



The Emotion Machine: Commonsense Thinking, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of the Human Mind

By Marvin Minsky

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The Emotion Machine: Commonsense Thinking, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of the Human Mind By Marvin Minsky

In this mind-expanding book, scientific pioneer Marvin Minsky continues his groundbreaking research, offering a fascinating new model for how our minds work. He argues persuasively that emotions, intuitions, and feelings are not distinct things, but different ways of thinking.

By examining these different forms of mind activity, Minsky says, we can explain why our thought sometimes takes the form of carefully reasoned analysis and at other times turns to emotion. He shows how our minds progress from simple, instinctive kinds of thought to more complex forms, such as consciousness or self-awareness. And he argues that because we tend to see our thinking as fragmented, we fail to appreciate what powerful thinkers we really are. Indeed, says Minsky, if thinking can be understood as the step-by-step process that it is, then we can build machines -- artificial intelligences -- that not only can assist with our thinking by thinking as we do but have the potential to be as conscious as we are.

Eloquently written, *The Emotion Machine* is an intriguing look into a future where more powerful artificial intelligences await.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Twenty years after *The Society of Mind*, where he introduced the concept that "minds are what brains do," Minsky probes deeper into the question of natural intelligence. Don't look for simple explanations: he believes "we need to find more complicated ways to explain our most familiar mental events"; we need to break our thought processes down into the most precise steps possible. In fact, in order to truly understand the human mind, Minsky suggests, we'll probably need to reverse-engineer a machine that can replicate those functions so we can study it. Thus, he rejects the idea of consciousness as a unitary "Self" in favor of "a decentralized cloud" of more than 20 distinct mental processes. In this view, emotional states like love and shame are not the opposite of rational cogitation; both, Minsky says, are ways of thinking. This is not a book to be read casually; Minsky builds his argument with constant reference to earlier and later sections, imagining objections from a variety of philosophical positions and refuting them. A steady stream of diagrams helps clarify matters, but readers will be forced to dig for the "aha!" moments: they're worth the effort. 100 b&w illus. (Nov. 7)

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From [Booklist](#)

Minsky, a leader in the field of artificial intelligence (and author of the groundbreaking *Society of Mind*, 1987), asks nothing less of us here than to reconsider everything we believe about the human mind. He asks us to look at our brains as a kind of flesh-and-blood switching station, using a variety of preloaded "resources" (what he called, in his earlier book, "agents") in a sort of constant problem--solving mode. It is our ability to learn new sets of resources, to think in a variety of ways depending on circumstances, he argues, that makes our species unique. Some readers may find the writing a little stodgy (and Minsky's habit of using awkwardly written interjections from hypothetical readers is more than a little pretentious), but the ideas themselves are challenging and provocative. Ultimately, Minsky seems to be saying that in order to develop a "posthuman mind" we need to make our minds more like thinking machines rather than making the machines more like us. Sure to provoke much debate in the artificial-intelligence community. *David Pitt*
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Review

"Minsky has lots of ideas, and nearly 400 pages can barely contain them." -- William Kowinski, *San Francisco cCronicle*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mohammed Thomas:

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Ida Torres:

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Leslie Babcock:

This The Emotion Machine: Commonsense Thinking, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of the Human Mind is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who all always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it information accurately using great manage word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but difficult core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having The Emotion Machine: Commonsense Thinking, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of the Human Mind in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no guide that offer you world with ten or fifteen tiny right but this book already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that will?

Dean Rakestraw:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended for you is The Emotion Machine: Commonsense Thinking, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of the Human Mind this book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how can the world has grown up. The language styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Here is why this book ideal all of you.

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