



Logic and Information (Cambridge Tracts in Theoretical Computer Science (Paperback))

By Keith Devlin

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In this provocative and ground-breaking book, Keith Devlin argues that in order to obtain a deeper understanding of the nature of intelligence and knowledge acquisition, we must broaden our concept of logic. Classical logic, beginning with the work of Aristotle, has developed into a powerful and rigorous mathematical theory with many applications in mathematics and computer science, but it has proved woefully inadequate in the search for artificial intelligence. The new kind of logic, also mathematically based, outlined by Professor Devlin is the culmination of collaborative research among some of the world's leading logicians, philosophers, linguists, psychologists, and computer scientists. It introduces the concepts of infon, a quantum of information, and situations, a dynamical generalization of sets, and is capable of handling the issues involved in human communication, thought, speech, and machine information processing.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A bold effort to restore logic as the science of 'reasoning, thinking, and inference'....Devlin writes with uncommon clarity for an interdisciplinary audience of linguists, computer scientists, philosophers, and mathematicians." *The American Mathematical Monthly*

"Mathematically oriented readers interested in artificial intelligence and human cognition should be able to get new ideas from this well-written book." P. Jouvelot, *Computing Reviews*

"The ideas in this fascinating, challenging, but speculative, book are set forth with clarity and wit that does them justice." D.V. Feldman, *Choice*

"...In Keith Devlin's work, however, regardless of which of these prognoses one favours, situation theory has found an able expositor. He has written a very good book indeed, which is bound to become a standard reference in the field." Neil Tennant, *Philosophia Mathematica*

From the Back Cover

Intelligence can be characterized both as the ability to absorb and process information and as the ability to reason. Humans and other animals have both of these abilities to a greater or lesser degree, but the search for artificial intelligence has been hampered by the inability to wed the two characteristics in a happy marriage. In this provocative and ground-breaking book, Professor Keith Devlin argues that to obtain a deeper understanding of the nature of intelligence and knowledge acquisition we must broaden our concept of logic.

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