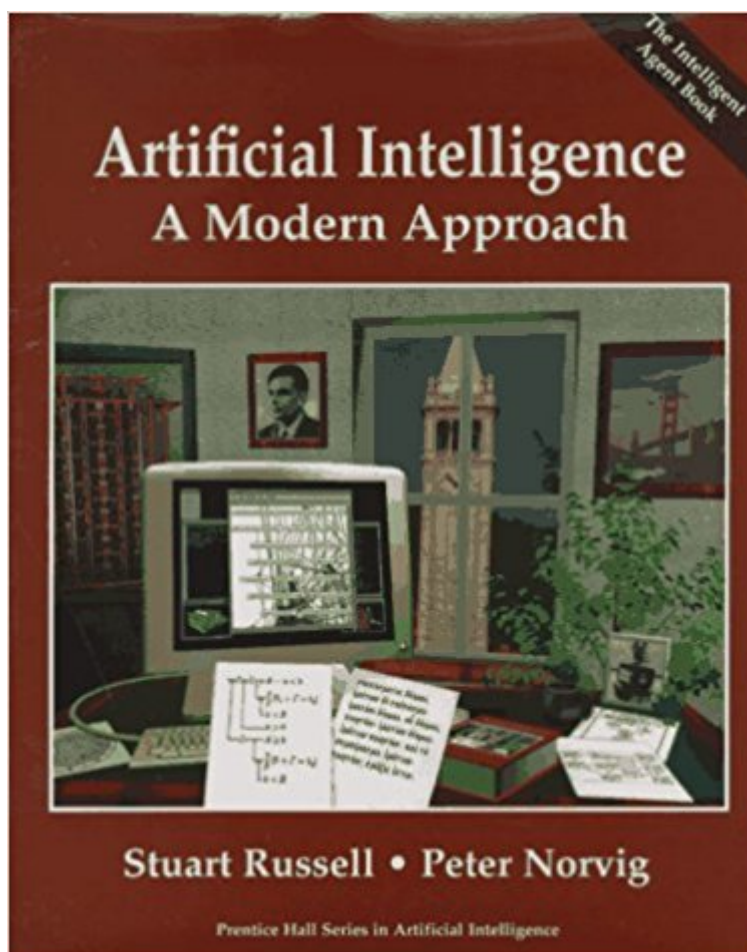


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Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach



Synopsis

This is an introduction to the theory and practice of artificial intelligence. It uses an intelligent agent as the unifying theme throughout, and covers areas that are sometimes underemphasized elsewhere. These include reasoning under uncertainty, learning, natural language, vision and robotics. The book also explains in detail some of the more recent ideas in the field, including simulated annealing, memory-bounded search, global ontologies, dynamic belief networks, neural nets, inductive logic programming, computational learning theory, and reinforcement learning.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach introduces basic ideas in artificial intelligence from the perspective of building intelligent agents, which the authors define as "anything that can be viewed as perceiving its environment through sensors and acting upon the environment through effectors." This textbook is up-to-date and is organized using the latest principles of good textbook design. It includes historical notes at the end of every chapter, exercises, margin notes, a bibliography, and a competent index. Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach covers a wide array of material, including first-order logic, game playing, knowledge representation, planning, and reinforcement learning.

The most comprehensive, up-to-date introduction to the theory and practice of artificial intelligence.

