

# Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 7070

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# Algorithmic Probability and Friends

Bayesian Prediction  
and Artificial Intelligence

Papers from the Ray Solomonoff 85th Memorial Conference  
Melbourne, VIC, Australia, November 30 – December 2, 2011



Springer

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Cover illustration: Ray often made abstract drawings on his pages of notes.  
The cover image is from 1970.  
© Grace Solomonoff

ISSN 0302-9743  
ISBN 978-3-642-44957-4  
DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-44958-1  
Springer Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

e-ISSN 1611-3349  
e-ISBN 978-3-642-44958-1

Library of Congress Control Number: 2013951870

CR Subject Classification (1998): I.2, F.1, H.3, I.4, I.5, H.4

LNCS Sublibrary: SL 1 – Theoretical Computer Science and General Issues

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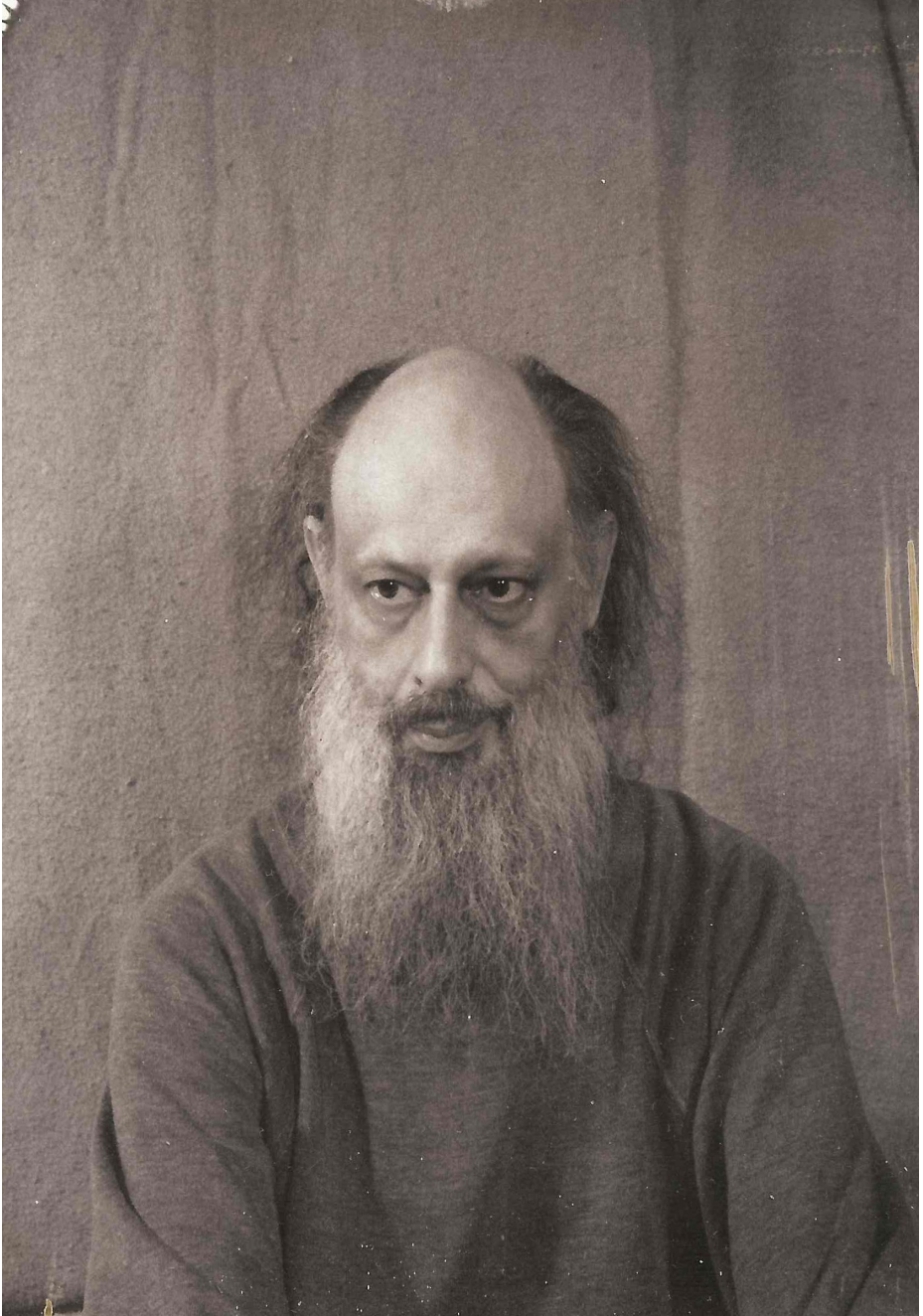
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*Typesetting:* Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India

