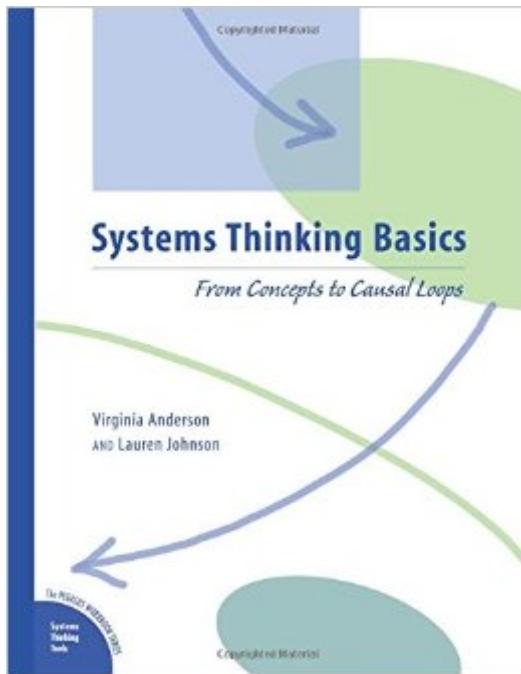


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# Systems Thinking Basics: From Concepts To Causal Loops (Pegasus Workbook Series)



## **Synopsis**

Systems Thinking Basics is a self-study, skill-building resource designed to introduce you to the power of systems thinking tools. With an emphasis on behavior over time graphs and causal loop diagrams, this workbook guides you step by step through: Recognizing systems and understanding the importance of systems thinking Interpreting and creating behavior over time graphs and causal loop diagrams Applying and practicing systems thinking day-to-day Each of the book's six main sections contains a wealth of examples from the business world, as well as learning activities that reinforce concepts and provide you with the opportunity and space to practice. An array of appendices offers: Extra practice activities A summary of key points and suggested responses to the learning activities A table showing the "palette" of systems thinking tools available A glossary of systems thinking terms A list of additional resources A summary of the systems archetypes The many diagrams within the book clarify concepts and visually reinforce key principles. Systems Thinking Basics is ideal for aspiring systems thinkers eager to try their hand at using these powerful tools

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

At 144 pages this book is a short introductory text and workbook that is designed to introduce systems thinking. It starts by building an awareness of systems thinking as a discipline, and by providing a series of learning activities that lead you through the basics. The two main techniques

that this book teaches are (1) behavior over time graphs and causal loops, both of which are the main tools employed in systems thinking. These are also the foundation of system dynamics of which systems thinking is a subset (system dynamics uses expanded techniques such as simulation models and analysis of alternatives). What I like about this book is the clear explanation of the basics and the use of illustrations and learning activities. I also like the summaries of system archetypes and system thinking tools included in the appendices, which provide starting points for further study. It's not the best book for self-study because it is written more as a workbook than an introductory text. As such it is best used in an instructor-led course, or in conjunction with more in-depth books about system thinking (my favorite is *Systems Thinking: Managing Chaos and Complexity* by Jamshid Gharajedaghi).

This book is a quick and easy read...packed full of great ideas. Reading it got me to apply organizational behavior knowledge I already had in a different way. Lots of ah ha moments while reading. I'd recommend this to people who are responsible for analyzing/solving problems in an organization. I've already recommended this to others I know.

Touted as a 'basics' book, this lives up to its promise. Each chapter has some instructional text, super graphics, tables, and/or figures that augment the text, and activities that include examples. The book's organization walks you through key concepts including: What Are Systems? What is Systems Thinking? Uncovering systemic Structures: Drawing Behavior Over Time Graphs Uncovering Systemic Structures: Building Causal Loop Diagrams Complex Systems From Loops to Leverage: Applying and Practicing Systems Thinking The Appendices are practical also including: Additional learning activities Key Points Systems Thinking Tools Systems Archetypes Glossary Additional Resources For the practical, read this book. For additional background and a more theoretical treatment, read: Checkland, P. (1999). *Systems thinking, systems practice* includes a 30-year retrospective. Chichester [Sussex]: J. Wiley.

This is a guide for the professional wanting a concise course in modeling organizations. It is the best hands on, self guided, blending of book and workbook I've ever seen on the topic. If you want to learn hands on systems thinking and modeling, then this text is for you. It's outstanding for graduate students and very thoughtful leaders. There's nothing else like it and its willing to be "that different" is what makes it a great text.

Go back to the guru-Goldratt and the Goal.

good start for a complex subject

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