

What is Complexity?

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We have now institutes for complex systems, conferences on complex systems, and journals of complex systems. So most of us have a good feeling what is a complex system. But what is complexity itself, and is there any way to measure it? The answer to this is surprisingly non-trivial. Indeed, there is no universally agreed concept, according to which a bacterium is more complex than a human. But how can we do complex systems science, if we cannot measure complexity? How would we do thermodynamics, if we could not measure temperature? In this talk I will not give answers, but I will discuss several approaches that give partial answers at least.

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