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Abstract

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CYBERNETICS AND CONTROL THEORY

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ON A SYSTEM OF PROGRAMMING CONCEPTS

(Presented by Academician A. I. Berg on February 26, 1960)

The task of analyzing logical schemes that arise in the construction of programs has led to the introduction of the concepts: operator, logical condition, operator sequence (¹⁻⁸).

In the present article one of the possible ways of defining these concepts is considered, and some relations between operator sequences are established on the basis of their functioning.

1. Let us call a certain finite set H a **memory**; let the number of memory elements, hereafter called cells, be equal to N . Number the memory elements in some order: $H = \{h_t\}$, $t = 1, 2, \dots, N$.
2. Let $G = \{x\}$ be another finite set. An N -dimensional vector $X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$, all of whose components belong to the set G , will be called a **state of the memory** H . The component x_t of the vector X will be called the **state of the cell** h_t **in the memory state** X . The set of all possible states of the memory will be denoted by Y .
3. A mapping

$$\tilde{X} = A(X)$$

of a set $Y_A \subseteq Y$ onto a set $\tilde{Y}_A \subseteq Y$ will be called an **operator**, and the sets Y_A and \tilde{Y}_A respectively the **domain of definition** and the **range of values** of the operator A . Consider operators A_1 and A_2 , for which the intersection $\tilde{Y}_{A_1} \cap Y_{A_2}$ is nonempty; let a subset $Y_{A_1}^* \subseteq Y_{A_1}$ be mapped by the operator A_1 into this intersection. Then the operator

$$A_1 \cdot A_2 = A_2(A_1(X)), \quad X \in Y_{A_1}^*,$$

will be called the **product** of the operator A_1 by the operator A_2 . It is easy to see that, in the general case, the operators A_1 and A_2 are not commutative.

4. Let $p(X)$ be a certain two-valued predicate defined on the whole set Y . The pair $(p(X), l)$, where l is in the general case arbitrary, but for the given pair a fixed natural number, will be called a **logical condition**. Logical conditions $(p_1(X), l_1)$ and $(p_2(X), l_2)$ will be called **equal** if $p_1(X) \equiv p_2(X)$, $l_1 = l_2$.
5. Denote by V a certain set consisting of operators and logical conditions. An element of the set V will be called a **term**. Two terms are considered equal if both are equal operators or equal logical conditions. A function $B(X)$ that maps the set of memory states Y into some subset $V_B \subseteq V$ will be called **selecting**.
6. We shall call **operator** such a sequence

$$M = B^{k+1}, B^{k+2}, \dots, B^{k+n},$$

the i -th element B^{k+i} , which is some selecting function $B^{k+i}(X)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Consider the pair $(X_0, k+i)$, where X_0 is an arbitrary element of Y , and $1 \leq i \leq n$. We shall call the pair $(X_0, k+i)$ M -consistent if the memory state X_0 belongs to the domain of the term $B^{k+i}(X_0)$.

We shall call an M -consistent pair $(X_0, k+i)$ terminal if one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- a) $i = n$, $B^{k+n}(X_0)$ is an operator;
 - b) $i = n$, $B^{k+n}(X_0) = (p_{x_0}^n(X), l_{x_0}^n)$, $p_{x_0}^n(X_0) = 1$;
 - c) $1 \leq i \leq n$, $B^{k+i}(X_0) = (p_{x_0}^i(X), l_{x_0}^i)$, $p_{x_0}^i(X_0) = 0$, $l_{x_0}^i \neq k+1, \dots, k+n$;
 - d) $1 \leq i \leq n$, $B^{k+i}(X_0) = (p_{x_0}^i(X), l_{x_0}^i)$, $p_{x_0}^i(X) \equiv 0$, $l_{x_0}^i = k+i$.
7. To the sequence M we assign the function θ_M , which to an arbitrary M -consistent pair $(X_0, k+i)$ associates the pair (\tilde{X}_0, \tilde{l}) , defined by the conditions:
- a) if $B^{k+i}(X_0) = A_{x_0}^i(X)$, then $\tilde{X}_0 = A_{x_0}^i(X_0)$, $\tilde{l} = k+i+1$;
 - b) if $B^{k+i}(X_0) = (p_{x_0}^i(X), l_{x_0}^i)$, then $\tilde{X}_0 = X_0$,

$$\tilde{l} = \begin{cases} k+i+1, & \text{if } p_{x_0}^i(X_0) = 1; \\ l_{x_0}^i, & \text{if } p_{x_0}^i(X_0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Consider the pair $(X, k+1)$, containing the number $k+1$. Construct the sequence $L_M(X)$, whose first element is the pair $(X, k+1)$, and then, beginning with the second, each subsequent element is obtained from the preceding one by

applying to it the function θ_M , and so on until we arrive at a pair that is not M -consistent. A memory state $X \in Y$ will be called admissible for the sequence M if $L_M(X)$ contains at least one terminal pair. Let the set $Y_M \subseteq Y$ consist of all memory states admissible for M .

