



Computer Gamesmanship

David N. L. Levy

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How Computers Learn to Play Games of Strategy This is book is for anyone who has ever tried to match wits with a computer in chess, bridge, or any other game requiring long-range strategy and studied decisions. If you're not a pro, chances are you've been defeated by a machine - and impressed at its uncanny ability to outmaneuver humans. In *Computer Gamesmanship*, David Levy, an International Chess Master and producer of intelligent computer games, unravels the mysteries of how computers successfully mimic strategic thinking and play complex games. In jargon-free language, Levy describes the important principles and techniques applicable to any game of strategy-such as decision trees, alpha-beta algorithms, minimax searches, and evaluation functions-and explains how even highly advanced strategies can be reduced to relatively simple procedures that a home computer can perform. He then illustrates and elaborates upon them in extensive discussions of the most popular and successful programs for chess, bridge, poker, Go, Othello, and many others. *Computer Gamesmanship* is a unique introduction and insider's guide to the most challenging games you can play, or create, on your computer. "This is a simply written and serious little book about how computers go about playing games.... (*Computer Gamesmanship*] leaves the reader with a sense of admiration for the stratagems of computer programmers."

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