

AI FOR SMARTIES

Longer description (500 words)

The most important technology of our time — decoded.

Artificial Intelligence is transforming our world at breathtaking speed. Millions of people use AI systems every day. Few understand why they work. How are Large Language Models able to provide cogent answers to tricky requests they have never seen before? What makes "deep learning" deep? What professions are helped, transformed or threatened by AI? Many people are asking such questions. Until now did not have a comprehensive, readable source to answer them.

For decades, computer science sought to build intelligent systems through logic, rules, and carefully crafted knowledge. Then, almost unexpectedly, a different approach prevailed. Rather than telling machines what to know, we began allowing them to learn from experience.

The result is one of the most remarkable scientific and technological breakthroughs of modern times.

In *AI for Smarties*, Bertrand Meyer explains the ideas behind this revolution with the clarity and rigor that have made his previous books classics of software engineering. Going beyond headlines, hype, and speculation, he reveals the principles that distinguish modern artificial intelligence from traditional computing.

- Why did machine learning succeed where earlier approaches struggled?
- What role do data, probability and experimentation play in intelligent behavior?
- Why has empirical learning become one of the dominant paradigms of computing?
- And what does this shift mean for software engineering, education and society?

Accessible to curious readers and professionals alike, *AI for Smarties* offers a clear and engaging guide to the concepts that power today's AI systems and shape tomorrow's innovations. It includes the mathematical elements without which no serious understanding is possible, presenting them in a clear and simple way requiring no specific background from the reader. It discusses, no holds barred, all the major issues at the forefront of today's debates, from AI's effect on education to its consequences for the job market, helping the reader devise a successful personal strategy for the age of AI.

Artificial intelligence may look like magic but is not magic. It is one of the most important intellectual achievements of our age. This book explains why.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bertrand Meyer is a software engineer, entrepreneur, educator, and author whose work has influenced generations of software developers. He is the creator of the Eiffel programming language and the Design by Contract methodology, and the author of the landmark book *Object-Oriented Software Construction*, a foundational text of modern software engineering.

For four decades, Meyer has combined research, industrial innovation, and entrepreneurship. In 1985, he founded Interactive Software Engineering (now Eiffel Software), pioneering tools

and methods for building reliable software systems. He later founded Propulsion, a bootcamp company acquired in 2022, and is currently the founder of Recognize.ai.

His career uniquely spans two major revolutions in computing: the rise of software engineering as a discipline and the emergence of artificial intelligence as a transformative technology. He is the recipient of the ACM Software System Award the IEEE Harlan Mills Prize and the Dahl-Nygaard Award.