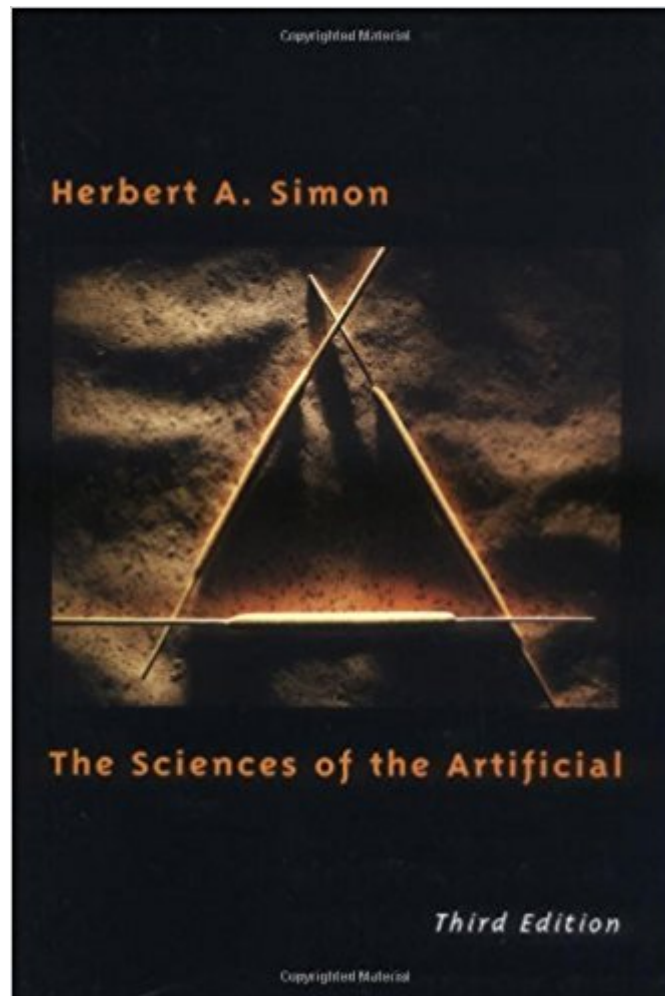


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The Sciences Of The Artificial - 3rd Edition



Synopsis

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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Customer Reviews

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*)

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.

Brilliant and valuable, nothing better in understanding the differences between traditional discovery science and the sciences of design. These artificial sciences that are operationally dependent on the traditional discovery sciences but are fundamentally different. These include the professions of engineering, organizational development and public and private management and administration and problem solving. Nobody does this better than the late Nobel prize winner Herbert Simon.

After 18 years still a valuable contribution to the philosophy of technology

One of the best books ever written on complexity. Ranging from engineering to psychology, connecting all the dots. To be read and reread.

Although the language is a little stilted at times and difficult to read, the range and scope - and implications - of Simon's ideas are profound. The relationships he describes between thinking, computing, and human behavior are extremely interesting and provide a "look toward the future". And the fact that Simon has been working and researching in this area for, like, FOREVER (some of the citations of his work is from the 50's) lends a lot of credence to his ideas.

its dense but interesting

This book is one of the most thought provoking, challenging books I've come across in many years. Simon tosses off ideas like a Border Collie shaking off water. This is not a book to be skimmed, or to be taken lightly, but a slow careful reading will certainly pay off. I read this book for insights into product design, and it did not disappoint.

I am really enjoying reading this book. It is very well written. I understand all they are talking about because of my background in engineering, but also because I understand psychology and computer science. It's a very easy read, full of rich ideas. I really enjoy this author very much. It's not for everyone, but for people who understand the fields I mention here.

Received the book when promised, in like new condition. Had plenty of time to read entire contents before class meetings in August.

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