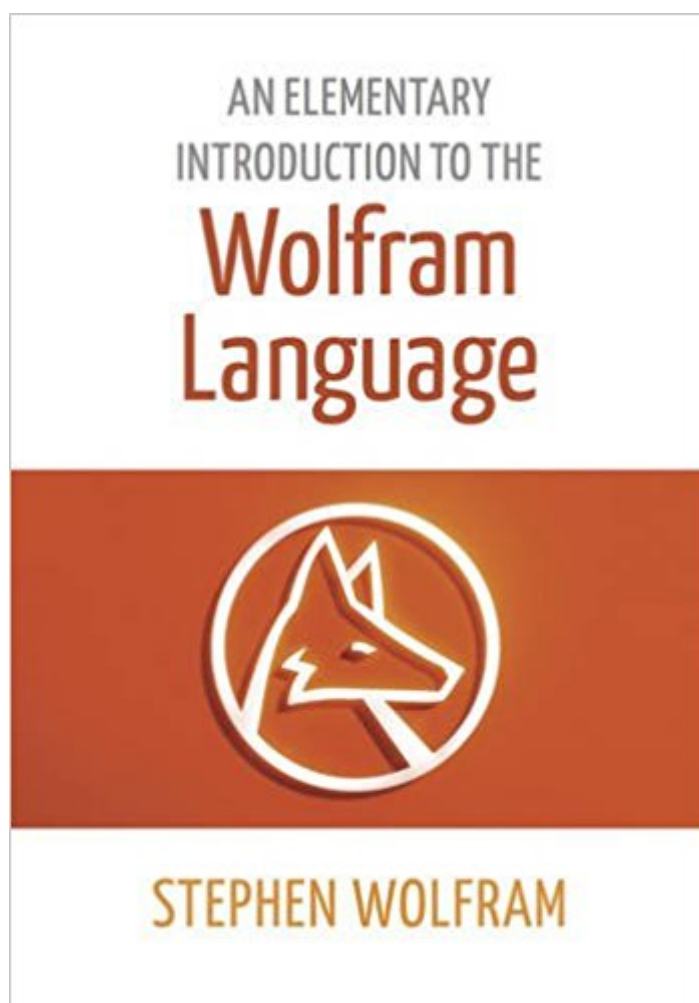


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An Elementary Introduction To The Wolfram Language



Synopsis

The Wolfram Language represents a major advance in programming languages that makes leading-edge computation accessible to everyone. Unique in its approach of building in vast knowledge and automation, the Wolfram Language scales from a single line of easy-to-understand interactive code to million-line production systems. This book provides an elementary introduction to the Wolfram Language and modern computational thinking. It assumes no prior knowledge of programming, and is suitable for both technical and non-technical college and high-school students, as well as anyone with an interest in the latest technology and its practical application.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am somewhat more than an amateur at coding, but in my opinion, far from being a real powerhouse pro. I am slow since I don't code often and need to constantly refer to manuals. But I do understand programming concepts, so I can spec the job out and get it done, either by myself or hiring someone. That may change, though. I'm sitting here, actually excited about the possibilities and potential of the Wolfram Language. It is totally mind-blowing. I am particularly interested in text and image processing. To date, I have been using Python for text processing because it is an easy, yet powerful, language to learn and use. But processes and functions that would be fairly complex and time consuming to create in Python can be expressed in a single line of Wolfram Language code. Likewise, I wouldn't think of attempting image processing myself in Python – but in Wolfram, I can invoke very sophisticated image analysis processes in a single line. Totally mind-blowing. It is unfortunate that the "See Inside" feature has not yet been

implemented for this book because it would be immensely valuable to potential purchasers who know nothing of the Wolfram Language. In lieu of this, you might check the Wolfram Language website for the "Fast Introduction For Programmers". This may seem a bit of a cop-out in a review of a book about the language, but this language is radically different than any language I've ever used and I needed an overview before I could really believe what I was seeing and reading. The book itself is very clearly written with dozens, if not hundreds, of operations and functions described in one or two paragraphs, each containing examples.

This textbook written by Stephen Wolfram is an essential for those who have Mathematica 10. I have done a review and gave my recommendation to Hands-on Start to Wolfram Mathematica by Cliff Hastings, Kelvin Michio, and Michael Morrison earlier this year and now Wolfram Media has added this to the collection. Stephen Wolfram is the founder and president of Wolfram, the publisher of Mathematica. Wolfram is an excellent teacher and textbook writer in addition to being a programming genius who brought forth Mathematica, the premier computation software package out there. He begins by saying The Mathematica Handbook which was discontinued in 2007 with the fifth edition because at 1500 pages had reached the limit for a hardbound handbook. Wolfram writes that the current edition, 10.3, would have to be 50,000 pages and be equivalent to the Encyclopedia Britannica in length. Much too much for a reference manual. Wolfram says that all the information is in the Help section of the program. Mathematica has the most extensive on-line documentation of any major software program. He goes through most of the program giving an overview of the programs features. He gives examples which are supplemented by professional illustrations. He lingers on the newer areas Mathematica addresses. That is, features added since the fifth edition from 2007. He doesn't spend too much time on pure mathematics--the Hands-on Introduction by Hastings, et al. covers that nicely. Also, old copies of the fifth edition of the Mathematica Handbook are still valid. Wolfram never throws away anything. He does simplify a few of the math functions, however. On page 295 he includes a chapter on "What We Haven't Discussed."

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