

Contents

Introduction	1
1 The Greek Roots	7
1.1 Introduction	7
1.2 Aristotelian Logic	8
1.2.1 Signs, Propositions and the Truth	9
1.2.2 Syllogistics	14
1.2.3 The Notion of Information	15
1.3 Stoic Logic	17
1.3.1 Sextus Empiricus and the Sceptic Critique	20
1.4 Augustine on Signs and Information	21
2 Early Modern Ideas on Computation	25
2.1 Introduction	25
2.2 Descartes	26
2.2.1 On Method	27
2.2.2 On Geometry	32
2.2.3 On Mind and Computation	43
2.3 Hobbes	47
2.3.1 Method and Purpose of Philosophy	48
2.3.2 Logic or <i>Computation</i>	49
2.3.3 The Squaring of the Circle	54
2.3.4 The Mechanics of Sense and Perception	57
2.3.5 The Mechanical Mind	60
2.4 Leibniz	62
2.4.1 <i>Characteristica Universalis</i>	63
2.4.2 Fragments on Mathematical Logic	69
2.4.3 The Infinitesimal Calculus	81
2.4.4 Metaphysics	87
3 The Emergence of Computation	95
3.1 Introduction	95
3.2 Mathematics in the 18th and 19th Century	96
3.2.1 The 18th Century	97

3.2.2	The 19th Century	98
3.3	Algebra and Logic	106
3.3.1	The Mathematical Analysis of Logic	106
3.3.2	Boole's Logic	108
3.3.3	Universal Algebra	110
3.4	Frege Founds Modern Logic	113
3.4.1	Frege's Logic	115
3.4.2	The Logico-Linguistic Method	122
3.4.3	Whitehead, Russell and the Fate of Logicism	127
3.5	The Intuitionistic Insurgence	128
3.5.1	Language, Science, Mathematics	129
3.5.2	Kant and the Apriority of Time	131
3.5.3	Intuitionistic Mathematics and Logic	134
3.6	The Hilbert Turn	138
3.6.1	The Axiomatic Method	139
3.6.2	Taming the Infinite	140
3.6.3	Hilbert's Programme	143
3.7	Clearing up	150
3.7.1	Gödel's Logical Works	150
3.7.2	Proof and Truth	155
3.7.3	Machines and Minds	157
3.8	The Advent of the Turing Machine	158
3.8.1	The Turing Machine	159
3.8.2	The Universal Machine	161
3.8.3	The Entscheidungsproblem again	162
3.8.4	The Church-Turing Thesis	164
4	The Nature of Computation	167
4.1	Introduction	167
4.2	How Nature Computes	168
4.3	Models Of Computation	172
4.3.1	The Hierarchy of Automata	172
4.3.2	Adding Randomness	175
4.3.3	Neural Networks	176
4.3.4	Analog Computation	178
4.3.5	Dynamical Systems	180
4.4	The Church-Turing Thesis again	182
4.5	Universality	184
4.6	What is Computation?	187
5	Measures of Information	197
5.1	Introduction	197
5.2	The Shannon Information Measure	198
5.2.1	Source Coding	200
5.2.2	Channel Capacity	202
5.2.3	Reflections on the Shannon Information Measure	204

5.3	Entropy	207
5.3.1	Entropy in Thermodynamics	208
5.3.2	Entropy in Equilibrium Statistical Mechanics	211
5.3.3	Entropy and Information	218
5.3.4	Concepts of Entropy for Non-equilibrium Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics	220
5.4	Kolmogorov Complexity	221
5.4.1	Notions and Theorems	222
5.4.2	The Infinite Complexity of the World	224
5.5	The Stoop Notion of Complexity and Computation	225
5.6	What is Information?	226
5.6.1	Data, Meaning, Truth	227
5.6.2	Measures and Structures	228
5.7	What is a Sign?	231
5.7.1	Recapitulation	231
5.7.2	Ecoian Semiotics	233
5.7.3	Information and Signs	237
6	Cellular Automata	243
6.1	What are Cellular Automata?	244
6.1.1	Introduction	244
6.1.2	Some Applications of Cellular Automata	247
6.1.3	Mathematical Definition of Cellular Automata	251
6.1.4	Classification of Cellular Automata	255
6.2	Computational Aspects of Cellular Automata	255
6.2.1	Cellular Automata, Finite State Machines and Turing Machines	257
6.2.2	A Model of Parallel Computation	257
6.2.3	Cellular Automata and Neural Networks	259
6.2.4	Universality	259
6.3	The Topological Dynamics Theory of Cellular Automata	262
6.3.1	The Configuration Space	262
6.3.2	Basic Topological Dynamics Concepts	266
6.3.3	The Ergodic Theory of Cellular Automata	267
6.4	Elementary Cellular Automata	268
6.4.1	Algebraic Expressions of Elementary Cellular Automata Rules	269
6.4.2	Elementary Cellular Automata on Finite Rings	270
6.4.3	Elementary Cellular Automata on \mathbb{Z}	277
6.4.4	Topological Dynamics and Universality	289
6.5	Probabilistic Cellular Automata	292
6.5.1	Definition of Probabilistic Cellular Automata	292
6.5.2	Computing with Probabilistic Cellular Automata	294

