

Re: Is this a legitimate compression scheme?

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<dougwedel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

A previous discussion in here has left me with this boiled-down question:

Suppose my computer contains in its memory the first 10 billion digits of pi. Now suppose you generate a 10-digit random number and give it to me. My computer program will compare your random number to its 10 billion digits to see if at any point your 10-digit string exactly matches a 10-digit stretch of pi. If the program finds a match, it returns the index into pi (i.e. the Nth digit of pi) where your 10-digit string starts. If this index has nine or fewer digits, would you agree that this is a legitimate "compression" of your 10-digit number as the term "compression" is used in algorithmic complexity or algorithmic information theory?

It falls into the family of techniques I like to call compression by coincidence. It holds no interest for those who are interested in compression.

Phil

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What is it: is man only a blunder of God, or God only a blunder of man?

-- Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), *The Twilight of the Gods*

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