



Fuzzy Logic: The Revolutionary Computer Technology That Is Changing Our World

Daniel McNeill, Paul Freiberger

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Imagine a technology so revolutionary that it gives computers the ability to make decisions more like human beings. Professor Lofti Zadeh masterminded "fuzzy logic"--a way of programming computers to "make decisions" bases on imprecise data and complex situations. In "Fuzzy Logic," Daniel McNeill and Paul Freiberger relate the compelling tale of this remarkable new technology, the genius who brought it to life, and how it will soon affect the lives of every one of us.

Fuzzy Logic: The Revolutionary Computer Technology That Is Changing Our World Details

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Chris Tabor says

definitely a good read, though very little technical aspects are covered, and it mostly centers around the history of how fuzzy logic came to be.

Caitlin says

Not quite enough detail on how fuzzy logic works, and now a little dated, but an interesting mathematical tale nonetheless.

Pumpkinpi says

This book is great! The authors of Fuzzy Logic explain the history and the many uses of fuzzy logic clearly and concisely. It is really fun to explore the history of such a fascinating new science, and the book also does a good job going into the modern applications. My only problem with the book is that the authors fail to explain precisely what fuzzy logic is. If I had not already understood fuzzy logic before I read the book, I would barely have enjoyed it at all.

Hanna says

This made me nostalgic for the 90's. But I didn't learn what I wanted from it.

Tom says

Very interesting, but not enough "hard" details for technically-minded readers, who will want to follow up with other reading.

Sage says

Again, it's been years since I read this, but I learned how Japanese trains can slow down very quickly and still be smooth and how cameras are programmed to avoid shaky hands. They figured out how to have a percentage on/off switch. Not just 1111 or 0000 (which mean on or off in bit language or something..hey I'm an arts person), but part of that. Great reading for the scientifically curious but unskilled!

Viet Phuong says

Somehow over-dramatizing the birth, struggle, and rise of fuzzy logic with not enough understandable explanation, the book seemed to be written by two "hard-core" fans of fuzzy logic and was thus lack a decent degree of neutrality as a scientific non-fiction.

Peter says

Great intro to Fuzzy Logic: This was the first fuzzy book I read. Just picked it up randomly, wondering what fuzzy is all about. It's easy to understand, non-technical, and very enlightening. If you are curious about fuzzy logic, or want to explore what could result in a major step forward in machine "intellegence" check out this book. I only gave it an 8 (not 10) because Kosko's "Fuzzy Thinking" is the best I've read. This book is not on the same level, but still very good.

Charles says

Classical logic forces all actions to be described by a rigid sequence of two option rules. By applying enough such rules, it is possible to eventually reach a reasonable approximation to the problem in question. However, such a method is cumbersome at best, so in 1964, Lotfi Zadeh, a professor of electrical engineering, invented a new reasoning system base on imprecise rules. Since the values are now placed within specified ranges, the system was given the unfortunate name "fuzzy." Eventually ignored and at times vilified by the academic community in the United States, fuzzy logic is now beginning to be widely used in commercial products.

In another instance of what seems to be the most common business theme of the decade of the '80s, it was Japanese industry that took the American ideas and made them commercially viable. Many products now incorporate fuzzy reasoning systems, with no end in sight regarding the spectrum of applications. The performance gains of fuzzy logic over other options is at times astounding.

Equally surprising is the simplicity of fuzzy reasoning. Most events in the human experience are not sharply demarcated. Night does not "fall," but slowly floats down like an aging helium balloon. Fuzzy systems mimic this by assigning a numeric value to qualifying words such as "very," "slightly," and "remotely." The most common scale uses the range from zero to one inclusive. Since zero can be considered FALSE and one TRUE, classical logic is a limiting subset of fuzzy logic. For example, the phrase "very possible" could be assigned a truth value of 0.90, "slightly possible" a value of 0.05, and "remotely possible" a value of 0.005. Fuzzy OR then takes the largest value of the two variable, AND the minimum of the two and the negation is computed by taking one minus the fuzzy value.

This book introduces the basic notions of fuzziness, but concentrates more on the history as an ignored discipline and the recent commercial successes. It is amazing to learn that the vast majority of "fuzzy thinkers" are found in Asia. Comparisons between the differences in Western and Eastern philosophy are made in an attempt to explain this. For example, the Japanese language is inherently much vaguer than western languages.

If you are interested in learning the first notions of fuzzy reasoning, this book is a good non-technical place to start. And if the applications continue to grow, that interest may become a required taste.

