

Artificial Intelligence: Understand, Adapt, Succeed by Sachin Kumar

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ABSTRACT

The world is currently experiencing the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4th IR). This phase is marked by a technological boom, the kind of which has never been experienced before. It is changing the fundamental order of the globe and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been the protagonist of this transformative shift. With the growing relevance of AI in every field, it has become a necessity and not just an interest to understand its basic functions and use it effectively. This book offers essential guidance for novices, helping them initiate their journey in Artificial Intelligence.

The book *Artificial Intelligence: Understand, Adapt and Succeed* written by Sachin Kumar brings out the basic and fundamental understanding of the history, present, and future of AI. The book begins by examining how human needs have evolved from primitive survival tools such as spears to discovery of seeds and traces this progression to the present era of intelligent and autonomous technologies. Furthermore, it offers an overview of the historical and technological development of AI. AI, in its initial stages, had been marred by various funding challenges and technological bottlenecks, which caused a reduction in the pace of research in this field. The author has termed this phase, the “AI winter.” He also talks about early AI models, their limitations, and how they further evolved into advanced types. An interesting contrast is shown between the creation of the basic script-based chatbot ELIZA (1964) and the general-purpose mobile robot Shaky (1966) versus IBM’s Deep Blue,

which was able to defeat Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion (1997).

The highlight of the book is its lucid and easy-flowing language, which does not feel like a cumbersome, heavy tech read. It instead flows like a story with numerous diagrams, flowcharts, and examples that keep the reader engrossed and active throughout. Terms like deep neural networks, supervised AI, unsupervised AI, and deep learning are exhaustively covered with numerous examples, making them both easy to understand and useful. Current topics like ChatGPT’s complex working have been lucidly explained. While keeping it simple, the author does not miss addressing the three key terms: generative, pre-trained, and transformer. The writer successfully portrays the trajectory taken by specialists from developing Narrow AI, which performs specialized tasks, to General AI, with the end goal being Super AI.

The forte of the book is the use of real-world ex-

amples. From business to social-life applications, the book provides interesting examples and cases that point towards the undeniable utility of AI in today's world. Statistical data provided by the author, such as businesses using AI gain nearly 40% productivity improvements and AI expected to contribute 15.7 billion dollars to the global economy, further strengthens the argument that AI is definitely not a 'Luxury' but a 'Necessity.'

The book efficiently shifts the discussion from what AI can do to what AI should do. The author does not simply label the AI as powerful or dangerous, instead, he encourages the readers to reflect on responsibility, ethics and intent while interacting with AI. It discusses the various challenges arising with the rise in the popularity of AI in the most grounded and balanced way possible. The book appropriately engages in the forward looking and inclusive outlook focusing on highlighting the accessibility, education, thus, presenting the AI as a tool that can bridge the gaps rather than widen them. The author's ultimate aim appears to make the readers understand, adapt, and flourish with AI without instilling fear or getting carried away.

The AI driven platforms extensively collect and analyse users' personal data without them being aware about it, and that raises a serious concern about privacy, consent and accountability. Addressing all these issues profoundly makes this book an excellent work, emphasising on the ethical AI which is very important for the readers, especially the AI platform users in navigating a technology-driven society. The focus of the book is not only on understanding the basics but also on intricate aspects like governance, accessibility and future readiness. The book brings out the fact that with no single global framework regulating AI, it becomes quite challenging for its users. It also highlights that the future of AI is less about taking jobs and replacing humans but more about job transformation where humans need to adapt and learn how to make the right use of technology

like Artificial Intelligence.

The biggest strength of this book is the way it balances the foundational concept with implications. Instead of overwhelming the readers with equations, it focuses on learning from scratch. The book deals with case studies and real-life issues with the help of realistic examples.

This book is ideal for the readers who want a grounded start in understanding AI. As the author avoids dense, math-heavy references and technicalities making it well suited for beginners, students, management learners and non-technical professionals wanting to understand AI in a structured and approachable manner. It sticks true to its title and profoundly touches all the three elements i.e. understanding the topic, how the world has adapted to it, and how an individual can succeed in life by using AI.

Conflict of Interest

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