## Appendix

**Table 1** Collection of representative classes of macrostates<sup>\*</sup> and their associated i) entropies, ii) entropic descriptor  $C_{\lambda}$  and iii) the relative form  $C_{\lambda}/C_{\lambda,max}$ , for a toy model: (A) N = 4, (B) N = 7 and (C) N = 8, where the black pixels are placed on a 4 × 4 lattice partitioned into  $\lambda = 4$  (not overlapping) cells at length scale k = 2. The maximal values of the relative complexity are given in boldfaced form. The last columns include also results of a  $C_{\lambda}(SCS)$ -calculation (with the sliding cell-sampling approach) for the specific representative configurations given below.

Case	Macrost. #	Config.	S <sub>min</sub>	S	S <sub>max</sub>	$C_{\lambda}$	$C_{\lambda}/C_{\lambda,max}$	$C_{\lambda}(SCS)$
А	1	1111		5.5452	5.5452	0.0	0.0	
А	2	0112		4.5643		0.2018	0.5823	
А	3	0022		3.5835		0.3169	0.9144	
А	4	0013		2.7726		0.3466	1.0	0.2759
А	5	0004	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	
В	1	1222		6.7616	6.7616	0.0	0.0	
В	2	0223		4.9698		0.2986	0.8889	
В	3	0133		4.1589		0.3356	0.9989	0.2940
В	4	1114		4.1589		0.3356	0.9989	0.2947
В	5	0124		3.1781		0.2986	0.8889	
В	6	0034	1.3863	1.3863		0.0	0.0	
С	1	2222		7.1670	7.1670	0.0	0.0	
С	2	1223		6.3561		0.1798	0.4014	
С	3	1133		5.5452		0.3137	0.7003	
С	4	0233		4.5643		0.4144	0.9251	
С	5	1124		4.5643		0.4144	0.9251	
С	6	0224		3.5835		0.4479	1.0	0.3386
С	7	0134		2.7726		0.4250	0.9553	
С	8	0044	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	

\* e.g., for A#4 the notation 0013 denotes representative macrostate realized by

 $\binom{4}{0}\binom{4}{1}\binom{4}{1}\binom{4}{3}$  = 16 configurational microstates, one of them being  $\Rightarrow$ 

This macrostate exhibits the highest value of  $C_{\lambda}$  = 0.3466 for case (A).

For the above specific representative configuration one can create the corresponding macrostate (using SCS-tenets), i.e., 000111123, having 96 realizations. Thus, the value of the entropic descriptor will be  $C_{\lambda}(SCS) = 0.2759$ .

For B#3, i.e., for the 0133 representative macrostate one obtains

 $\binom{4}{0}\binom{4}{1}\binom{4}{3}\binom{4}{3} = 64$  configurational microstates, one of them being  $\Rightarrow$ 



This macrostate and the one given below exhibit the highest possible value  $C_{\lambda}$  = 0.3356 for case (B) while for the corresponding macrostate 011101323 (SCS used again), one finds  $C_{\lambda}$ (SCS) = 0.2940.

The associated degenerate B#4, i.e., the 1114 macrostate is realized by

 $\binom{4}{1}\binom{4}{1}\binom{4}{1}\binom{4}{4} = 64$  configurational microstates, one of them being  $\Rightarrow$ 

This macrostate shows the same as above highest value of  $C_{\lambda}$  = 0.3356. Using the SCS approach, i.e., for the corresponding macrostate 111122134 we obtain  $C_{\lambda}(SCS)$  = 0.2947, which differs from the previous one. This means that certain degenerations can be removed with SCS-help.

In turn, the C#6 case, i.e., the 0224 macrostate, is realized by

 $\binom{4}{0}\binom{4}{2}\binom{4}{2}\binom{4}{4}$  = 36 configurational microstates, one of them being  $\Rightarrow$ 

This macrostate exhibits the highest possible value  $C_{\lambda} = 0.4479$  for case (C) of this toy model with  $1 \le N \le 16$  at length-scale k = 2. For the corresponding SCS-macrostate, i.e., 022123234 one finds  $C_{\lambda}(SCS) = 0.3386$ .