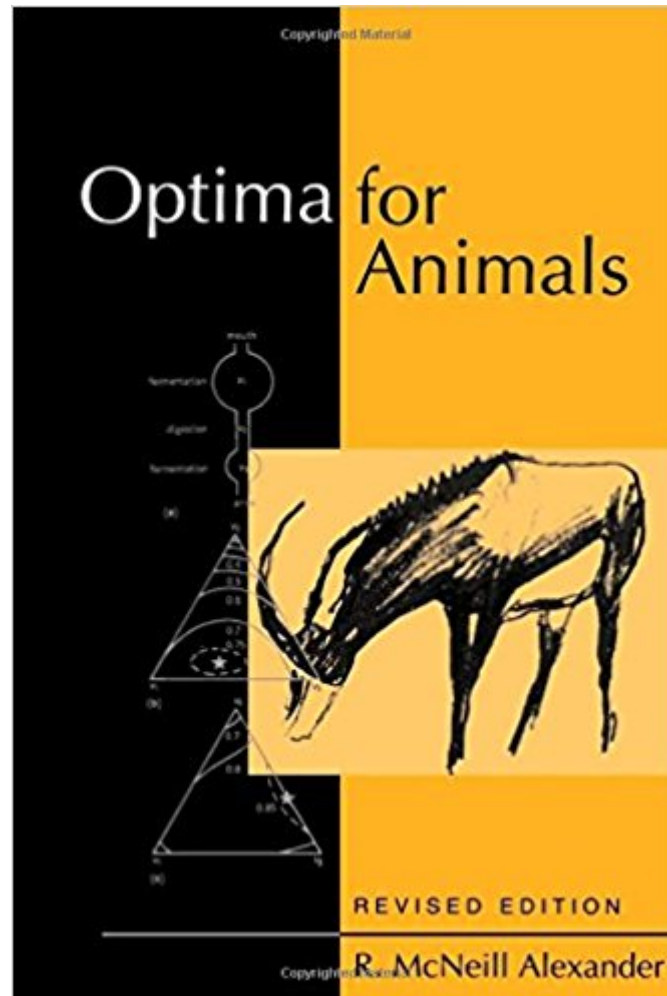




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# Optima For Animals



## Synopsis

Optimization theory is designed to find the best ways of doing things. The structures of animals, their movements, their behavior, and their life histories have all been shaped by the optimizing processes of evolution or of learning by trial and error. In this revised edition of R. McNeill Alexander's widely acclaimed *Optima for Animals*, we see how extraordinarily diverse branches of biology are illuminated by the powerful methods of optimization theory. What is the best strength for a bone? Too weak a bone will probably break but an excessively stout one will be cumbersome. At what speed should humans change from walking to running? Should a bird take only big juicy worms or should it eat every worm it finds, and do birds make the best choices? Why do the males of some species of fishes and the females of others look after the young, while the young of others are looked after by both parents or neither? Is it possible that all these policies can be optimal, in different circumstances? This book shows how these and many other questions can be answered. The mathematics involved is explained very simply, with biology students in mind, but the book is not just for them. It is also for professionals, ranging from teachers to researchers.

## Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; Revised edition (November 11, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691027986

ISBN-13: 978-0691027982

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,000,855 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Applied > Biomathematics](#) #255 in [Books > Science & Math > Evolution > Organic](#) #840 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Zoology](#)

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"This is a comprehensively revised edition, now taking in not only optimum structures and movements, but also the games theory of animal behaviour strategies and life styles. . . . It is in this breadth of its Darwinian perspective and the detail of its analysis and examples that the book's strength lies."--Journal of Biological Education

Optimization theory is designed to find the best ways of doing things. The structures of animals, their movements, their behavior, and their life histories have all been shaped by the optimizing processes of evolution or of learning by trial and error. In this revised edition of R. McNeill Alexander's widely acclaimed *Optima for Animals*, we see how extraordinarily diverse branches of biology are illuminated by the powerful methods of optimization theory. What is the best strength for a bone? Too weak a bone will probably break but an excessively stout one will be cumbersome. At what speed should humans change from walking to running? Should a bird take only big juicy worms or should it eat every worm it finds, and do birds make the best choices? Why do the males of some species of fishes and the females of others look after the young, while the young of others are looked after by both parents or neither? Is it possible that all these policies can be optimal, in different circumstances? This book shows how these and many other questions can be answered. The mathematics involved is explained very simply, with biology students in mind, but the book is not just for them. It is also for professionals, ranging from teachers to researchers. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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This book illustrates many interesting examples. The author collect them from many reports. You will know how to apply optimum methods to biology field. This book is practical and plain. If you have studied optimum technique,you will learn the application, from constructing objective function,defining design variables,to finding constraints. If you haven't, this book will offer a elementary course.

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