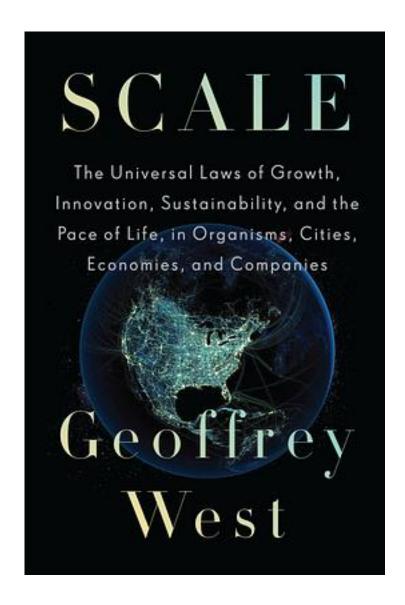
Scale



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著者:Geoffrey West

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From one of the most influential scientists of our time, a dazzling exploration of the hidden laws that govern the life cycle of everything from plants and animals to the cities we live in.

Visionary physicist Geoffrey West is a pioneer in the field of complexity science, the science of emergent systems and networks. The term "complexity" can be misleading, however, because what makes West's discoveries so beautiful is that he has found an underlying simplicity that unites the seemingly complex and diverse phenomena of living systems, including our bodies, our cities and our businesses.

Fascinated by aging and mortality, West applied the rigor of a physicist to the biological question of why we live as long as we do and no longer. The result was astonishing, and changed science: West found that despite the riotous diversity in mammals, they are all, to a large degree, scaled versions of each other. If you know the size of a mammal, you can use scaling laws to learn everything from how much food it eats per day, what its heart-rate is, how long it will take to mature, its lifespan, and so on. Furthermore, the efficiency of the mammal's circulatory systems scales up precisely based on weight: if you compare a mouse, a human and an elephant on a logarithmic graph, you find with every doubling of average weight, a species gets 25% more efficient—and lives 25% longer. Fundamentally, he has proven, the issue has to do with the fractal geometry of the networks that supply energy and remove waste from the organism's body.

West's work has been game-changing for biologists, but then he made the even bolder move of exploring his work's applicability. Cities, too, are constellations of networks and laws of scalability relate with eerie precision to them. Recently, West has applied his revolutionary work to the business world. This investigation has led to powerful insights into why some companies thrive while others fail. The implications of these discoveries are far-reaching, and are just beginning to be explored. Scale is a thrilling scientific adventure story about the elemental natural laws that bind us together in simple but profound ways. Through the brilliant mind of Geoffrey West, we can envision how cities, companies and biological life alike are dancing to the same simple, powerful tune.

作者介绍:

Geoffrey West is a theoretical physicist whose primary interests have been in fundamental questions in physics and biology. West is a Senior Fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory and a distinguished professor at the Sante Fe Institute, where he served as the president from 2005-2009. In 2006 he was named to Time's list of "The 100 Most Influential People in the World."

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标签

科普
complexity
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科学-生物/医学/生命科学
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心理学
评论
本来我对人类未来能大幅度提高寿命还是挺乐观的,但是看了这本书顿时觉得希望渺茫了。
Highly recommended! It looks at life and death by integrating a physicist's angles with sociologist's perspectives, and compares the commonalities and differences as far as lifecycle is concerned among animals, human beings, companies, cities, very inspirational.

生物学思维还是很有好处的,英文也很优美
Very interesting book. A good way of looking at life and death. Animal, people and organizations are not all that different, with sublinear scaling whereas city has super-linear scaling. The key of keeping growth is to overcome discontinuity and use innovation to fuel the growth. However, whether singularity will come is still a question.

书评

世间万物既有其存在与发展的内在逻辑,也有其相联、相通的外在逻辑。21世纪科学所面临的一个重大挑战是,如何从生命的复杂性中探索出简单性的基本原则。物理学中几乎所有定律都来自简单性,所有层级组织的基本原则和概念,它们是可以计量的、可量化的。那么,推而广之,是否存…

无论你住在哪里,你每天花在通勤上的时间是恒定的1小时。 这被称为马尔凯蒂定律,他把这个发现于1994年发表在一篇论文中,他指出,即便是 是一个被监禁的犯人,没有地方可去,他每天也会走上一个小时。 理解这一点,对于理解城市的合理规模很有启发。人步行速度是每小时5千米,
信息浓度非常高的一本书。篇幅也不小,纸书有568页,致谢与注释只占7%。 全书讲各种复杂的东西中存在的普遍规律:哺乳动物体重每增加一倍,心率降低25%;城市人口每增加一倍,加油站只增加85%;城市规模越大,工资越高,GDP越高,犯罪案件越频发,艾滋病和流感病例越多,餐厅越
1、规模缩放法则为了理解这个概念,可以先从两个常识讲起。 第一个常识是我们在中学课本上就知道的一个几何知识。对于正方形来说,如果边长增加为原来的10倍,那么面积会增加为原来的100倍,体积会增加为原来的1000倍,体积的增加速度要远快于面积和长度的增加速度。反过就是…

当两个人组成了一个家庭,很多资源能共用,多余的精力可以投放到更有生产力的工作中,实现一加一大于二。同理,当人类由独居变成群居,随着规模的增大,世界向前更进一步。 世界顶级理论物理学家杰弗里・韦斯特在《规模》一书中,用数学的语言告诉我们复杂世界存在的简单规律,…

第一遍很粗略的翻看这本书,看得云里雾里,第二遍是为了写这篇书评,边看边写的, 这本书想阐述的是世间万物里都有一个共性,他们都遵循着一定的潜在框架和规律,作者从一个物理学家的角度,融合各类学科的思想来思考这个问题。公司和城市这些事物 会与大自然中的牛命体有其不可...

如果你想从这本书学到什么你就错了,真不明白如此恢宏的书名,仿佛看透宇宙真理一 般,洋洋洒洒的字里行间就是重复啰嗦的说明一句话——非线性增长。然后其中的事例 累积成堆,繁琐冗长,毫无借鉴之处,只可以当做趣闻轶事做饭后谈资,别无他用。我 是怀着对买书的64元的劳动成果...

关于发展的物理学视角 评《规模》

对于发展,人们都可以提出很多的问题来,比如人怎么会出现在这个地球上?生命的生 长和消亡背后的机理是什么?经济发展背后的动因是什么?社会发展又有什么规律可言?等等。发展是一个哲学名词,是事物不断前进的过程,由小到大,由简到繁,由...

《红楼梦》里刘姥姥初见凤姐,听她说"大有大的难处",以为接济无望。在她看来,对方拔根寒毛比自己的腰还粗,岂会真有困难?但凤姐的应酬语,日后竟一语成谶,忽喇喇似大厦倾,"大"早已变成了空皮囊。 大的生物、大的工具、大的企业、大的城市,难道只是"小"的放大版吗?...

牛长规律。书中引经据典,案例详实,数据可靠。...

[&]quot;这是最好的时代,也是最坏的时代" 《规模》这本书,详细讲述了:"规模",在生物学、医药、造船业、城市发展、企业 生存方面的规律及特性。
作者作为一个"理论物理学家",通过详细的大数据分析,解释了隐藏在不同领域下的

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