

The Universal History of Computing

From the Abacus to the
Quantum Computer

Georges Ifrah

The Universal History Of Computing From The Abacus To The Quantum Computer

Wolfgang Hofkirchner, Mark Burgin



The Universal History Of Computing From The Abacus To The Quantum Computer:

The Universal History of Computing Georges Ifrah, 2001 A brilliant follow up to a landmark international bestseller Suppose every instrument could by command or by anticipation of need execute its function on its own suppose that spindles could weave of their own accord and plectra strike the strings of zithers by themselves then craftsmen would have no need of hand work and masters have no need of slaves Aristotle Called the Indiana Jones of arithmetic Georges Ifrah embarked in 1974 on a ten year quest to discover where numbers come from and what they say about us His first book the highly praised Universal History of Numbers drew from this remarkable journey presented the first complete account of the invention and evolution of numbers the world over and became an international bestseller In The Universal History of Computing Ifrah continues his exhilarating exploration into the fascinating world of numbers In this fun engaging but no less learned book he traces the development of computing from the invention of the abacus to the creation of the binary system three centuries ago to the incredible conceptual scientific and technical achievements that made the first modern computers possible He shows us how various cultures scientists and industries across the world struggled to break free of the tedious labor of mental calculation and as a result he reveals the evolution of the human mind Evoking the excitement and joy that accompanied the grand mathematical undertakings throughout history Ifrah takes us along as he revisits a multitude of cultures from Roman times and the Chinese Common Era to twentieth century England and America We meet mathematicians visionaries philosophers and scholars from every corner of the world and from every period of history We witness the dead ends and regressions in the computer s development as well as the advances and illuminating discoveries We learn about the births of the pocket calculator the adding machine the cash register and even automata We find out how the origins of the computer can be found in the European Renaissance along with how World War II influenced the development of analytical calculation And we explore such hot topics as numerical codes and the recent discovery of new kinds of number systems such as surreal numbers Adventurous and enthralling The Universal History of Computing is an astonishing achievement that not only unravels the epic tale of computing but also tells the compelling story of human intelligence and how much farther we still have to go GEORGES IFRAH is an independent scholar and former math teacher E F Harding the primary translator is a statistician and mathematician who has taught at Aberdeen Edinburgh and Cambridge Universities SOPHIE WOOD cotranslator is a specialist in technical translation from French Ian Monk cotranslator has translated the works of Georges Perec and Daniel Pennac ELIZABETH CLEGG cotranslator is also an interpreter who has worked on a number of government and international agency projects Guido Waldman cotranslator has translated several classic literary works In this engaging successor to The Universal History of Numbers you ll discover the entire story of the calculation of yesteryear and the computation of today From the invention of the abacus to the creation of the binary system three centuries ago to the conceptual scientific and technical achievements that made the earliest computers possible highly

acclaimed author and mathematician Georges Ifrah provides an illuminating glimpse into humankind's greatest intellectual tale the story of computing PRAISE FOR GEORGES IFRAH'S The Universal History of Numbers Georges Ifrah is the man This book quite simply rules It is outstanding a mind boggling and enriching experience The Guardian London Monumental a fascinating journey taking us through many different cultures The Times London Ifrah's book amazes and fascinates by the scope of its scholarship It is nothing less than the history of the human race told through figures International Herald Tribune Dazzling Kirkus Reviews Sure to transfix readers Publishers Weekly History of Computing in Education J.A.N. Lee, John Impagliazzo, 2006-04-11 This work derives from a conference discussing the history of computing in education This conference is the first of hopefully a series of conferences that will take place within the International Federation for Information Processing IFIP and hence we describe it as the First Conference on the History of Computing in Education HCE1 These proceedings represent a collection of works presented at the HCE1 Conference held in association with the IFIP 2004 World Computer Congress held in Toulouse France Contributions to this volume range from a wide variety of educational perspectives and represent activities from four continents The HCE1 conference represents a joint effort of the IFIP Working Group 9.7 on the History of Computing and the IFIP Technical Committee 3 on Education The HCE1 Conference brings to light a broad spectrum of issues and spans four continents It illustrates topics in computing education as they occurred in the early days of computing whose ramifications or overtones remain with us today Indeed many of the early challenges remain part of our educational tapestry most likely many will evolve into future challenges Therefore this work provides additional value to the reader as it will reflect in part the future development of computing in education to stimulate new ideas and models in educational development **Social Networks - The Modern-Day Family** Vanessa Kirch, 2021-03-13 Social networks have created a plethora of problems regarding privacy and the protection of personal data The use of social networks has become a key concern of legal scholars policy makers and the operators as well as users of those social networks This pathbreaking book highlights the importance of privacy in the context of today's new electronic communication technologies as it presents conflicting claims to protect national and international security the freedom of the Internet and economic considerations Using the New Haven School of Jurisprudence's intellectual framework the author presents the applicable law on privacy and social media in international and comparative perspective focusing on the United States the European Union and its General Data Protection Regulation of 2018 as well as Germany the United Kingdom and Latin America The book appraises the law in place discusses alternatives and presents recommendations in pursuit of a public order of human dignity Encyclopedia of Cybercrime Samuel C. McQuade III, 2008-11-30 There are today no more compelling sets of crime and security threats facing nations communities organizations groups families and individuals than those encompassed by cybercrime For over fifty years crime enabled by computing and telecommunications technologies have increasingly threatened societies as they have become reliant on information systems for sustaining modernized living

