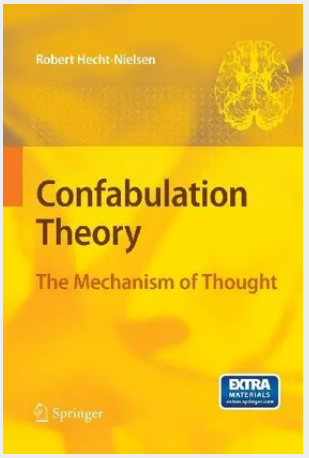
Hecht-Nielsen

# Confabulation Theory

The Mechanism of Thought

Confabulation theory examines how brain information processing, or cognition, works. This book presents a comprehensive look at confabulation theory, covering its conceptual elements, how it can be applied to real-world data, and how neurons implement the involved functional elements. This book is designed to be used both for self-study and as the basis for advanced undergraduate and graduate university courses. Only a knowledge of elementary mathematics is required. Engineers, scientists, and the educated public will find the book accessible.

Confabulation theory offers the first complete detailed explanation of the mechanism of cognition, i.e., thinking, an essential information processing capability of all enbrained Earth animals (bees, octopi, trout, ravens, humans, et al.). Concentrating on the human case, this book offers an hypothesis for the neuronal implementation of cognition, and explores the mathematics and methods of application of its mechanism. Thinking turns out to be starkly alien in comparison with all known technological approaches to information processing. While probably not yet scientifically testable, confabulation theory seems consistent with the facts of neuroscience. Beyond science, any complete detailed explanation of cognition can be investigated by applying it technologically. Multiple experiments of this nature are described in this book in complete detail. The results suggest that confabulation theory can provide the universal platform for building intelligent machines. In short, this book explains how thinking works and establishes the foundation for building machines that think.Because of the theory's implications for philosophy, education, medicine, anthropology and social science, this book will also be of interest to scientists in those domains.

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