

## Neuroevolution

# **Neuroevolution: Harnessing Creativity in AI Model Design**

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*To our families*

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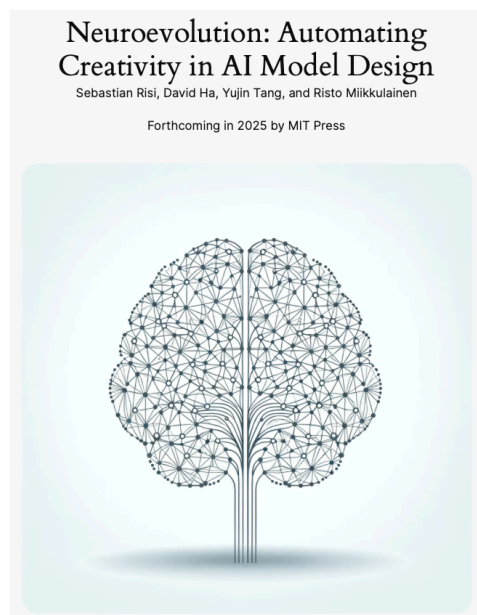


## **Foreword**

Melanie Mitchell



## Website



<https://neuroevolutionbook.com/>

We created the above website to accompany this book, which provides many additional supplementary material that we hope will be useful to readers and instructors. These include demos, tutorials, exercises, and lecture slides. This website will also be the place we list corrections of mistakes found in the book.



## Preface

Artificial intelligence has surged into mainstream popularity, with generative AI technologies such as large language models (LLMs) capturing the public's imagination. Conversations about AI's potential and power are everywhere, as these models compose text, generate images, and mimic human language at an unprecedented scale. Amid this boom, however, lies another field with equally transformative potential: neuroevolution. The field of neuroevolution has developed unique approaches and capabilities that have yet to capture the same level of mainstream attention.

Neuroevolution, combining principles of neural networks with evolutionary processes, has been around for decades. It offers solutions that go beyond imitation and pattern recognition, extending into areas of adaptability, creativity, and resilience. While traditional AI often relies on predefined objectives and vast datasets, neuroevolution excels in environments where goals are ambiguous, rewards are sparse, and conditions are ever-changing. This approach introduces a method of designing and evolving AI systems that can handle complex, high-dimensional problems with minimal human intervention, and it's precisely this adaptability that is set to bring neuroevolution to the forefront of AI in the coming years.

As AI advances into realms requiring flexibility and open-ended problem-solving, neuroevolution has sown great promise in evolving robust, adaptive, and creative solutions. It is particularly promising for applications where the optimal solution is unknown or hard to define, such as robotics, dynamic systems, and even art and design. With neuroevolution, we can create agents that not only evolve but also continuously learn during their lifetime, much like biological organisms do in nature.

This book serves as a gateway into the world of neuroevolution, providing readers with both a foundational understanding and practical tools for harnessing its potential. It covers the core concepts, algorithms, and applications of neuroevolutionary systems, with each chapter containing examples and questions that encourage readers to critically engage with the material. By offering insights into synergies with generative AI, reinforcement learning, and other domains, we hope to demonstrate the relevance of neuroevolution to the future of AI.



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Additionally, we would like to thank all the people that read all or parts of the book. We also would like to express our gratitude to all everybody that gave us permission to reproduce images and figures from their publications. We indicate the figure sources throughout the book in the figure captions.

Writing this book has been a long journey and we would like to thank your families and friends for their support, which who this book would have not seen the light of day. We would also like to thank Sakana.ai and Cognizant AI Labs for the financial support, which allowed this book to be enjoyed in color.

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