

What do students understand by "randomness"?

Yoshio Okamoto[1]

[1] Tennoji H.School of Osaka-kyoiku.Univ.

Four squares plotting 200 small circles scattering purely random to sparsely periodic are examined for what high school students understand by "randomness".The results of this simple examination reveal their misunderstanding of it. Most students vote for periodic scattering rather than purely random as "randomness". They may suppose that clusters or quiescences among random patterns are caused by some hidden mechanisms instead of "randomness". This result is important in introducing seismicity or earthquake forecasts not only for high school students but also for the public. Some related exercises are developed to study seismicity.