

The Sciences of the Artificial - 3rd Edition

By Herbert A. Simon

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Continuing his exploration of the organization of complexity and the science of design, this new edition of Herbert Simon's classic work on artificial intelligence adds a chapter that sorts out the current themes and tools -- chaos, adaptive systems, genetic algorithms -- for analyzing complexity and complex systems. There are updates throughout the book as well. These take into account important advances in cognitive psychology and the science of design while confirming and extending the book's basic thesis: that a physical symbol system has the necessary and sufficient means for intelligent action. The chapter "Economic Reality" has also been revised to reflect a change in emphasis in Simon's thinking about the respective roles of organizations and markets in economic systems.

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Editorial Review

Review

People sometimes ask me what they should read to find out about artificial intelligence. Herbert Simon's book *The Sciences of the Artificial* is always on the list I give them. Every page issues a challenge to conventional thinking, and the layman who digests it well will certainly understand what the field of artificial intelligence hopes to accomplish. I recommend it in the same spirit that I recommend Freud to people who ask about psychoanalysis, or Piaget to those who ask about child psychology: if you want to learn about a subject, start by reading its founding fathers.

(George A. Miller *Complex Information Processing*)

From the Back Cover

As the Earth has made more than 5,000 rotations since *The Sciences of the Artificial* was last revised, in 1981, it is time to ask what changes in our understanding of the world call for changes in the text.

About the Author

Herbert Simon is Professor of Psychology at Carnegie-Mellon University. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics in 1978.

Users Review

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Linda Enders:

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