Preface

This book is the result of a chance meeting between the authors in the summer of 2019 on a 12-hour international flight. This was not a case of quantum superposition, but it certainly demonstrates the power of chance.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines *quantum* as "A discrete quantity of electromagnetic energy proportional in magnitude to the frequency of the radiation it represents."[1] In this book, we use the term *quantum technologies* to mean tools that use those discrete quantities of energy to provide some utility. Classical technologies are indeed made of those discrete quanta of energy, but when we use a hammer, or fly in an airplane, or even use a computer, we do not concern ourselves with quanta-level energy or effects. Quantum technologies focus on the smallest quanta of energy and their effects, and this focus is what makes quantum technologies so surprising: mastering the physics of the small, has surprisingly large implications. We classify quantum technologies into quantum sensing and metrology, computing, and communications.

In the chapters on computing we distinguish the words *calculation* and *computation*. We use the word calculation to describe rote mathematical processes that are data independent – that is, that can be performed without concern to the numbers being acted upon. We use the word computation to describe all other processing of information, be it mathematical or otherwise. Calculation, such as doubling a number, or determining the number of days in a year by fetching the value from an almanac, can be performed with a simple device. Computation requires a more complex device that can read, execute, and modify its own program. In the academic literature the terms *finite state machine* and *pushdown automata* are used to describe

[1] "quantum, n. and adj.", definition A.5.a, OED Online, Oxford University Press, December 2020.

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devices that perform what we call calculation, and *Turing machine* to describe what we call computation.

In this book we use the `courier typewriter font` to present computer code and pseudocode, as well as specific base-10 numbers used in computer algorithms. We use the stylized numbers `0` and `1` when we are referring to binary digits. Thus, `13` = `1101`. Occasionally we may indicate the base using a subscript following the number, or use the Python programming language convention for hexadecimal numbers, such that `1101` $=1101_2=$`0D`$_{16}=$`0x0D`.

We endeavor to list companies, countries, people, and other proper nouns in alphabetical order unless there is a specific reason to list them otherwise. When order is meant to convey importance, we make this clear. So if we write that China, Russia, and the United States are all world powers, we are sorting the countries alphabetically. If we say that the world's most populous countries as of January 1, 2021 are China, India, the United States, Indonesia, and Pakistan, you can assume that China's population is the largest, Pakistan ranks fifth, and you should expect us to cite our source.[2] When numeric order is relevant, we will number using hash-marks, such as when Step #1 is followed by Step #2.

We have a few chemical formulas in this book, and when we present a molecule, we will include the hydrogen atoms and attempt to present the formula in a manner that conveys its structure. That is, ethanol is CH_3CH_2OH and not C_2H_5OH.

Currencies, unless otherwise stated, are in US dollars. When comparing spending across time, we convert to inflation-adjusted US 2020 dollars using the US Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the calculator at www.usinflationcalculator.com.

[2] US Census Bureau, "US and World Population Clock" (2021).

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