

JUNG'S SYNCHRONICITY PRINCIPLE (IN A FEW WORDS)

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Abstract

Synchronicity is a concept first introduced by the analytical psychologist Carl Gustav Jung. This article is a short explanation of the essence of this problem. The role of probability in the theory of synchronicity was explained and examples were presented. This article also explained the issue of synchronicity as a cause and effect relationship problem.

Keywords: synchronicity principle, probability calculation of occurrences, coincidences, series law, Carl Gustav Jung.

Introduction

The Synchronicity principle is one of the typical concepts created by Carl Gustav Jung. It is used to translate and explain paranormal phenomena with which science cannot fully cope [1], [2]. Examples include the phenomena of telepathy [3], telekinesis, divination techniques, spiritualism, etc [4]. Synchronicity thus includes all those spheres that are difficult to explain with scientific methods, even though they may be interesting to apply within scientific principles [5], [6]. Often, the principle of Synchronicity tries to defend itself with a probabilistic account or the coincidence of accidental events, but the intuitive character of cognition here clearly is the defining barrier between science and pseudoscience [8].

Probability calculation of occurrences.

Probability, which can be used in Synchronicity to explain the phenomena that occurs, is characterized by linearity. The phenomena is sequential and its consequences are found in cause-and-effect relationships, i.e. the reason **A** causes effect **B** and this again gives rise to another cause or effect **C**. By analyzing all these connections linearly in the order **CBA**, we gradually discover everything that happened and what caused these incidents.

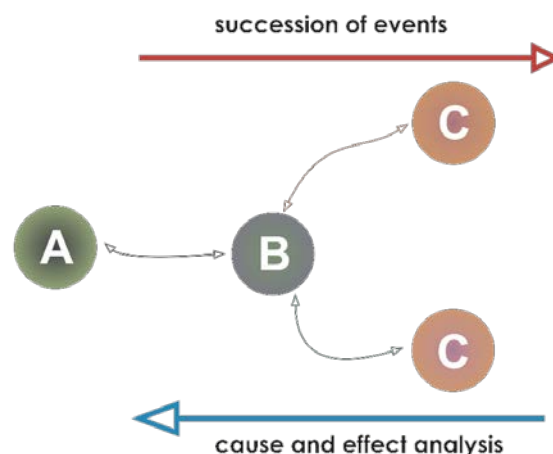


Figure 1. Probability path in synchronicity

This approach also has its weak points, because it informs us only about certain tendencies, or repeatability, but does not provide us with information that a given solution must always bring about a specific effect or cause. As for coincidences, these are not always accidental. There are, after all, a number of such phenomena that link together cause-independent events. The ways and reasons for their bonds can be learned intuitively as Jung describes the process of individuation, after which the ending of a person can influence events around him through the contact between his consciousness and the collective unconscious. Here is where Synchronicity appears, acting alongside the principle of causality, and is especially concerned with the relationship between the mental state of the individual and simultaneous external events [7],[8],[9].

Synchronicity is thus an alternative to causality, because

"[...] synchronistic phenomena cannot in principle be associated with any conceptions of causality. Hence the interconnection of meaningfully coincident factors must necessarily be thought of as acausal. Here, for want of a demonstrable cause, we are all too likely to fall into the temptation of positing a transcendental one. But a " cause " can only be a demonstrable quantity. A " transcendental cause " is a contradiction in terms, because anything transcendental cannot, by definition, be demonstrated¹. "

Synchronicity as a cause and effect relationship problem.

The concept of synchronism should not only be associated with parapsychology itself, but with the problem of the absence of a cause-and-effect relationship, where the phenomenon of the emergence of a mental state and external event arises. Jung used the general concept of Synchronicity in a sense of coincidence in two or more causally related events that have the same or similar meaning.

" Synchronicity therefore means the simultaneous occurrence of a certain psychic state and one or more external events which appear meaningful parallels to the momentary subjective state – and, in certain cases vice versa [1]."

