



# Opinions Libres

le blog d'Olivier Ezratty

## Understanding Quantum Technologies 2021

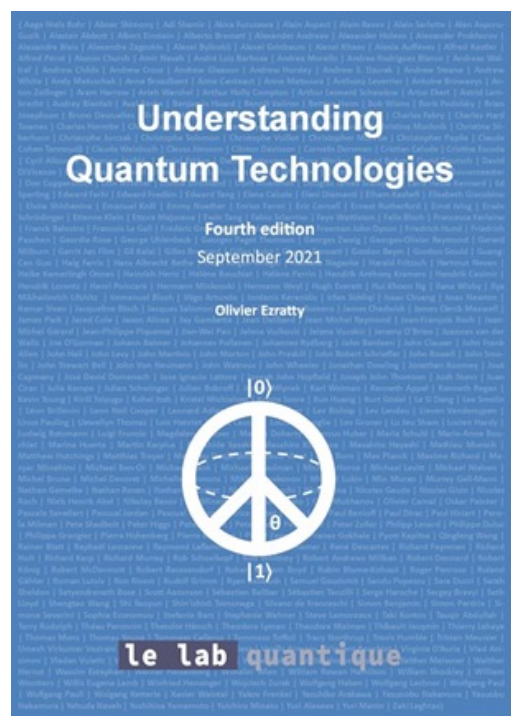
Here is the ebook **Understanding Quantum technologies 2021!** A **free** 836 pages in-depth book provided in digital format (PDF). Yes, you got it right. It is not a joke. I will explain why.

Is it yet another ebook on quantum physics or quantum computing? Well, I hope not! It fills a lot of gaps found in the current literature. This ebook has been in the making for over three years now. It's the fourth edition of an ebook initially published in French in three previous versions and now, for the first time, in English. Precisely, in American English, with flavors and colors instead of flavours and colours!

This ebook is a side-product of an adventure started back in 2018 with my friend **Fanny Bouton**, who now works at OVHcloud with its startups ecosystem, including quantum ones. In 2017, we then decided to produce a didactic conference on quantum computing. It was played in Nantes in June 2018. I followed with a series of 18 posts on my blog to create kinds of lecture notes of this conference. It became an ebook and three years later, here we are with an extended and updated edition in English. This was also the result of being embedded in the quantum ecosystem, meeting with tens of scientists and entrepreneurs, and progressively, with an international outreach.

### ebook format

This ebook is provided for free as is as a PDF file, with an optional lighter version for a readers like Amazon Kindle. But sorry, no epub format! One thing you will probably appreciate is that no email or identity is asked for downloading this ebook! It is then fully GDPR compliant by design!



Three PDF versions are available for download:

- An **A4 paper size** version, an ISO standard used worldwide with the exception of the USA and Canada that are using Letter format, with 8.5×11 inches (215.9 x 279.4 mm).
- A special **Letter format** version that shrinks the top/bottom margins for USA/Canada.
- A **lightweight A4 version** designed for readers like Amazon Kindle. Unfortunately, it's above the 32 Mb threshold with 40 Mb. Images are embedded with a lesser quality. I have managed to embed a lot of vector graphics that work well whatever the zoom level you are using, even company logos when it was available.

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You can then print the file wherever you can, in your organization or through an online ebook printing service of your choice depending on your location.

Since October 6th, the book is also available as a paperback edition on most Amazon market places throughout the world, and in two volumes (**Amazon.com**, **Amazon.de**, **Amazon.fr**, **Amazon.es**, **Amazon.it** and **Amazon.com.au**, .co.uk should be available later).

This ebook is also a living animal. I constantly update it with corrections as they come. It contains an updates log at its end. So, download the ebook only when you start reading it, to make sure you have the last update. In quantum physics and computing parlance, it means doing a measurement at the end of processing, not before the end of processing.

**Uniqueness**

I started as a software engineer and learned marketing at Microsoft between 1990 and 2005. Since then, I went progressively back to science and technology, covering as a freelance consultant and writer various topics such as entrepreneurship, consumer electronics, semiconductors and artificial intelligence. Quantum computing had a profound impact on my work balance, pushing me back in the direction of science. It is highly rejuvenating to learn or relearn quantum physics, linear algebra and other sciences and to meet the best in these fields. It is also much better than Sudoku to train your brain as it ages.