Since this version of the book is for the Indian market, I was a bit worried about the potential differences from the U.S. 3rd edition. But after doing a first-hand comparison, I found a LOT more similarities than differences. The biggest difference is the absence of the last two chapters. The U.S. edition includes: Chapter 26, "Philosophical Foundations", which covers arguments over consciousness in machines and the possibility of robot uprisings; and Chapter 27, "AI: The Present and Future", which *briefly* describes some things AI researchers need to work on before we can build a "general-purpose intelligent agent" (a.k.a. one single AI that will be good enough at a lot of different tasks). These two chapters are interesting, but I wouldn't call them core material, so I'm not surprised they got left out. Other than that, the differences are astonishingly minor. The chapters are unnumbered, and some of them swapped places for no reason, but all the content from chapters 1 through 25 is here, plus the two appendixes. The ONLY edits to the text are removals of cross-chapter references. The U.S. version will say something like, "When we discussed whatzits in Chapter 4, we mentioned that they come in two flavors, X and Y", while the same line in this book will say, "Whatzits come in two flavors, X and Y". Again, those are the ONLY edits. All the other sentences are the same. The equations are the same. The diagrams are the same. The exercises at the end of each chapter are the same. In short, if you can do without those last two chapters, buy this version and save your money.

This is an excellent book however I cannot recommend purchasing the Kindle version of this text. It is atrocious. There are subject headings inserted after the subject is spoken about and, quite often, many heading stacked up on top of each other taking up almost an entire page with useless titles that are in the wrong order anyway. There are no page numbers, which is unacceptable for a text that is used by many college AI programs across the country. There are tons of hyphenation errors. The delineations between figure notes and the text are almost imperceptible so it is difficult to tell what text goes where. In general it is difficult to read and navigate due to this horrible Kindle conversion.

This review is organized into two parts. The first part gives a general overview of the textbook and my thoughts about the content, while the second part gives a summary of the problems I've encountered while reading the Kindle version. This book was made by multiple authors. Fortunately, the book's definitions and summaries are generally coherent. It has a through coverage on the history of AI, the definitions (those that are controversial have been noted as such), and provides psuedocode of many algorithms. Similar to other textbooks on this topic, it does not provide

run-throughs of those algorithms. The organizations of the book can be improved. I have some problems with the way they organized the material on the second part of the book (II: Problem Solving). Chapter 3 is named "Solving Problems by Searching", but I didn't realize all they did was on classical searches in Chapter 3 until I read Chapter 4. They could have explained why uniform-cost search is uninformed search even though it has a cost function better than they did in the textbook. A better naming scheme for those chapters would be "Ch3: Global Search ", "Ch4: Local Search/... (I would suggest breaking Chapter 4 and put it into different places.)". I bought the Kindle version, and it had many formatting problems. Most of them are minor (such as missing a "space" between two words, images appearing in different locations, image sizes too small, etc.) However, I had caught one specific error in the second part of the book (somewhere between chapter 3-5) where the fact is exactly the opposite than the one written (forgot to add the negation?) I should have marked and noted it so I can write down which error it was in the review but I was too lazy...But it's a good purchase overall!

So I'm in a class that requires this text book. So far I have to say they provide good examples and explain the complex parts pretty well. They also add some humor in here on example which I love. This book is a easy read compared to most text, and the HW question inside the book are fun to answer. This book makes me feel like I'm learning a lot. I'll update this again once the class is over and I'm farther in the book.

This book was quite excellent, especially in presenting concepts to people who had no previous knowledge or experience with artificial intelligence. It provides an excellent overview of artificial intelligence concepts, though they gloss over the statistical parts of it (I guess they assumed you should already have knowledge of these). The reason why this book got 4 instead of 5 stars was for two reasons: (1) the statistical knowledge that one needed to know in order to understand a concept was not adequately covered in the book; and (2) it is pretty much impossible to skip around the book (you're forced to learn chapter by chapter, otherwise you'll get lost in the later ones, so in terms of learning methods, it's not really flexible). If you want to learn about artificial neural networks and reinforcement learning, the Mitchell text is pretty decent as well. Wikipedia also helps.

I purchased this product for my Artificial Intelligence Class. This is a great introduction book to AI algorithms. For a graduating Computer Science, I felt that it presented many examples and algorithms in a simple easy to understand way with great real world applications. My only complaint

with this book is that a lot of the pseudocode is hard to follow and implements a lot of algorithms without any explanation. For a more experienced programmer this may not be a problem, but as a student I found it hard to follow at times. Overall great book!

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