Physics of Computation
Physics 2\$^B$
Syllabus (Spring)

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Contents

1 Natural Computation

1.1 Lecture 21: Overview ................................................. 2
1.2 Lecture 22: The Learning Channel ................................. 2
1.3 Lecture 23: $\epsilon$-Machine Reconstruction .................... 2
1.4 Lecture 24: $\epsilon$-Machine Optimalities ......................... 3
1.5 Lecture 25: Measures of Structural Complexity I .............. 3
1.6 Lecture 25: Measures of Structural Complexity II ............. 3
1.7 Lecture 27: Information Diagrams for Processes ............... 3
1.8 Lectures 29 and 30: Directional Computational Mechanics .... 4
1.9 Lecture 31: Complex Materials I (Dowman Varn) .............. 4
1.10 Lecture 32: Complex Materials II (Dowman Varn) ............ 4
1.11 Lecture 26: Mixed States (Chris Ellison) ...................... 4
1.12 Lecture 28: The Reverse $\epsilon$-Machine (Chris Ellison) .... 5
1.13 Lecture 30: Hierarchical $\epsilon$-Machines ....................... 5
1.14 Lecture 36: Information Thermodynamics ....................... 5
1.15 Lecture 37: Intrinsic Semantics of Information I (Ryan James) ............... 5
1.16 Lecture 39: Intrinsic Semantics of Information II (Ryan James) ............... 5

2 Project Presentations

2.1 Lecture 39: Project Presentations ............................... 6
2.2 Lecture 40: Project Presentations ............................... 6

1 Natural Computation

Theme: Causal Architecture of Dynamical Systems and Stochastic Processes

1. Prediction and Learning
2. $\epsilon$-Machines and Causal Architecture
3. Measures of Structural Complexity
4. How to Calculate
5. Complex Materials
6. Intrinsic Semantics in Information
1.1 Lecture 21: Overview

Readings (available via course website):
- CMR article Revealing Order in the Chaos, Mark Buchanan, New Scientist, 26 February 2005; available at csc.ucdavis.edu/~chaos/news/.

Topics:
1. Recall Physics 2^8 \text{A}
2. Introduction and motivations
3. Inadequacy of Information Theory
4. Structure and Learning
5. Survey interests, background, and abilities
6. Course logistics
7. CMPy Labs
8. Projects
9. Software and program development

Homework: Assign Week 10’s today.

1.2 Lecture 22: The Learning Channel

Reading:
1. CMR article RURO (Intro) and Lecture Notes.

Topics:
1. The Learning Channel
2. The Prediction Game
3. Space of histories
4. Predictive equivalence relation
5. Causal states
6. ϵ-Machines

1.3 Lecture 23: ϵ-Machine Reconstruction

Reading: CMR article CMPPSS and Lecture Notes.

Topics:
1. Review last lecture
2. Causal states
3. ϵ-Machine reconstruction
4. Simple Processes: Predictable (Period-1), Fair Coin, and Biased Coin
5. Complex Processes: Period-2, Golden Mean, and Even Processes

Homework: Collect Week 10’s and assign Week 11’s today.
1.4 Lecture 24: $\epsilon$-Machine Optimalities

**Reading:** CMR article CMPPSS.

**Topics:**

1. Optimal Prediction
2. Minimality
3. Uniqueness
4. Minimal Sufficient Statistic
5. Minimal Stochasticity

1.5 Lecture 25: Measures of Structural Complexity I

**Reading:** CMR article CMPPSS.

**Topics:**

1. Entropy rate
2. Statistical complexity
3. Excess entropy
4. Statistical complexity bounds excess entropy

**Homework:** Collect Week 11’s and assign Week 12’s today.

1.6 Lecture 25: Measures of Structural Complexity II

**Reading:** CMR article CMPPSS.

**Topics:**

1. Cryptographic Limit
2. Stored versus transmitted information
3. Pattern: Groups versus semi-groups, exact and statistical symmetries
4. Measurement Semantics
5. Excess Entropy Bound
6. Forward and Reverse Processes and their $\epsilon$-Machines
7. Causal Irreversibility

1.7 Lecture 27: Information Diagrams for Processes

**Reading:** CMR articles TBA and Yeung.

**Topics:**

1. Information diagrams
2. Markov chain information diagrams
3. Shannon information measures
4. Process information diagrams

**Homework:** Collect Week 12’s and assign Week 13’s today.

**Projects:** Project topic should be selected by now.

### 1.8 Lectures 29 and 30: Directional Computational Mechanics

**Reading:** *CMR* articles *TBA, PRATISP,* and *IACP.*

**Topics:**
1. Forward and reverse processes
2. Causal irreversibility
3. The process lattice
4. Calculating reverse $\epsilon$-machine from the forward $\epsilon$-machine

**Homework:** Collect Week 13’s due; assign Week 14’s.

### 1.9 Lecture 31: Complex Materials I (Dowman Varn)

**Reading:** *CMR* articles *BTFM1* and *BTFM2.*

**Topics:**
1. One-Dimensional materials: Physics of polytypes
2. Experimental studies
3. Fault model

**Homework:** Collect Week 14’s and assign Week 15’s today.

### 1.10 Lecture 32: Complex Materials II (Dowman Varn)

**Reading:** *CMR* articles *BTFM1* and *BTFM2.*

**Topics:**
1. $\epsilon$-Machine spectral reconstruction
2. Structure in disorder: Beyond the fault model
3. Zinc-Sulfide

### 1.11 Lecture 26: Mixed States (Chris Ellison)

**Reading:** *CMR* articles *SON* and *OCI.*

**Topics:**
1. Mixed states and their presentations
2. Synchronization-Control Decomposition
3. Changing presentations

**Homework:** No more homework. Work on your projects!
1.12 Lecture 28: The Reverse $\epsilon$-Machine (Chris Ellison)

Reading: CMR articles SON and OCI.

Topics:
1. Reversibility
2. Reverse $\epsilon$-machine
3. The bimachine
4. Excess entropy, revisited and exactly calculated

1.13 Lecture 30: Hierarchical $\epsilon$-Machines

Reading: CMR article CMPPSS.

Topics:
1. Review Causal State Equivalence Relation
2. Hierarchical $\epsilon$-Machine Reconstruction
3. Infinite Processes: Onset of Chaos

1.14 Lecture 36: Information Thermodynamics

Reading: CMR article TBD.

Topics:
1. Thermodynamics of Information Processing
2. The Szilard Demon
3. The Chaotic Szilard Map

1.15 Lecture 37: Intrinsic Semantics of Information I (Ryan James)

Reading: Anatomy of a Bit article.

Topics:
1. Information Diagrams, revisited
2. Anatomy of a Bit
3. Semantics

1.16 Lecture 39: Intrinsic Semantics of Information II (Ryan James)

Reading: Many Roads to Synchrony article.

Topics:
1. Cryptic and Markov Orders
2. Synchronization
2 Project Presentations

1. Presentations will be organized according to class size.
2. If the class is large, most likely they will be given at a mini-workshop, some evening.

2.1 Lecture 39: Project Presentations

2.2 Lecture 40: Project Presentations