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Chris Jay Hoofnagle, Simson L. Garfinkel
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Law and Policy for the Quantum Age

It is often said that quantum technologies are poised to change the world as we know it, but cutting through the hype, what will quantum technologies actually mean for countries and their citizens? In *Law and Policy for the Quantum Age*, Chris Jay Hoofnagle and Simson L. Garfinkel explain the genesis of quantum information science (QIS) and the resulting quantum technologies that are most exciting: quantum sensing, computing, and communication. This groundbreaking, timely text explains how quantum technologies work, how countries will likely employ QIS for future national defense and what the legal landscapes will be for these nations, and how companies might (or might not) profit from the technology. Hoofnagle and Garfinkel argue that the consequences of CIS are so profound that we must begin planning for them today.

Chris Jay Hoofnagle is professor of law in residence at the University of California, Berkeley and affiliated faculty with the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and author of *Federal Trade Commission Privacy Law and Policy* (Cambridge University Press 2016). Hoofnagle is of counsel to Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian, LLP, and serves on boards for Constella Intelligence and Palantir Technologies.

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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.

PREFACE

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 $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ and not $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$.

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.

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

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Acknowledgments

Law and Policy for the Quantum Age has been a fascinating and challenging book to research and write. We went long on the history of technology, as we believe that experience with the introduction of previous game-changing technologies offers important context for making decisions about such technologies today. We believe that good technology policy can only be made with a rough-and-accurate understanding of the underlying technology. We are determined to correct much of the misinformation that is present in the popular literature of quantum information science today.

Quantum technologies was a new topic for both authors. Author Hoofnagle decided to research the field after conversations with Lily Lin (Berkeley MIMS 2019), whose narrative made clear that quantum sensing was much more interesting than cryptanalysis. Then, the good folks at Delta Airlines seated author Garfinkel together with Hoofnagle on a long flight back from Tel Aviv in the summer of 2019. Together we discussed the national security implications of quantum technologies and formed plans to write this book.

As part of researching this book, the authors downloaded and reviewed over 1500 scientific articles, popular articles, and books pertaining to the topics discussed herein. We purchased sheets of polarizing material, 3D glasses, and large optical grade calcite crystals so that we could experience first-hand the mysteries of superposition at the macro scale. We haunted online forums, emailed with a Nobel Laureate, and tried the very best we could to make up for the fact that neither of us had studied quantum physics in college.

This book would not have been possible without the thoughtful engagement from many experts in quantum information science, who gave generously of both their time and counsel. We owe many thanks to those who helped us with difficult material, and acknowledge that any mistakes remaining are our own.

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