

Variety (glossary)

variety

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(1) *A measure of the connectivity between system elements (Ashby 1956)*

(2) *Interacting systems stability increases with variety, and with the degree of connectivity of that variety within the environment (Hitchins 2007)*

Sources

(1) Ashby, W.R. 1956. *Introduction to Cybernetics*. London, UK; J. Wiley.

(2) Hitchins, D. 2007. *Systems Engineering: A 21st Century Systems Methodology*. Hoboken, NJ, USA: Wiley

Discussion

(1) Is a cybernetic term used to define the number of available connections between elements, and thus the potential routes for control actions.

(2) Is a systems engineering definition, in which variety of connections between elements is used as a way to increase the stability and potential of a system to achieve its goals. Hitchins refers to this as Connected Variety, and also discussed the limits on this connectivity applied by availability of time, space, resource.

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