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On Multidisciplinary Potential Applications of Gauge Theories



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Abstract

We review how gauge theories, initially introduced for classical mechanics and quantum field theory, seem to apply to many fields of research such as information theory, computer science, economy, biology. This non-exhaustive list raises natural questions on future developments of this theory.

Keywords: Gauge theories; Computer science; Economy; Biology; Information theory; Economics; Encoding; Dynamical system; Quantum fields; Fibers isomorphic; Quantization; Geometric arbitrage theory; Financial markets; Manifold; Portfolio; Non-numerical; Gauge theory; Mathematical theory; Continuum model; Physics of life; Mild interpretations

Short Communication

How gauge theories appear in information theory and economics

Basically, the mathematical structure of groups is among the best adapted for describing transformations and moves. A path on a group can encode the evolution of a dynamical system, or the moves of an exterior observer with respect to a given system. In the theory of quantum fields, more general objects called principal bundles, which consist in a total space P with fibers isomorphic to a (Lie) group G over a base (simplicial complex or manifold) M . For one of the most simple settings, one can see when the base is a manifold (we call them continuum gauge theories) [1-5]. When the base is a simplicial complex (or a lattice), the models are called discrete gauge theories. They stand formally as an integrated version of the previous ones which (more or less formally again). The physical study consists in solving equations on P or after quantization into fields, in minimizing so-called action functionals. These action functionals are in fact acting on connections, which are infinitesimal expressions of local slices. They can be understood also as differential operators. These delicate settings coming from physics have, in the last twenty years, found two applications to our knowledge:

In so-called "geometric arbitrage theory" for managing portfolios in financial markets [2,6-10], where fiber bundles or principal bundles describe, along their fibers and on the base, the external and internal parameters for the prediction of the evolution of the portfolio. Fiber bundles over a manifold described in [9] are related to principal bundles in a way described in [10].

In so-called approximate reasoning in pairwise comparisons where complete studies can be performed when $G = \mathbb{R}_+^*$ and with normalized objects, with very recent axiomatization [10-19]. However, the need of so-called non-numerical ranking appeals the use of non-abelian groups G and of mathematical tools coming from discrete gauge theories [12,18].

Gauge theory in biology and neurology

The aim of this short article, giving the opinion of the sole author, is to mention that there are some hidden aspects of neurology and biology which reveal, in some kind of matching mirror process, the presence of gauge effects. This aspect is not actually truly confirmed, it is more-or-less at a step of conceptualization, and that is the reason why we talk of gauge theory. Other authors have already mentioned the similarities of models coming from biology and neuronal science [11,15,16], each time with very mild interpretations of classical facts. From a heuristic viewpoint, this is not so surprising since «physics of life» deal with entities interacting with each other, exactly like elementary particles of nuclear physics interact. At the microscopic scale, a simplicial structure arises naturally by linking an entity (neuron, molecule, cell) with each of its neighbours making discrete gauge theories appropriate, and at macroscopic level, a first approximation of phenomena can rise from continuum gauge theories. However, as a last remark, the mathematical theory of discretization of gauge theories has to be questioned very seriously, because the classical scheme based on it leads to mathematical problems while other still non-studied ways to discretize a continuum model can be proposed [17].

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