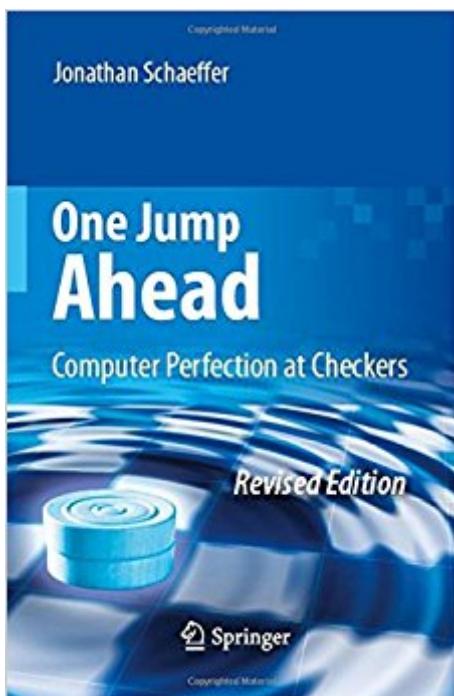


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One Jump Ahead: Computer Perfection At Checkers



Synopsis

It's hard to believe that it's been over a decade since *One Jump Ahead: Challenging Human Supremacy at Checkers* was published. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to update and expand the book. The first edition ended on a sad note and that was reflected in the writing. It is now eleven years later and the project has come to a satisfying conclusion. Since its inception, the checkers project has consumed eighteen years of my life - twenty if you count the pre-CHINOOK and post-solving work. It's hard for me to believe that I actually stuck with it for that long. My wife, Steph, would probably have something witty to say about my obsessive behavior. Rereading the book after a decade was difficult for me. When I originally wrote *One Jump Ahead*, I vowed to be candid in my telling of the story. That meant being honest about what went right and what went wrong. I have been criticized for being hard on some of the characters. That may be so, but I hope everyone will agree that the person receiving the most criticism was, justifiably, me. I tried to be balanced in the storytelling, reflecting things as they really happened and not as some sanitized everyone-lived-happily-ever-after tale.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is hard to categorize, it covers so much: programming a computer to win at checkers, certainly, but also the history of a dying competitive game, the story of an undisputed human champion, the nature of what makes a game and an opponent exciting, and many other threads. A fantastic book (at least for me). Already read the book? You can also play his program, Chinook

(good luck!).

Reading of this book is nice pleasure about the story of the best checkers programme written by Jonathan Schaeffer, the leader of the Artificial Intelligence specialists from Canada. It is interesting for each person who likes checkers.

Schaeffer's real-life checkers adventure is like a fictional anthropologist encountering the still-vibrant remnant of a lost civilization. Never glimpsing the mystical heart of the culture upon which he brings so much technology to bear, Schaeffer cuts a comic and pitiable figure. He believes that he is a sportsman, that flipping the switch on some coded up standard algorithms allows him to join the company of the supreme adepts, that nervously watching the lights flash is in any way comparable to the actual, miraculously skillful, dizzying descent into the vortex. Most ridiculous is his overweening ambition to grab with his thick, profaning fingers what he takes to be the ultimate treasure and, especially, his preening glee when this illusory "honor" is ironically granted him by the dying master.

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