

discusses some interesting features and problems associated with linking Crystal to Lotus and dBASE which should help the beginner up the learning curve. Chapter 8 is entitled 'Building Small Scale Expert Systems' but it is rather more a chapter on describing some systems which have been built than one which gives the user clear guidelines on how to start building. Chapter 9 is a good summary of some of the applications in the area of Accounting and Finance—very relevant to my undergraduates in Financial Services. The chapter has some useful references but they are not as extensive as I would have liked.

In conclusion, I would certainly recommend this book to anyone who wanted an introduction to Expert Systems and had access to Crystal. Without the software, it is not worth paying £20 to buy the book, although I would still recommend reading some of the chapters. For introductory courses in Expert Systems then it can easily be the recommended text for the course. My only slight quibble is the price. I am not sure £20 represents good value for money, especially if the reader is on a student grant. I think £15 might be a fairer price.

ALAN MABBETT

### **The Adaptive Decision Maker**

JOHN W. PAYNE, JAMES R. BETTMAN and ERIC J. JOHNSON

*Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1993. xiii + 330 pp. £14. 95*

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When one watches the decision process, one is impressed with the human species. We have been on this planet for over 5 million years, one day at a time consequently, the Adaptive Decision Maker holds out some hope for the future—we may some day see the light, and apparently not in the too distant future.

Although there have been enough studies done in the area of adaptive decision making, much more still needs to be accomplished. What might be the reason?

The authors spend considerable time reviewing what has been done and what looks most promising for the future. For the student of decision studies, this book is a must. However, do not write a dissertation without a careful reading. What is missing here is a review of what is being done in the neurosciences. The decision process is strongly connected to learning theory, and what is now becoming understood as a chaotic period in learning, might well be behind the plethora of results included in the book. I did not find this mentioned in the book, but careful readers might keep this in the back of their mind as they read the book.

In summary, from a psychological perspective, the Adaptive Decision Maker serves as an excellent source of what is known about decision making. For an OR analyst this would be especially useful if called upon to set up a decision support system. It will enable the analyst to call upon the best techniques available and, at the same time, provide the decision maker with the necessary precautions associated with such a process. I recommend the book. It belongs in the serious student's library.

CHARLES LEAVE