The problem, however, opens to us the question of whether the psychological state is not the cause of the external event. If the thought contains the causative power, while the parallel creates a separate area of research, then we remain in the area of cause-and-effect all the time. On the one hand, Jung writes about the coexistence of any number of events of similar importance and being at the same time unconnected. At the same time it relates to the famous example of the beetle[10],[11]. In the combination of causes and effects of **ABC**, we can see an analogy. These are also psychological phenomena that combine, but only on the condition that the story has causative power and has produced an effect. However, since thinking does not directly cause an act, the story of the scarab and the appearance of its European counterpart is just an example of the principle of synchronism.

"The problem of synchronicity has puzzled me for a long time, ever since the mid-twenties, when I was investigating the phenomena of the collective unconscious and kept on coming across connections which I simply could not explain as chance groupings of "runs" or their sequences. What I found were "coincidences" which were connected so meaningfully that their "chance" concurrence would be incredible. By way of example, I shall mention an incident from my own observation. A young woman I was treating had a critical moment, a dream in which she was given a golden scarab. While she was telling me this dream, I sat with my back to the closed window and caught the creature in the air as it flew in. It was the nearest analogy to the golden scarab that one finds in our latitudes, a scarabaei beetle, the common rose – chafer (Cetonia aurata), which contrary to its usual habits had evidently felt an urge to get into a dark room at this particular moment [1]."



Figure 2. Green rose chafer (*Cetonia aurata*)

Draw by: **Alexandra Ziminova**

Link: <https://www.deviantart.com/faplastilinka/art/Cetonia-aurata-326440667>

Synchronicity shows the acausal world as not chaotic and not unpredictable. It is a world of the unawareness of space and time connections. Physics only sees randomness in synchronicity, and if we recognize the correlation between mind and objects, then it turns out that there are possible effects without causes and even effects that create causes because there is an observer who shapes the mind with reality.

"It is, therefore, generally assumed that all coincidences are lucky hits and do not require the causal interpretation. This assumption can, and indeed must, be regarded as true so long as proof is lacking that their incidence exceeds the limits of probability. Should this proof be forthcoming, however, it would prove, at the same time, that there are genuinely non-causal combinations of events for whose explanation we should have to postulate a factor incommensurable with causality. We should then have to assume that events in general are related to one another on the one hand as causal chains, and on the other hand by a kind of meaningful cross-connection [1]."

This allows us to draw the conclusion that since reality reflects the inner realm, we ourselves create events by changing perspectives. Apart from triggering effects, we can control them. Therefore, we can create certain thought forms and decide in what direction and how long they will function.

Synchronicity consists of two factors: an unconscious image appearing in the consciousness and an objective situation in the outside world that coincides with the content of the image. On the other hand, two categories of synchronous phenomena are distinguished today: seeing real events using intuition or imagination, either through telepathy or clairvoyance; and a typical precognition is a coincidence between physical and psychic reality through fortune-telling or mantra, which is the similarity of the state of the psyche with an external event that combines, not causality, but a special kind of meaning.



Figure 3. Telepathy

Draw by: Mladen Ilić

The phenomena of Synchronism are what each of us has experienced. Often it is such that when you think about someone, that person will call you or send you a message on your phone. Telepathy is the ability to predict or induce certain phenomena without a direct causal link, which is called the principle of synchrony. Of course, the phenomenon itself is still subject to the laws of cause and effect, but our reaction before the event is no longer a surprise because it precedes the occurrence of the phenomenon. First, our reaction appears and then the event occurs. In the simplest terms, synchronicities are parallel phenomena that have no causal relationship. Jung noted that many of his patients, and himself, experienced situations in which the case seemed to have a significant role, but this "case" was too unlikely to happen randomly and "inadvertently".

Studying the issues of synchronism, one cannot refer to the theory of inheritance of acquired features, created by Kammerer or the laws of series i.e. the occasional occurrence of the same phenomena in a certain cycle. For example, an avalanche of failing situations happening at the same place and time. "In the mid-1920s, the eminent physicist Wolfgang Pauli and the loud psychiatrist Carl G. Jung published an article on the inexplicable synchronicity of various unrelated events [12]. They based it on the alleged "almost series" of the controversial biologist Paul Kammerer [13] He gave one hundred examples of synchronous events in which the same objects or factors occurred independently of one another, and his explanation of this phenomenon is the principle that was once called the "correspondence principle". Das Gesetz der Serie, in his work that was published in 1919 [14], came to the conclusion that in such cases "the very concept of chance is negated."

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