So, mixing science, technology and differentiation, this ebook is unique for many reasons:

- It provides a **360° approach** of quantum technologies encompassing all dimensions: history, science, technology, engineering, economy, geopolitics and societal impact.
- It starts with an extensive review of **quantum physics history** and its key contributors. These are human storied above all!
- It contains some **quantum physics 101** scientific content with rarely covered aspects like quantum matter and fluids.
- It also extensively covers **quantum engineering** and **enabling technologies** in an unique way with much details on cryogeny, cabling, cryo-electronics and lasers. These are key to understand the stakes of quantum computing scalability.
- Of course, you will learn a lot about the various **qubit types** around with their strengths and weaknesses.
- It studies the **scalability challenges** with quantum computing, particularly with its **energetic dimension**.
- It investigates the **raw materials** used in quantum technologies, their origin, scarcity and environmental impact
- It looks at the great variety of **quantum algorithms** and their usefulness, including their potential real speedups. It includes details on **how data is loaded** in a quantum program and their **results exploited**. It also describes how quantum computers are deployed in the **cloud**.
- It describes the offering from over **450 vendors** in computing, telecommunications, cryptography, sensing and enabling technologies.
- It contains a lot of **fact checking** on vendors and scientists claims whenever possible, like on quantum advantages and supremacies or on the many false claims of “ambient temperature” quantum computers.
- It also covers **quantum telecommunications, cryptography** and **sensing**. This last one is rarely covered and deserves some visibility.
- And quantum technologies **geopolitical and societal aspects**, including quantum strategies from over 20 countries, quantum foundations and the philosophical debates on quantum physics realism, on the emerging debate on quantum technologies **ethics** and on **gender imbalance** in this new field.

- It even covers **quantum fake sciences** including quantum medicine, at the end of ebook, thus avoiding the Streisand effect.
- Some fun is also provided with a couple easter eggs and a “fake fake-science” part on **quantum management**.

Let's say that comprehensiveness is not that bad in this book!

Although its a long and thick document, you can cherry pick its various parts. If you want just to learn how quantum computers are programmed, you can jump right away on “gates-based quantum computing”, page 128 then to “quantum algorithms” page 454. The software related part of this ebook is 188 pages long. If you want to learn about quantum computers physics and hardware, you're in for about 212 pages!

And if you are eager to forge an opinion on quantum supremacy, advantage and where we really are now with quantum computing, go page 232 (quantum uncertainty, pessimists and optimists, challenges) and page 545 (benchmarking, supremacy and advantage).

### **Audience**

This ebook target audience is broad and obviously, I will not decide who can or cannot read it. Some parts are accessible to non-scientific readers, particularly the geopolitics and societal parts at its end. Other parts require some scientific background.

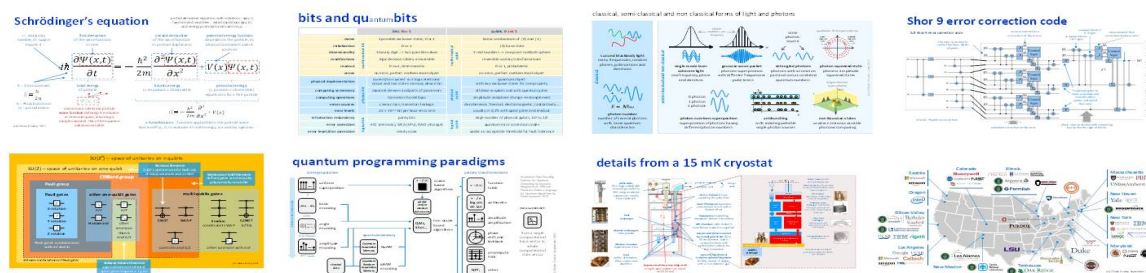
The first target audience are computer science specialists and software developers who want to understand the whereabouts of quantum computing hardware, software and use cases. It is also made for students and active professionals who are attracted by quantum technologies and would like to know where they could develop some skills and shape their new job or even businesses. At last, it is also interesting for many quantum researchers, engineers and entrepreneurs since most of them are specialized in a narrow field while this ebook provides an up to date 360° view on all quantum technologies, from science to industry vendors.