Cybercrime is not a new phenomenon rather an evolving one with respect to adoption of information technology IT for abusive and criminal purposes Further by virtue of the myriad ways in which IT is abused it represents a technological shift in the nature of crime rather than a new form of criminal behavior In other words the nature of crime and its impacts on society are changing to the extent computers and other forms of IT are used for illicit purposes Understanding the subject then is imperative to combatting it and to addressing it at various levels This work is the first comprehensive encyclopedia to address cybercrime Topical articles address all key areas of concern and specifically those having to with terminology definitions and social constructs of crime national infrastructure security vulnerabilities and capabilities types of attacks to computers and information systems computer abusers and cybercriminals criminological sociological psychological and technological theoretical underpinnings of cybercrime social and economic impacts of crime enabled with information technology IT inclusive of harms experienced by victims of cybercrimes and computer abuse emerging and controversial issues such as online pornography the computer hacking subculture and potential negative effects of electronic gaming and so called computer addiction bodies and specific examples of U S federal laws and regulations that help to prevent cybercrimes examples and perspectives of law enforcement regulatory and professional member associations concerned about cybercrime and its impacts and computer forensics as well as general investigation prosecution of high tech crimes and attendant challenges within the United States and internationally **Enlightening Symbols** Joseph Mazur,2014-03-23

An entertaining look at the origins of mathematical symbols While all of us regularly use basic math symbols such as those for plus minus and equals few of us know that many of these symbols weren t available before the sixteenth century What did mathematicians rely on for their work before then And how did mathematical notations evolve into what we know today In **Enlightening Symbols** popular math writer Joseph Mazur explains the fascinating history behind the development of our mathematical notation system He shows how symbols were used initially how one symbol replaced another over time and how written math was conveyed before and after symbols became widely adopted Traversing mathematical history and the foundations of numerals in different cultures Mazur looks at how historians have disagreed over the origins of the numerical system for the past two centuries He follows the transfigurations of algebra from a rhetorical style to a symbolic one demonstrating that most algebra before the sixteenth century was written in prose or in verse employing the written names of numerals Mazur also investigates the subconscious and psychological effects that mathematical symbols have had on mathematical thought moods meaning communication and comprehension He considers how these symbols influence us through similarity association identity resemblance and repeated imagery how they lead to new ideas by subconscious associations how they make connections between experience and the unknown and how they contribute to the communication of basic mathematics From words to abbreviations to symbols this book shows how math evolved to the familiar forms we use today *Integral Biomathics* Plamen L. Simeonov,Leslie S. Smith,Andrée C. Ehresmann,2012-07-13

Perhaps the most distinct question in science throughout the ages has been the one of perceivable reality treated both in physics and philosophy Reality is acting upon us and we and life in general are acting upon reality Potentiality found both in quantum reality and in the activity of life plays a key role In quantum reality observation turns potentiality into reality Again life computes possibilities in various ways based on past actions and acts on the basis of these computations This book is about a new approach to biology and physics of course Its subtitle suggests a perpetual movement and interplay between two elusive aspects of modern science reality matter and potentiality mind between physics and biology both captured and triggered by mathematics to understand and explain emergence development and life all the way up to consciousness But what is the real potential difference between living and non living matter How does time in potentiality differ from time in reality What we need to understand these differences is an integrative approach This book contemplates how to encircle life to obtain a formal system equivalent to the ones in physics Integral Biomathics attempts to explore the interplay between reality and potentiality

Architectural Research Addressing Societal Challenges Volume 2 Manuel Jorge Rodrigues Couceiro da Costa, Filipa Roseta, Susana Couceiro da Costa, Joana Pestana Lages, 2017-09-19 The EAAE ARCC International Conference held under the aegis of the EAAE European Association for Architectural Education and of the ARCC Architectural Research Centers Consortium is a conference organized every other year in collaboration with one of the member schools universities of those associations alternatively in North America or in Europe The EAAE ARCC Conferences began at the North Carolina State University College of Design Raleigh with a conference on Research in Design Education 1998 followed by conferences in Paris 2000 Montreal 2002 Dublin 2004 Philadelphia 2006 Copenhagen 2008 Washington 2010 Milan 2012 and Honolulu 2014 The conference discussions focus on research experiences in the field of architecture and architectural education providing a critical forum for the dissemination and engagement of current ideas from around the world

