



Infinite Loops in Finite Time Some Observations (Classic Reprint)

By Ernest Davis

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Infinite Loops in Finite Time Some Observations Abstract Formulating physical theories using real-valued space and time often raises the difficult issue of clustered variation: states that change their value infinitely often in a finite interval, or infinite sequences of events that occur in a finite interval. Some physical theories permit nonsensical models unless clustered variation is prohibited; others force clustered variation to occur. This paper surveys a number of technical issues involved with clustered variation, without attempting to find a uniform treatment of the issue. We present examples of theories where clustered variation must be allowed and of theories where it must be prohibited. We discuss the meaning of plans containing infinite series of events. We present constraints on real-valued fluents and spatial fluents that guarantee discrete variation of important associated states. We show that requiring discrete variation may be inconsistent with allowing infinitely many objects in the universe, even if each object is individually well-behaved. We show how the need for requiring discrete variation may depend subtly on the particular ontology chosen for the...



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