



# Probabilistic Reasoning in Intelligent Systems: Networks of Plausible Inference (Morgan Kaufmann Series in Representation and Reasoning)

By Judea Pearl

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*Probabilistic Reasoning in Intelligent Systems* is a complete and accessible account of the theoretical foundations and computational methods that underlie plausible reasoning under uncertainty. The author provides a coherent explication of probability as a language for reasoning with partial belief and offers a unifying perspective on other AI approaches to uncertainty, such as the Dempster-Shafer formalism, truth maintenance systems, and nonmonotonic logic.

The author distinguishes syntactic and semantic approaches to uncertainty--and offers techniques, based on belief networks, that provide a mechanism for making semantics-based systems operational. Specifically, network-propagation techniques serve as a mechanism for combining the theoretical coherence of probability theory with modern demands of reasoning-systems technology: modular declarative inputs, conceptually meaningful inferences, and parallel distributed computation. Application areas include diagnosis, forecasting, image interpretation, multi-sensor fusion, decision support systems, plan recognition, planning, speech recognition--in short, almost every task requiring that conclusions be drawn from uncertain clues and incomplete information.

*Probabilistic Reasoning in Intelligent Systems* will be of special interest to scholars and researchers in AI, decision theory, statistics, logic, philosophy, cognitive psychology, and the management sciences. Professionals in the areas of knowledge-based systems, operations research, engineering, and statistics will find theoretical and computational tools of immediate practical use. The book can also be used as an excellent text for graduate-level courses in AI, operations research, or applied probability.

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## **Probabilistic Reasoning in Intelligent Systems: Networks of Plausible Inference (Morgan Kaufmann Series in Representation and Reasoning) By Judea Pearl Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #177901 in Books
- Published on: 1988-09-15
- Released on: 1988-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.30" w x 6.00" l, 1.66 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 552 pages

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