The Search for Certainty Frank J. Swetz, 2012-01-01 Self contained and authoritative this history of mathematics is suited to those with no math background Its absorbing entertaining essays focus on the era from 1800 to 2000 Contributors include Henri Poincaré Judith V Grabiner and H S M Coxeter who discuss topics ranging from logic and infinity to Fermat's Last Theorem

Modern Humans John F. Hoffecker, 2017-10-31 Modern Humans is a vivid account of the most recent and perhaps the most important phase of human evolution the appearance of anatomically modern people Homo sapiens in Africa less than half a million years ago and their later spread throughout the world Leaving no stone unturned John F Hoffecker demonstrates that Homo sapiens represents a major transition in the evolution of living systems in terms of fundamental changes in the role of non genetic information Modern Humans synthesizes recent findings from genetics including the rapidly growing body of ancient DNA the human fossil record and archaeology relating to the African origin and global dispersal of anatomically modern people Hoffecker places humans in the broad context of the evolution of life emphasizing the critical role of genetic and non genetic forms of information in living systems as well as how changes in

the storage transmission and translation of information underlie major transitions in evolution He also draws on information and complexity theory to explain the emergence of Homo sapiens in Africa several hundred thousand years ago and the rapid and unprecedented spread of our species into a variety of environments in Australia and Eurasia including the Arctic and Beringia beginning between 75 000 and 60 000 years ago This magisterial work will appeal to all with an interest in the ever fascinating field of human evolution

Architectural Research Addressing Societal Challenges Manuel Jorge Rodrigues Couceiro da Costa,Filipa Roseta,Joana Pestana Lages,Susana Couceiro da Costa,2019-08-08 The escalating interdependency of nations drives global geopolitics to shift ever more quickly Societies seem unable to control any change that affects their cities whether positively or negatively Challenges are global but solutions need to be implemented locally How can architectural research contribute to the future of our changing society How has it contributed in the past The theme of the 10th EAAE ARCC International Conference Architectural Research Addressing Societal Challenges was set to address these questions This book Architectural Research Addressing Societal Challenges includes reviewed papers presented in June 2016 at the 10th EAAE ARCC International Conference which was held at the facilities of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Lisbon The papers have been further divided into the following five sub themes a Changing Society In Transit Global Migration Renaturalization of the City Emerging Fields of Architectural Practice and Research on Architectural Education The EAAE ARCC International Conference held under the aegis of the EAAE and of the ARCC is a conference organized every other year in collaboration with one of the member schools universities of those associations alternatively in North America or in Europe

The Materiality of Numbers Karenleigh A. Overmann,2023-05-25 This is a book about numbers what they are as concepts and how and why they originate as viewed through the material devices used to represent and manipulate them Fingers tallies tokens and written notations invented in both ancestral and contemporary societies explain what numbers are why they are the way they are and how we get them Overmann is the first to explore how material devices contribute to numerical thinking initially by helping us to visualize and manipulate the perceptual experience of quantity that we share with other species She explores how and why numbers are conceptualized and then elaborated as well as the central role that material objects play in both processes Overmann s volume thus offers a view of numerical cognition that is based on an alternative set of assumptions about numbers their material component and the nature of the human mind and thinking

Pioneers of the Computer Age: from Charles Babbage to Steve Jobs Abdul Montaqim,2012-04-08 This book is intended to provide an introduction to and an overview of the computer industry or the Computer Age as well as the key people who created the computerised world we live in without too many technical details The idea is to offer a snapshot of the industry at this point in time and find out how it got where it is today highlighting its most notable inventions and innovations and the pioneering people who are responsible for them Extract The original human computers used tools to help them calculate The most well known calculating tool from antiquity is the abacus which was

usually made from wood and featured a frame containing sticks along which beads could be moved It is believed that the abacus was invented some time between 2700 2300 BC in Sumeria and its forerunner was probably a system whereby stones or beads were moved along grooves in the sand or ground or tablets of wood stone or metal **Future Information**

