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# Automate This: How Algorithms Took Over Our Markets, Our Jobs, And The World

"A FASCINATING EXPLORATION OF HOW THE MATHEMATICS BEHIND AUTOMATED TRADING REVOLUTIONIZED BUSINESS WORLDWIDE." —USA TODAY

**AUTOMATE**

**THIS**

**HOW ALGORITHMS TOOK OVER OUR MARKETS, OUR JOBS, AND THE WORLD**

**CHRISTOPHER STEINER**

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF $20 PER GALLON
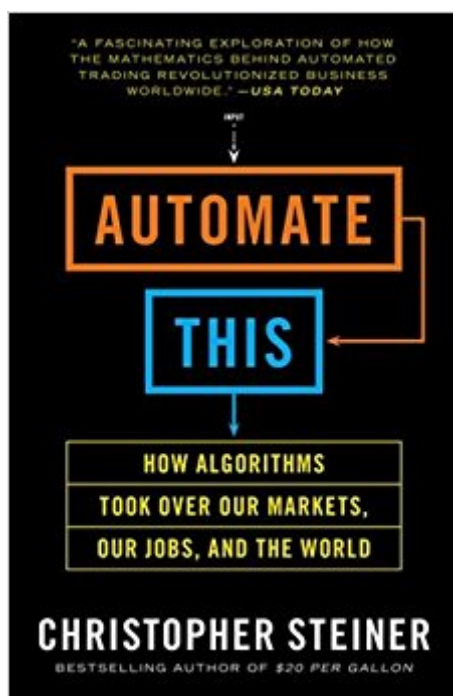
# Synopsis

How the rise of computerized decision-making affects every aspect of business and daily lifeÃ Â The bot takeover began with high frequency trading on Wall Street, and from there it spread to all manners of high-level tasksÃ¢ ¬â •such as diagnosing illnesses or interpreting legal documents. There is no realm of human endeavor safe from algorithms that employ speed, precision and nuance.Ã Â In this fascinating book, Steiner tells the story of how algorithms took over and shows why the Ã¢ ¬Å"bot revolutionÃ¢ ¬Â• is about to spill into every aspect of our lives. We meet bots that are driving cars, penning haikus, and writing music mistaken for BachÃ¢ ¬â„¢s. They listen in on customer service calls and figure out what Iran would do in the event of a nuclear standoff.Ã Â On Wall Street, pre-programmed algorithmic deals are executed by machines faster than any human couldÃ¢ ¬â •leaving human investors at a severe disadvantage.Ã Â Ã Â But what will the world look like when algorithms control our hospitals, our roads, and our national security?Ã Â Is a stock marketÃ Â controlled by high-speed trading bots worth investing in?Ã Â And what role will be left for doctors, lawyers, writers, truck drivers, and many others?Ã Â

# Book Information

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# Customer Reviews

The Arab Spring of 2011 did not surprise analyst Bueno de Mesquita, who in May 2010 predicted that Egyptian strongman Hosni Mubarak would fall within a yearÃ¢ ¬â •basing his prediction on the workings of an algorithm. As readers follow Steiner in his whirlwind tour of algorithm

applications, they will marvel at the versatility of a mathematical tool understood only by a small circle of experts. Readers peer over the expertsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ shoulders long enough to trace the decision-tree logic of an individual algorithm and to follow the cascading dynamics of the linked algorithms that drive the Ã¢â ¬Å"botsÃ¢â ¬Å• now handling everything from putting astronauts into space to matching compatible personalities venturing into the dating scene. Steiner acknowledges that a world reliant on bots must cope with new challengesÃ¢â ¬â •flash crashes on Wall Street, unemployment among accountants, dangerously powerful technocrats. Still, Steiner remains hopeful that resourceful computer whizzes will weave algorithms that will enrich and safeguard our future. An accessible foray into computer programming that has become a hidden but pervasive presence. --Bryce Christensen --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ã¢â ¬Å"[Steiner] excels in bringing a dry subject to life.Ã¢â ¬Å•Ã¢â ¬â •Financial Times"As readers follow Steiner in his whirlwind tour of algorithm applications, they will marvel at the versatility of a mathematical tool understood only by a small circle of experts. Readers peer over the expertsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ shoulders long enough to trace the decision-tree logic of an individual algorithm and to follow the cascading dynamics of the linked algorithms that drive the Ã¢â ¬Å"botsÃ¢â ¬Å• now handling everything from putting astronauts into space to matching compatible personalities venturing into the dating sceneÃ¢â ¬Å|. An accessible foray into computer programming that has become a hidden but pervasive presence."Ã¢â ¬â •Bryce Christensen, BooklistÃ¢â ¬Å"Algorithms are affecting every field of human endeavor, from markets to mediÃ Â- cine, poker to pop music. Read this book if you want to understand the most powerful force shaping the world today and tomorrow.Ã¢â ¬Å•Ã¢â ¬â •Andrew McAfee, principal research scientist, MIT; coauthor of Race Against the MachineÃ¢â ¬Å"Christopher Steiner knows how to find terrific stories and tell them well. He has written a lively narrative with humans at its center. To be sure, its subject is important, but the book is also fun.Ã¢â ¬Å•Ã¢â ¬â •Randall Stross, author of Planet Google and The Launch Pad

