

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xi

Prologue xiii

Introduction	1
<i>The Perspective of Neurobiological Information</i>	4
<i>The Perspective of Algorithmic Information</i>	5
<i>A Shared Perspective</i>	7
<i>The Ten Seminars</i>	11
<i>On Common Ground</i>	24
The Present and the Past	26
<i>The First Discussion: On Communication</i>	26
<i>The Historical Seminar: The Deeply Engrained Worship of Tidy-Looking Dichotomies</i>	36
1 ALGORITHMIC GROWTH	81
1.1 Information? What Information?	83
<i>The Second Discussion: On Complexity</i>	83
<i>Seminar 2: From Algorithmic Growth to Endpoint Information</i>	91
1.2 Noise and Relevant Information	112
<i>The Third Discussion: On Apple Trees and the Immune System</i>	112
<i>Seminar 3: From Randomness to Precision</i>	120

1.3	Autonomous Agents and Local Rules	139
	<i>The Fourth Discussion: On Filopodia and Soccer Games</i>	139
	<i>Seminar 4: From Local Rules to Robustness</i>	146
2	OF PLAYERS AND RULES	161
2.1	The Benzer Paradox	163
	<i>The Fifth Discussion: On the Genetic Encoding of Behavior</i>	163
	<i>Seminar 5: From Molecular Mechanisms to Evolutionary Programming</i>	170
2.2	The Molecules That Could	186
	<i>The Sixth Discussion: On Guidance Cues and Target Recognition</i>	186
	<i>Seminar 6: From Chemoaffinity to the Virtues of Permissiveness</i>	192
2.3	The Levels Problem	211
	<i>The Seventh Discussion: On Context</i>	211
	<i>Seminar 7: From Genes to Cells to Circuits</i>	217
3	BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	237
3.1	You Are Your History	239
	<i>The Eighth Discussion: On Development and the Long Reach of the Past</i>	239
	<i>Seminar 8: From Development to Function</i>	245
3.2	Self-Assembly versus "Build First, Train Later"	262
	<i>The Ninth Discussion: On the Growth of Artificial Neural Networks</i>	262
	<i>Seminar 9: From Algorithmic Growth to Artificial Intelligence</i>	267

3.3	Final Frontiers: Beloved Beliefs and the AI-Brain Interface	287
	<i>The Tenth Discussion: On Connecting the Brain and AI</i>	287
	<i>Seminar 10: From Cognitive Bias to Whole Brain Emulation</i>	294
	Epilogue	312
	<i>Glossary</i>	317
	<i>References</i>	329
	<i>Index</i>	351