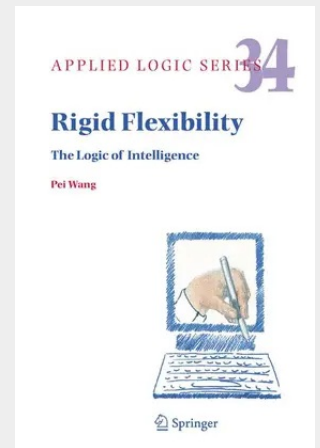


Rigid Flexibility

The Logic of Intelligence

This book is the most comprehensive description of the decades-long Non-Axiomatic Reasoning System (NARS) project, including its philosophical foundation, methodological consideration, conceptual design details, implications in the related fields, and its similarities and differences to many related works in cognitive science. While most current works in Artificial Intelligence (AI) focus on individual aspects of intelligence and cognition, NARS is designed and developed to attack the AI problem as a whole.

This book presents a research project aimed at the building of a "thinking machine," that is, a general-purpose artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence has a scientific and an engineering aspect. The former focuses on the explanation of "intelligence" displayed by the human mind, while the latter focuses on building a computer system that has such a nature. It is the most recently developed branch of a profound intellectual tradition, and is related to many problems studied in cognitive sciences, including philosophy, psychology, logic, linguistics, mathematics, neuroscience, and related disciplines. Ultimately, the goal is to understand notions like "intelligence," "cognition," "mind," and "thinking" well enough to reproduce them in computer systems. Though the research field of artificial intelligence has existed for about half a century, we are still far from the goal of building a thinking machine. To a large degree, this is due to the complexity of the problem — since the mind is perhaps the most complicated phenomenon in the universe — as well as limitations of existing computer technology. However, there is also a possibility that the mainstream research in the field has been heading in the wrong direction. The research reported in this book proposes a change in direction of the research of artificial intelligence, a "paradigm shift" *per se*. Instead of duplicating human behaviors or solving practical problems, this book proposes that the right thing to do in the research is to build systems that follow the same underlying principle as the human mind, that is, to adapt to the environment and to work with insufficient knowledge and resources.



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