Printed on acid-free paper

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Picture of Ray taken by Grace on March 18, 1984, to accompany the 1985 article, "The Time Scale of Artificial Intelligence"

# Preface

The Ray Solomonoff 85th memorial conference was held from Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011, to honour the work and life of Ray J. Solomonoff. Ray was not just a pioneer in computer science, artificial intelligence and machine learning, he was a visionary whose work is still today increasingly impacting on the philosophy of science. He was well aware of the human and societal implications of his work, and he will probably one day also be seen as a pioneer in statistics, econometrics and (the relatively new terms) knowledge discovery, data mining, terabyte science, data science, big data, and data management and processing, etc.

The conference was to honour Ray's 85th birthday in 2011 but, after a full life well lived (and pioneering influential research), sadly, Ray died in December 2009. The conference was held at Monash University's Clayton campus in Melbourne, Australia.

With a strong multi-disciplinary and international Program Committee including 2 Turing Award winners (and a correspondingly strong set of reviewers), there were 40 submissions (in a variety of areas of Solomonoff's work), each of which was reviewed at least twice and of which 30 were accepted as long papers and 1 as a short paper. These were accompanied by invited (talks and) papers by none less than Grace Solomonoff, Prof. Leonid Levin (Boston University, U.S.A.) and Prof. Ming Li (University of Waterloo, Canada).

There were over 40 conference delegates from countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China and England, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Poland, Sweden, Turkey and U.S.A., with the list of paper authors and co-authors also including Kuwait and Malaysia. (Other papers were submitted from at least two other countries.) Here and elsewhere, we thank these contributors, the sponsors [Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Asian Office of Aerospace Research & Development, Grant number FA2386-11-1-1020 AFOSR and AOARD; Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University, Australia; National ICT Australia (NICTA), Australia], the publishers (Springer) and other contributors.

Electronic computers were involved in the conference in terms of (e.g.) electronic type-setting, electronic presentations and (in some papers) rapid (faster than human) computer simulation of statistical and machine learning experiments. In the spirit of Solomonoff's work, one wonders if, when and how computers might have an increasing - and, ultimately, super-human - involvement and influence on such activities. No matter how mathematical, philosophical or otherwise, and no matter how overtly or subtly, this theme of genuine machine intelligence underlies almost all (if not all) the papers in this volume. Please enjoy the various angles and threads of this discussion throughout the conference

proceedings, honouring a true pioneer who led by example, taught us so much, and gave good direction for the work now before you and work to follow.

In choosing text for the front cover (title, inter-title and sub-title), various (combinations of) terms were considered - including Universal Turing Machine (UTM). For an idea of some of the other terms and notions considered, see the back cover and also the titles - and even the contents - of the contributed papers. In addition to the front cover figure, see Ray's famous equation at <http://world.std.com/~rjs>, together with the link there to Ray's doodles (and perhaps also the use of parts of two of Ray's doodles by RJD to give the figure at [www.csse.monash.edu.au/~dld/RaySolomonoffsVision.html](http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~dld/RaySolomonoffsVision.html) or [www.dowe.org/RaySolomonoffsVision.html](http://www.dowe.org/RaySolomonoffsVision.html)). As well as the inside photo of Ray, see other photos of Ray in some of the contributed papers in the volume, and also photos of Ray at or linked to from <http://world.std.com/~rjs>.

From Ray's inaugural Kolmogorov lecture in 2003 (see end of sec. 3 of Ray's corresponding 2003 paper), following the directions Ray has given us should largely be "a never ending source of joy in discovery!". And, among other things, our work to follow (into the future) perhaps (starting now) includes the devoted thought and discussion which Ray advocated in 1967 that we have regarding the problems of the realization of artificial intelligence - before they arise.

May 2013

David L. Dowe



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## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge our Sponsors for their support for the Ray Solomonoff 85<sup>th</sup> Memorial Conference, thank you.

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A further word of gratitude to Dr Rebecca Robinson and Mrs. Genevieve Oreski for their excellent combined efforts in proof-reading, formatting and other administrative assistance. We further thank Rebecca for her expert assistance with handling various LaTeX files. We also gratefully acknowledge Elke Werner and the team at Springer for the production of these proceedings.

