Artificial Intelligence is one of the most rapidly evolving subjects within the computing/engineering curriculum, with an emphasis on creating practical applications from hybrid techniques. Despite this, the traditional textbooks continue to expect mathematical and programming expertise beyond the scope of current undergraduates and focus on areas not relevant to many of today's courses. Negnevitsky shows students how to build intelligent systems drawing on techniques from knowledge-based systems, neural networks, fuzzy systems, evolutionary computation and now also intelligent agents. The principles behind these techniques are explained without resorting to complex mathematics, showing how the various techniques are implemented, when they are useful and when they are not. No particular programming language is assumed and the book does not tie itself to any of the software tools available. However, available tools and their uses will be described and program examples will be given in Java. The lack of assumed prior knowledge makes this book ideal for any introductory courses in artificial intelligence or intelligent systems design, while the contemporary coverage means more advanced students will benefit by discovering the latest state-of-the-art techniques.

What Dr. Negnevitsky states in the preface of this book, "Most of the literature on AI is expressed in the jargon of computer science, and crowded with complex matrix algebra and differential equations" is an accurate assessment of current textbooks that try to go beyond just the basics of AI. Actually, this book does contain some of the same complex material that Dr. Negnevitsky accuses others for having with one exception: He does a terrific job in simplifying the complex theories behind them. At first, when I flipped through the pages, huge equations and matrices jumped at me. My first impression was that this book was for serious computer scientists or mathematicians. I was looking for simpler material for my beginning AI students. I started reading the preface and
found the argument interesting. I speed-read through the first chapter and found the history of the field presented in a concise and a very well laid out fashion. I jumped into reading the beginning of chapter 2 and I was amazed at how well Dr. Negnevitsky progressed from basic ideas to more and more complex layers. With other similar books, the reader will need many basic theory books (mathematics, basic AI...) in order to understand the topics. Dr. Negnevitsky provides all the basics necessary. This same strategy is repeated for the remaining chapters. I acquired the book and read it from beginning to end. I found the material consistently well presented. One warning: this book does get very technical and complex in many chapters. However, the material in each of those chapters is progressively laid out. Even if a reader stops in the middle of some chapters, there is still a lot to gain from the experience of reading the entire book. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in really understanding beyond just keywords and delve into the internals of AI topics. Thanks to Dr. Negnevitsky for a great book.

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