Denote by T_M the rule according to which to each memory state $X_1 \in Y_M$ there are put in correspondence: the sequence of M -consistent pairs $\mathcal{L}_M(X_1)$, the memory state $R_M(X_1)$, and the number $l_M(X_1)$, defined as follows. The sequence $\mathcal{L}_M(X_1)$ is that segment of the sequence $L_M(X)$ which begins with the initial pair $(X_1, k+1)$ and ends with the first, in order, terminal pair belonging to $L_M(X)$. Let

$$\mathcal{L}_M(X_1) = (X_1, k+1), (X_2, l_2), \dots, (X_m, l_m);$$

then the state $R_M(X_1)$ and the number $l_M(X_1)$ satisfy the equality

$$(R_M(X_1), l_M(X_1)) = \theta_M(X_m, l_m).$$

The operator $R_M(X)$ with domain Y_M will be called the product of the operators and logical conditions of the sequence M .

8. An M -consistent pair (X_0, l) will be called operatorial if the term $B^l(X_0)$ is an operator. For an arbitrary memory state $X \in Y_M$, we agree to denote by $\mathcal{L}_M^*(X)$ that sequence $\mathcal{L}_M(X)$ which consists of all operatorial pairs of the latter.

Consider the operator sequences

$$M_1 = B_1^{k'+1}, B_1^{k'+2}, \dots, B_1^{k'+n'};$$

$$M_2 = B_2^{k''+1}, B_2^{k''+2}, \dots, B_2^{k''+n''},$$

for which the sets of admissible states are X_{M_1} and Y_{M_2} , respectively. Fix some vector of cells \tilde{H} .

For memory states $X' \in Y_{M_1}$ and $X'' \in Y_{M_2}$, construct the sequences

$$\mathcal{L}_{M_1}^*(X') = (X'_1, l'_1), (X'_2, l'_2), \dots, (X'_{m'}, l'_{m'});$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{M_2}^*(X'') = (X''_1, l''_1), (X''_2, l''_2), \dots, (X''_{m''}, l''_{m''}).$$

We shall use the notation

$$\mathcal{L}_{M_2}^*(X'') \supseteq \mathcal{L}_{M_1}^*(X')[\tilde{H}],$$

if the sequence $\mathcal{L}_{M_2}^*(X'')$ contains such a subsequence

$$(X''_{s_1}, l''_{s_1}), (X''_{s_2}, l''_{s_2}), \dots, (X''_{s_{m'}}, l''_{s_{m'}}),$$

which satisfies the conditions:

a)

$$B_2^{l''_{s_i}}(X''_{s_i}) = B_1^{l'_i}(X'_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m';$$

b)

$$X''_{s_i}[\tilde{H}] = X'_i[\tilde{H}], \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m'.$$

Here, assuming that $\tilde{H} = (h^{(1)}, h^{(2)}, \dots, h^{(\rho)})$, and that X is an arbitrary memory state, by $X[\tilde{H}]$ we denote the ρ -dimensional vector whose i -th component is the state of the cell $h^{(i)}$ under the memory state X ($i = 1, 2, \dots, \rho$).

A memory state $X'' \in Y_{M_2}$ will be called an M -conjugate state to X' on the set of cells \tilde{H} , if the following assertions are valid:

a)

$$\mathcal{L}_{M_2}^*(X'') \supseteq \mathcal{L}_{M_1}^*(X')[\tilde{H}];$$

b)

$$R_{M_2}(X'')[\tilde{H}] = R_{M_1}(X')[\tilde{H}];$$

c) the numbers $l_{M_2}(X'')$ and $l_{M_1}(X')$ either both belong or both do not belong to the segments $[k'' + 1, k'' + n'']$ and $[k' + 1, k' + n']$, respectively.

If for every memory state $X' \in Y_{M_1}^* \subseteq Y_{M_1}$ in the set Y_{M_2} there is at least one state X'' that is an M_1 -conjugate state to X on \tilde{H} , then, by definition, on the sets \tilde{H} and $Y_{M_1}^*$ the operator sequence M_2 includes the sequence M_1 . We shall write this in the form:

$$M_2 \xrightarrow{\tilde{H}} M_1[Y_{M_1}^*].$$

If the sequence M_1 with the set $Y_{M_1}^*$ of admissible memory states serves as a computation scheme for solving some problem Q , then, under a special choice of the set \tilde{H} , an operator sequence M_2 satisfying the condition

$$M_2 \xrightarrow{\tilde{H}} M_1[Y_{M_1}^*],$$

is a program scheme for the problem Q . Therefore, such transformations of the sequence M_2 are of interest with respect to which the property of inclusion of the operator sequence M_1 on the sets $Y_{M_1}^*$ and \tilde{H} is invariant.

A certain system of such transformations has been constructed; among them are transformations of program schemes associated with replacing one system of parameters by another system of parameters, as well as transformations based on mapping some subset of memory onto another. An illustration of the effectiveness of the latter is the case of transforming a program scheme constructed for multiplying matrices of arbitrary form into a program scheme for multiplying symmetric matrices; in this case the specification

a symmetric matrix is limited to information about its elements located, for example, on the main diagonal and above it. This and other examples of transformations of program schemes are considered in works (4, 9).

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