithmic ⇒ classical: Martin-Löf random sequences form a set of measure 1.

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- but are related under some assumptions

Example: matrices without uniform minors

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k × k minor of n × n Boolean matrix: select k rows and k columns

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- minor is uniform if it is all-0 or all-1.
- claim: there is a n × n bit matrix without k × k uniform minors for k = 3 log n.

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- log n bits to specify a column or row: 2k log n bits in total
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- $n^2 k^2$ bits to specify the rest of the matrix
- ► $2k \log n + 1 + (n^2 k^2) = 6 \log^2 n + 1 + (n^2 9 \log^2 n) < n^2$.

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• copying *n*-bit string on 1-tape TM requires $\Omega(n^2)$ time





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complexity version: if initially the tape was empty on the right of the border, then after *n* steps the complexity of a zone that is *d* cells far from the border is O(n/d).

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proof: border guards in each cell of the border security zone write down the contents of the head of TM; each of the records is enough to reconstruct u(t) so the length of it should be Ω(K(u(t)); the sum of lengths does not exceed time

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Combinatorial equivalent: Let *F* be a set of strings that has at most 2^{0.99n} strings of length *n*. Then there is a sequence ω s.t. all sufficiently long substrings of ω are not in *F*.

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- combinatorial and complexity proofs not just translations of each other (Lovasz lemma, Rumyantsev, Miller, Muchnik)

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coding theory: how many *n*-bit strings x₁,..., x_k one can find if Hamming distance between every two is at least d

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- general requirement: $C(x_i|x_j) \ge d$

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- general requirement: $C(x_i|x_j) \ge d$
- generalization of GV bound: *d*-separated family of size $\Omega(2^{n-d})$

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•
$$C(x,y) \leq C(x) + C(y|x) + O(\log)$$



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$$(A| \leq w(A) \cdot h(A)$$

$$w(A)$$

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 $C(x,y) \ge C(x) + C(y|x) + O(\log)$

► $C(x, y) < k + l \Rightarrow C(x) < k + O(\log)$ or $C(y|x) < l + O(\log)$

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$$C(x,y) \leq C(x) + C(y|x) + O(\log)$$

$$\int_{w(A)}^{wax = h(A)} [A] \leq w(A) \cdot h(A)$$

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- ► $C(x, y) < k + l \Rightarrow C(x) < k + O(\log)$ or $C(y|x) < l + O(\log)$
- every set A of size $< 2^{k+l}$ can be split into two parts $A = A_1 \cup A_2$ such that $w(A_1) \le 2^k$ and $h(A_2) \le 2^l$

► $2C(x, y, z) \leq C(x, y) + C(y, z) + C(x, z)$

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Also for Shannon entropies; special case of Shearer lemma

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Common information and graph minors

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Common information and graph minors

• mutual information: I(a:b) = C(a) + C(b) - C(a,b)

$$\begin{array}{c} \alpha & g \\ C(a) = \lambda & T(a;b) = \\ C(a) = \beta & z + \beta - 1 \\ \alpha & \beta & C(a,b) = \gamma \end{array}$$

Common information and graph minors

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(a) =
$$d = I(a;b) =$$

(b) = $\beta = d + \beta - 1$
(a,b) = V

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Common information and graph minors

- ► mutual information: I(a:b) = C(a) + C(b) C(a,b) $\overbrace{c(a|b)}^{\alpha} \overbrace{c(b|-b)}^{\beta} \overbrace{c(b)=\beta}^{\alpha} = d + \beta - 1$
- common information:



combinatorial: graph minors



can the graph be covered by 2^{δ} minors of size $2^{\alpha-\delta} \times 2^{\beta-\delta}$?

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nonuniformity= (maximal section)/(average section)

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Theorem: every set of N elements can be represented as union of polylog(N) sets whose nonuniformity is polylog(N).

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multidimensional version

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- how to construct parts using Kolmogorov complexity: take strings with given complexity bounds

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 so simple that it is not clear what is the combinatorial translation

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- how to construct parts using Kolmogorov complexity: take strings with given complexity bounds
- so simple that it is not clear what is the combinatorial translation
- but combinatorial argument exists (and gives even a stronger result)

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- formal statement is a bit complicated
- Complexity version: with high probablity the value of ξ^N has complexity close to NH(ξ).

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► $2C(x, y, z) \leq C(x, y) + C(y, z) + C(x, z) + O(\log)$

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► The same for entropy: $2H(\xi, \eta, \tau) \le H(\xi, \eta) + H(\xi, \tau) + H(\eta, \tau)$

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Related to Romashchenko's theorem: if three last terms are zeros, one can extract common information from *a*, *b*, *e*.

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- (Romashchenko, Musatov): how to use explicit extractors and derandomization to get space-bounded versions

Computability theory: simple sets

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Computability theory: simple sets

 Simple set: enumerable set with infinite complement, but no algorithm can generate infinitely many elements from the complement

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- "Minimal integer that cannot be described in ten English words" (Berry)

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- ► maximal elements: N(2⁻ⁿ) > BP(n O(1)), where BP(k) is the maximal integer whose prefix complexity is k or less.

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- Explanation: if not, the sequence of resampled clauses would encode the random bits used in resampling making them compressible

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- (Gödel second theorem, Kritchman-Raz proof): the "unexpected test paradox" (a test will be given next week but it won't be known before the day of the test)

13th Hilbert's problem
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- Kolmogorov complexity version: we have three strings a, b, c on a blackboard. It is allowed to write (add) a new string if it simple relative to two of the strings on the board. Which strings we can obtain in O(1) steps? Only strings of small complexity relative to a, b, c, but not all of them (for random a, b, c)

 secret s and three people; any two are able to reconstruct the secret working together; but each one in isolation has no information about it

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 Some relation between Kolmogorov and traditional settings (Romashchenko, Kaced)

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Alice has some information a

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• Theorem (Muchnik): it is always possible to have $C(b|f) \approx \min(C(b), C(a))$

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- Theorem (Muchnik): it is always possible to have $C(b|f) \approx \min(C(b), C(a))$
- ► Full version: Eve knows some c and we want to send message of a minimal possible length C(b|a)

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Andrej Muchnik (1958-2007)



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