Review of: "A Unified Psychology as Part of a General Social Science"

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Algorithm Framework Theory (AFT) offers a novel lens through which to understand human cognition and behavior. Rooted in computational principles, AFT posits that humans utilize a repertoire of "Instructions" as innate tools for information processing, dynamically and serially. These Instructions vary in their functions and are contextually employed, sometimes sacrificing accuracy for expediency. This amalgamation of objectivity and subjectivity generates a multifaceted thinking system, constantly expanding through the interplay between Instructions and data.

AFT introduces a dualistic structure of "Instruction + information," representing the interaction between humans and their environment. These Instructions, though intangible and thoughtful entities, serve as a distinct cognitive software that influences social and humanistic studies.

Within AFT, psychology examines distortive thinking, tackling notions of subjectivity, irrationality, biases, and anomalies previously regarded as separate from "rational" thinking. Contrary to traditional dualisms in psychology, AFT suggests that psychological irrationality is integral to the thinking system's performance.

The theory elucidates the role of knowledge stocks in computation, asserting that the imperfection of existing knowledge leads to distortions in thinking. Emotions, akin to fixed responses, serve as a form of hard-software alongside beliefs and attitudes, influencing decision-making. This hard-software, installed innately in the brain, evolves minimally over a lifetime, contrasting with the rapidly evolving thinking system.

Furthermore, AFT sheds light on consciousness, elucidating its limited computational capacity and the sequential nature of its operations. It unveils the computational basis for purposes, motives, values, and the formation of an "ego."

By framing psychology within the Algorithmic perspective, AFT aims to unify psychological branches and schools, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of human cognition. It advocates for a synthesis of theoretical and empirical studies, emphasizing the necessity for psychology to focus on hard-software elements. AFT's interdisciplinary approach extends beyond psychology, guiding the general social sciences and humanities toward a more cohesive understanding of human behavior and cognition.