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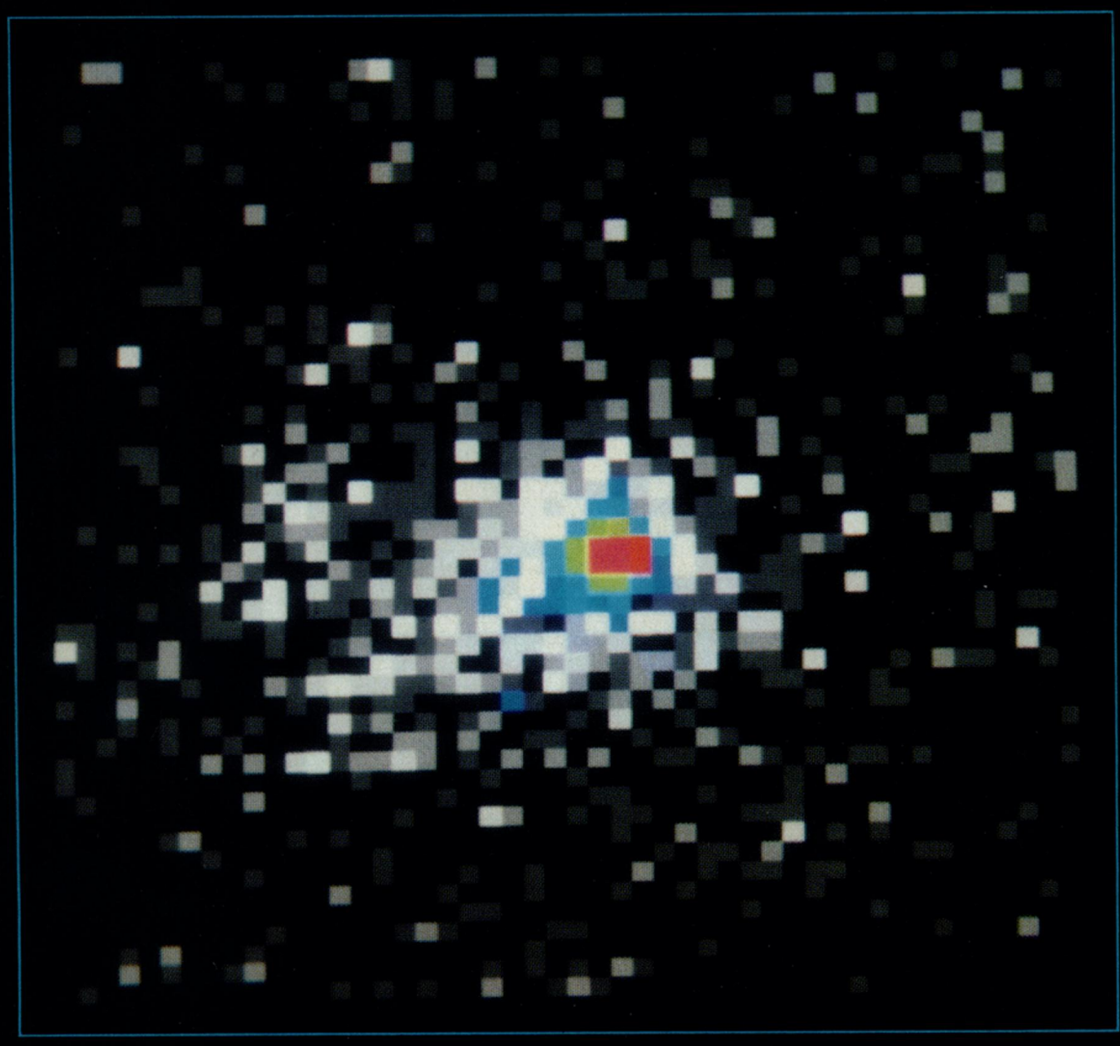

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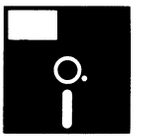
Thinking Machines



The Search for Artificial Intelligence

For thirty years researchers have been trying to make computers *think.* Today the machines are capable of storing vast amounts of information, of solving complex problems, even of playing master chess and performing medical diagnoses. But they still cannot think in a human sense, because they cannot *learn* — that is, construct general rules on the basis of experience.

In *Thinking Machines,* one of the world's leading experts on artificial intelligence, Igor Aleksander, explains why. Aided by colorful graphics and speaking in terms that even the most computer-ignorant lay reader can understand, Aleksander shows how computers work . . . how they can be programmed to play games and solve problems . . . what distinguishes human from machine intelligence . . . and why a whole new approach — designing computers to mimic the human brain and learn from experience — may lead to the long-awaited breakthrough.

— from the publisher

"[For an] unusually clear elementary account of [AI's] techniques read Thinking Machines."

— NATURE

Knopf, 1987, 208 pages, 9¾" x 8¼", paperback, $17.95
ISBN 0-394-74459-4

Igor Aleksander and Piers Burnett

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MAN-MADE MINDS

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Globally, AI is the ultimate prize in international technological competition. And in its expanding military role, AI is being called on to supply the infallible mastermind for Star Wars "defenses" and other strategic systems.

Underlying all AI research, the author points out, is the quest to understand the processes of human thought — which poses AI's most baffling question: Can a machine ever be made to actually think?

— from the publisher

M. Mitchell Waldrop

Walker, 1987, 280 pages, 9¼" x 6¼", paperback, $14.95
ISBN 0-8027-7297-8

"... gives quite a comprehensive history of AI and describes reasonably clearly a fair sample of work in the subject. The book is well documented ..." — NATURE

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