The author spends a few pages talking about mathematical history, so the traditional quote from Abel seems appropriate: "Learn from the masters not their pupils". By that metric, you shouldn't read this book. It's written by a journalist who has a tenuous grasp on the subject and I don't think it's likely to advance anyone's understanding. An intro book about machine learning, which is the common thread of his anecdotes, would be a wise alternative.It's also highly offensive that he wrote a 200 page fluffy text on the vast subject of machine learning and put icing on the cake by peppering it with advertisements for companies that he's affiliated with. At the start of chapter 2 he

says "all one needs to do is head to Y Combinator's Hackers News message board, which has grown into one of the more infuential Web sites in the world". Not only is this completely false, he received a grant from Y Combinator for his start up, which we know because he included similarly transparent advertisements earlier in the book. Are you kidding me?It shouldn't come as a huge surprise that someone who wrote a book called "$20/gal..." is more interesting in attracting attention than conveying information. But skip this one. There's no reason to encourage authors to write cash-grab drivel like this.

Automate This is a journey into the world of anything that can be automated, from stock picking to medical diagnosis. The author, Christopher Steiner, excels in telling stories and bringing interesting anecdotes to the reader. Although focused on the trading world, the book explores topics such as automated music creation, geopolitical analysis and poker playing.Automate This is about the stories and business applications of machine learning. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a pleasant reading for both people in the field and others. Practitioners will find interesting applications of machine learning, although without any technical details. People outside of the field will get a feeling of what can be done with data mining algorithms.Out of the second chapter, about the history of man and algorithms, I found the book really enjoying. SteinerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s book is also telling the story of Quants moving from the finance industry to the Silicon Valley. In summary, Automate This is an excellent book about machine learning, without mentioning it (the author uses the word ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å"automatedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• for machine learning). Highly advised to anyone interested in knowing how machine learning is changing our world.

I really enjoy the aim of this book -- to explain how algorithms play such an important role in different areas of our lives. Case studies help add context to what might otherwise be an abstract mathematical musing. But I find the average Joe-oriented approach to come with unintended consequences. The writing is simply hyperbolic. It makes each incremental advancement in automation out to be the apocalypse. Options traders are using options -- well let's pack up and call it a day! Euler started mathematics from a young age -- what a genius! What a remarkable young mind!!The author, lacking a more meaningful approach to this subject matter, decided to dramatize it as if to catch our attention. Duly noted, and poorly received.

True to its sub-title, Automate This is chock full of history about how technology has been changed forever by the development and progressive innovation of algorithms. From the Wall Street collapse

of 2008 to the composition of classical, composer inspired music with only a computerÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â„¢s software program, Steiner reveals throughout the book how algorithms have turned industries on their head yet are still capable of so much more than we are ready to accept. As great as the historical elements are, be forewarned that the book is much more focused on how the industry got to where it was in 2013 than about where the industry is going from 2016 and beyond. For the reader who already knows a bit about Watson, the IBM super computer, or has read the book or seen the movie Moneyball about how baseball recruiting is far more accurate through algorithm than scout, this book might not provide enough new anecdotes or present as much predictive flair as the savvy reader would enjoy.For the algorithm novice, Steiner gives us hope when he explains why Wall Street was altered by quants who are no longer (thankfully) flocking to that field, and so hopefully they will be able to focus instead on music production, Top 40 hit generation, baseball recruiting, professional level poker playing, medical diagnostics, human psychology, customer experience, and other many areas, which show how much our world can now be dictated by the sophisticated algorithms developed over the last fifty years. In some places, the book reads as a cautionary tale for the college student or young professional looking to find an industry that will continue to grow with human capital instead of machines (hint, it is not medical diagnostics). It also shares success stories, which might point a more experienced algorithm researcher to a unique company or individual expert that have advanced missions in automated computing.Overall the book is written without too much technical jargon, and it has an easy ready style. At times, it has painstakingly long chapters and it does not often rely on humor to entertain. But for someone looking to learn about the algorithmic transformation of our technological world and gain a sense for how that will only continue to spread, I would recommend SteinerÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â„¢s book.

Automate This: How Algorithms Took Over Our Markets, Our Jobs, and the World STEVE JOBS: Steve Jobs: Top Life Lessons: Unlimited Success, Leadership, and Powerful Creativity: Steve Jobs Biography: Steve Jobs (Business, Biographies ... Rich and Famous, Computers and Technology) Automate This: How Algorithms Came to Rule Our World Good Jobs, Bad Jobs: The Rise of Polarized and Precarious Employment Systems in the United States 1970s to 2000s (American Sociological Association's ... Rose Series in Sociology (Paperback)) Pharaohs and Foot Soldiers: One Hundred Ancient Egyptian Jobs You Might Have Desired or Dreaded (Jobs in History) Archers, Alchemists: and 98 Other Medieval Jobs You Might Have Loved or Loathed (Jobs in History) International Jobs : Where They Are, How to Get Them (International Jobs : Where They Are, How

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