### **Addressing complexity**

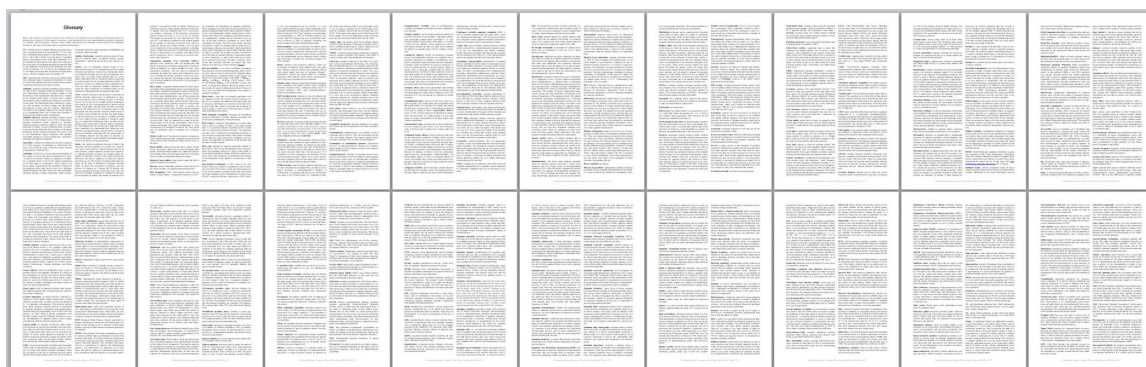
Quantum technologies and quantum computing are particularly complex and counterintuitive to understand. I try in this ebook to speak a language as accessible as possible to computer science and information technology specialists. Like, for example, explaining “end-to-end” how data is flowing in and out of a quantum computers, including for quantum annealers and quantum simulators, not just gate-based quantum computers. And also, describing ambiguous terms such as amplitude or non-linearity, which have different meanings depending on the technical context.

Readership is aided by some other artefacts:

- Many detailed **schematics**, most of them being custom made. You'll love to learn visually what's inside Intel HorseRidge II chipset and how Pauli, Clifford and other quantum gates are related!



- Many plain language definitions with an over **280 terms glossary**.



- An extensive **bibliography** and about 1800 referenced links for readers who want to know more.
- A bunch of **common sense questions** asked and answered.

The book contains over 293K words, a bit more than the largest Harry Potter book “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix” (257K words). But with more charts, pictures and magic :)! As a reader wrote me, it’s an UFO in the quantum space.

## Business model

You may wonder why this ebook is free and what is its business model. I have published tens of ebooks like this since 2006 and fared well so far. I favor distribution over revenue. It makes knowledge easily accessible to broad audiences, particularly with students. Also, being distributed in digital format, such ebooks are easy to correct and update. It is quite practical when you mention a lot of people and organizations and deal with complicated scientific matters. Afterwards, I sell my time in a rather traditional way with speaking and consulting missions. So, besides a very few exceptions, you’re not the product 😊!

Another way to describe my business model is I give away the long version and sell the short one. Since with businesses, time is money and students have time but no money, all things go round.

## Reviewers

Covering quantum technologies as broadly as this ebook does is impossible to do being alone. I fortunately got the help of many scientists and entrepreneurs. They proofread the document, most of the time for the parts corresponding to their specialty. Others less specialized readers proofread the whole document. I managed to have a good, although not complete, coverage of its critical scientific parts. The previous French editions were also fact-checked by many specialists. All in all, since perfection is not possible, I continuously correct the document on the fly.

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So, appearing in alphabetical order, this ebook reviewers were Alexia Auffèves, Antoine Browaeys, Christophe Chareton, Cyril Allouche, Daniel Esteve, Eleni Diamanti, Frédéric Nguyen Van Dau, Georges Uzelger, Jonas Landman, Léa Bresque, Marc Kaplan, Michel Kurek, Peter Eid, Philippe Grangier, Pol Forn-Díaz, Théau Peronnin and Jérémie Guillaud and Valérian Giesz. They reviewed either only some parts or the totality of the ebook. Their respective affiliations and contributions are detailed in the ebook conclusion.

You can still provide me with feedback and corrections. I update the ebook whenever required. That's the advantage of publishing a book in electronic format, including printing on demand.

Cheers!

Olivier Ezratty

September 2021

Cet article a été publié le 27 septembre 2021 et édité en PDF le 10 octobre 2021.  
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