# Table of Contents

## Introduction

Introduction to Ray Solomonoff 85th Memorial Conference . . . . .	1
<i>David L. Dowe</i>	

## Invited Papers

Ray Solomonoff and the New Probability . . . . .	37
<i>Grace Solomonoff</i>	
Universal Heuristics: How Do Humans Solve “Unsolvable” Problems? . . .	53
<i>Leonid A. Levin</i>	
Partial Match Distance . . . . .	55
<i>Ming Li</i>	

## Long Papers

Falsification and Future Performance . . . . .	65
<i>David Balduzzi</i>	
The Semimeasure Property of Algorithmic Probability – “Feature” or “Bug”? . . . . .	79
<i>Douglas Campbell</i>	
Inductive Inference and Partition Exchangeability in Classification . . . .	91
<i>Jukka Corander, Yaqiong Cui, and Timo Koski</i>	
Learning in the Limit: A Mutational and Adaptive Approach . . . . .	106
<i>Reginaldo Inojosa da Silva Filho, Ricardo Luis de Azevedo da Rocha, and Ricardo Henrique Gracini Guiraldelli</i>	
Algorithmic Simplicity and Relevance . . . . .	119
<i>Jean-Louis Dessalles</i>	
Categorisation as Topographic Mapping between Uncorrelated Spaces . . . . .	131
<i>T. Mark Ellison</i>	
Algorithmic Information Theory and Computational Complexity . . . . .	142
<i>Rūsiņš Freivalds</i>	

A Critical Survey of Some Competing Accounts of Concrete Digital Computation . . . . .	155
<i>Nir Fresco</i>	
Further Reflections on the Timescale of AI . . . . .	174
<i>J. Storrs Hall</i>	
Towards Discovering the Intrinsic Cardinality and Dimensionality of Time Series Using MDL . . . . .	184
<i>Bing Hu, Thanawin Rakthanmanon, Yuan Hao, Scott Evans, Stefano Lonardi, and Eamonn Keogh</i>	
Complexity Measures for Meta-learning and Their Optimality . . . . .	198
<i>Norbert Jankowski</i>	
Design of a Conscious Machine . . . . .	211
<i>P. Allen King</i>	
No Free Lunch versus Occam’s Razor in Supervised Learning . . . . .	223
<i>Tor Lattimore and Marcus Hutter</i>	
An Approximation of the Universal Intelligence Measure . . . . .	236
<i>Shane Legg and Joel Veness</i>	
Minimum Message Length Analysis of the Behrens–Fisher Problem . . . . .	250
<i>Enes Makalic and Daniel F. Schmidt</i>	
MMLD Inference of Multilayer Perceptrons . . . . .	261
<i>Enes Makalic and Lloyd Allison</i>	
An Optimal Superfarthingale and Its Convergence over a Computable Topological Space . . . . .	273
<i>Kenshi Miyabe</i>	
Diverse Consequences of Algorithmic Probability . . . . .	285
<i>Eray Özkural</i>	
An Adaptive Compression Algorithm in a Deterministic World . . . . .	299
<i>Kristiaan Pelckmans</i>	
Toward an Algorithmic Metaphysics . . . . .	306
<i>Steve Petersen</i>	
Limiting Context by Using the Web to Minimize Conceptual Jump Size . . . . .	318
<i>Rafal Rzepka, Koichi Muramoto, and Kenji Araki</i>	
Minimum Message Length Order Selection and Parameter Estimation of Moving Average Models . . . . .	327
<i>Daniel F. Schmidt</i>	

Abstraction Super-Structuring Normal Forms: Towards a Theory of Structural Induction . . . . .	339
<i>Adrian Silvescu and Vasant Honavar</i>	
Locating a Discontinuity in a Piecewise-Smooth Periodic Function Using Bayes Estimation . . . . .	351
<i>Alex Solomonoff</i>	
On the Application of Algorithmic Probability to Autoregressive Models . . . . .	366
<i>Ray J. Solomonoff and Elias G. Saleeby</i>	
Principles of Solomonoff Induction and AIXI . . . . .	386
<i>Peter Sunehag and Marcus Hutter</i>	
MDL/Bayesian Criteria Based on Universal Coding/Measure . . . . .	399
<i>Joe Suzuki</i>	
Algorithmic Analogies to Kamae-Weiss Theorem on Normal Numbers . . . . .	411
<i>Hayato Takahashi</i>	
(Non-)Equivalence of Universal Priors . . . . .	417
<i>Ian Wood, Peter Sunehag, and Marcus Hutter</i>	
A Syntactic Approach to Prediction . . . . .	426
<i>John Woodward and Jerry Swan</i>	
<b>Short Paper</b>	
Developing Machine Intelligence within P2P Networks Using a Distributed Associative Memory . . . . .	439
<i>Amiza Amir, Anang Hudaya M. Amin, and Asad Khan</i>	
<b>Author Index</b> . . . . .	445