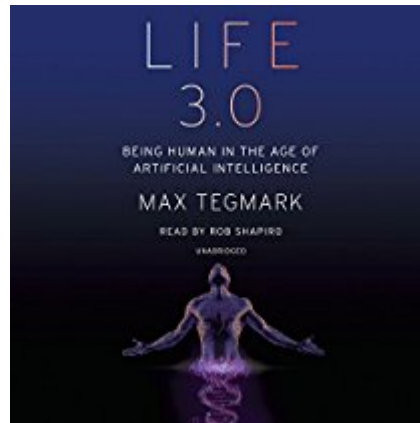


Ebook Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence By Max Tegmark



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Customer Reviews Most helpful customer reviews 59 of 61 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant guide to the massive AI revolution headed our way By Anthony Aguirre The first chapter of Tegmark's new book is called "Welcome to the most important conversation of our time," and that's exactly what this book is. Before diving into the book, a few words about why this conversation is so important and why Tegmark is a central agent helping make it happen and, through the book, the perfect guide. Have you notice how you don't "solve" CAPTCHAs (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart) anymore? That's because computers now can. Artificial Intelligence, from being a fairly niche area of mostly academic study a decade ago has exploded in the last five years. Much more quickly than many anticipated, machine learning (a subset of AI) systems have defeated the best human Go players, are piloting self-driving cars, usefully if imperfectly translating documents, labeling your photos, understanding your speech, and so on. This has led to huge investment in AI by companies and governments, with every sign that progress will continue. This book is about what happens if and when it does. But why hear about it from Tegmark, an accomplished MIT physicists and cosmologist, rather than (say) an AI

researcher? First, Tegmark has over the past few years *become* an AI researcher, with 5 published technical papers in the past two years. But he's also got a lifetime of experience thinking carefully, rigorously, generally (and entertainingly to boot) about the "big picture" of what is possible, and what is not, over long timescales and cosmic distances (see his last book!) - which most AI researchers do not. Finally, he's played an active and very key role (as you can read about in the book's epilogue) in actually creating conversation and research about the impacts and safety of AI in the long-term. I don't think anyone is more comprehensively aware of the full spectrum of important aspects of the issue. So now the book. Chapter 1 lays out why AI is suddenly on everyone's radar, and very likely to be extremely important over the coming decades, situating present-day as a crucial point within the wider sweep of human and evolutionary history on Earth. Chapter 2 takes the question of "what is intelligence?" and abstracts it from its customary human application, to "what is intelligence *in general*?" How can we define it in a useful way to cover both biological and artificial forms, and how do these tie to a basic understanding of the physical world? This lays the groundwork for the question of what happens as artificial intelligences grow ever more powerful. Chapter 3 addresses this question in the near future: what happens as more and more human jobs can be done by AIs? What about AI weapons replacing human-directed ones? How will we cope when more and more decisions are made by AIs that may be flawed or biased? This is about a lot of important changes occurring *right now* to which society is, for the most part, asleep at the wheel. Chapter 4 gets into what is exciting - and terrifying - about AI: as a designed intelligence, it can in principle *re*design itself to get better and better, potentially on a relatively short timescale. This raises a lot of rich, important, and extremely difficult questions that not that many people have thought through carefully (another in-print example is the excellent book by Bostrom). Chapter 5 discusses where what happens to humans as a species after an "intelligence explosion" takes place. Here Tegmark is making a call to start thinking about where we want to be, as we may end up somewhere sooner than we think, and some of the possibilities are pretty awful. Chapter 6 exhibits Tegmark's unique talent for tackling the big questions, looking at the *ultimate* limits and promise of intelligent life in the universe, and how stupefyingly high the stakes might be for getting the next few decades right. It's both a sobering and an exhilarating prospect. Chapters 7 and 8 then dig into some of the deep and interesting questions about AI: what does it mean for a machine to have "goals"? What are our goals as individuals and a society, and how can we best aim toward them in the long term? Can a machine we design have consciousness? What is the long-term future of consciousness? Is there a danger of relapsing into a universe *without* consciousness if we aren't careful? Finally, an epilogue describes Tegmark's own experience - which I've had the privilege to personally witness - as a key player in an effort to focus thought and effort on AI and its long-term implications, of which writing this book is a part. (And I should also mention the prologue, which gives a fictional but less *science*fictional depiction of an artificial superintelligence being used by a small group to seize control of human society. The book is written in a very lively and engaging style. The explanations are clear, and Tegmark develops a lot of material at a level that is understandable to a general audience, but rigorous enough to give readers a real understanding of the issues relevant to thinking about the future impact of AI. There are a lot of new ideas in the book, and although it is sometimes written in a breezy and engaging style, that belies a lot of careful thinking about the issues. It's possible that real, general artificial intelligence (AGI) is 100 or more years away, a problem for the next generation, with large but manageable effects of "narrow" AI to deal with over a span of decades. But it's also quite possible that it's going to happen 10, 15, 20, or 30 years from now, in which case society is going to have to make a lot of very wise and very important (literally of cosmic import) decisions very quickly. It's important to start the conversation now, and there's no better way. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing Read on the Future of AI By Boniface N. Osonwanne This book is a thoughtful examination of where we are now in AI innovation and the need for AI safety as technology races to a future of Artificial General Intelligence and Superintelligence and why as homo sapiens we need to think of ourselves as homo sentient (consciousness) and the need to have meaning/conscious/sentient AI as humanity

explores/expands to the rest of our universe in the future, Life 3.0 18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. An exciting look into one of the most important conversations we will ever have By Lucas Perry Tegmark brings a refreshing perspective to what likely is one of, if not the, most important conversation of our time. After setting the stage and clearing the field of common myths and misconceptions regarding AI, Tegmark methodically moves through the emergence of intelligence in our cosmos some 4 billion years ago to the implications of what he calls "Life 3.0," entities which can both redesign their hardware and software. Couching the emergence and development of both consciousness and intelligence within the more cosmological world view of a physicist offers a truly inspiring narrative. Moving through hundreds, thousands, and billions of years with Tegmark solidifies the development of intelligence as a cosmological phenomenon which you come to realize that you yourself are a part of. Learning how intelligence is an emergent expression of more basic physical laws feels, at least to me, thoroughly grounding and deeply reestablishing of a real connection between me and the world. Chapters 6, 7, and 8 are my favorite and cover territory seldom explored in similar literature. In 6, he explores the capacity of artificial superintelligence to colonize the universe and the implications for the about 10 billion galaxies he estimates might be able to be colonized by it. Chapter 7 explores the emergence and evolution of goals at different levels of reality, ranging from thermodynamics to wet and squishy intelligences like you and me. In chapter 8, Tegmark explores consciousness and the mysteries and questions surrounding it, a topic I believe deserves far more attention than it is currently getting. This book is aimed at a wider audience than Bostrom's Superintelligence, but even if you are an avid reader of all that concerns technology, the deep future, and AI, I'm certain you'll find novel content and an enjoyable recontextualization of AI from the perspective a physicist. On a less serious note, I really love that the author summarizes the most important points at the end of each chapter. It helps me remember everything. :p See all 35 customer reviews...

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