Society, The: Social And Technological Problems Wolfgang Hofkirchner, Mark Burgin, 2017-01-24 This book is the first volume of a two volume edition based on the International Society for Information Studies Summit Vienna 2015 on The Information Society at the Crossroads Response and Responsibility of the Sciences of Information see summit.is4is.org The book represents a trans disciplinary endeavor of the leading experts in the field of information studies posing the question for a better society in which social and technological innovations help make information key to the flourishing of humanity and dispense with the bleak view of the dark side of information society It is aimed at readers that conduct research into any aspect of information information society and information technology who develop or implement social or technological applications It is also for those who have an interest in participating in setting the goals for sciences of information and social applications of technological achievements and scientific results **The Measure of Civilization** Ian Morris, 2014-02-23 A

groundbreaking look at Western and Eastern social development from the end of the ice age to today In the past thirty years there have been fierce debates over how civilizations develop and why the West became so powerful The Measure of Civilization presents a brand new way of investigating these questions and provides new tools for assessing the long term growth of societies Using a groundbreaking numerical index of social development that compares societies in different times and places award winning author Ian Morris sets forth a sweeping examination of Eastern and Western development across 15 000 years since the end of the last ice age He offers surprising conclusions about when and why the West came to dominate the world and fresh perspectives for thinking about the twenty first century Adapting the United Nations approach for measuring human development Morris s index breaks social development into four traits energy capture per capita organization information technology and war making capacity and he uses archaeological historical and current government data to quantify patterns Morris reveals that for 90 percent of the time since the last ice age the world s most advanced region has been at the western end of Eurasia but contrary to what many historians once believed there were roughly 1 200 years from about 550 to 1750 CE when an East Asian region was more advanced Only in the late eighteenth century CE when northwest Europeans tapped into the energy trapped in fossil fuels did the West leap ahead Resolving some of the biggest debates in global history The Measure of Civilization puts forth innovative tools for determining past present and future economic and social trends **Make, Think, Imagine** John Browne, 2019-08-28 Today s unprecedented pace of change

leaves many people wondering what new technologies are doing to our lives Has social media robbed us of our privacy and fed us with false information Are the decisions about our health security and finances made by computer programs inexplicable and biased Will these algorithms become so complex that we can no longer control them Are robots going to

take our jobs Can we provide housing for our ever growing urban populations And has our demand for energy driven the Earth s climate to the edge of catastrophe John Browne argues that we need not and must not put the brakes on technological advance Civilization is founded on engineering innovation all progress stems from the human urge to make things and to shape the world around us resulting in greater freedom health and wealth for all Drawing on history his own experiences and conversations with many of today s great innovators he uncovers the basis for all progress and its consequences both good and bad He argues compellingly that the same spark that triggers each innovation can be used to counter its negative consequences Make Think Imagine provides an eloquent blueprint for how we can keep moving towards a brighter future

The Pursuit of Happiness in a More Perfect Union Robert G. Bill, 2016-11-07 The conflict between conservatives and liberals over public economic policy appears to have become a permanent feature of the American political landscape Conservatives seek economic solutions with the market as virtually the sole organizing economic principle invoking individualism inspired by the Declaration of Independences right to the pursuit of happiness Liberals look to an important economic role for a federal government established by the Constitution to promote the general welfare In addition to the disagreement among the political class there is also no agreement among economists with no model reliably predicting the economic crises of recent decades Under these circumstances the author believes individualism and the concern for the common good may only be reconciled through policies which promote equality of opportunity or as Abraham Lincoln expressed it equal privileges in the race of life with all its desirable human aspirations The reconciliation of individualism and the common good is developed through reviews of the meaning of liberty happiness and their economic implications The historical performance of the American economy is described in the context of the evolution of American federal government from one of limited economic scope supporting laissez faire capitalism to the current mixed government The more expansive role of government is described in terms of taxation policy and spending including concerns over the national debt and its significance With this background the general reader is invited to follow the authors path to a policy of equality of opportunity with specific proposals for an end to poverty assistance to children assistance to postsecondary education and training and commitments to social and medical security A specific taxation policy is proposed to fund these programs while maintaining a prudent and manageable national debt Associated with these proposals are reforms to make the federal government more representative of the people

Motion and Representation Nicolas Salazar Sutil, 2015-05-15 An examination of the ways human movement can be represented as a formal language and how this language can be mediated technologically In Motion and Representation Nicol s Salazar Sutil considers the representation of human motion through languages of movement and technological mediation He argues that technology transforms the representation of movement and that representation in turn transforms the way we move and what we understand to be movement Humans communicate through movement physically and mentally To record and capture integrated movement both bodily and mental by means of

formal language and technological media produces a material record and cultural expression of our evolving kinetic minds and identities Salazar Sutil considers three forms of movement inscription a written record notation a visual record animation and a computational record motion capture He focuses on what he calls kinetic formalism formalized movement in such pursuits as dance sports live animation and kinetic art as well as abstract definitions of movement in mathematics and computer science He explores the representation of kinetic space and spatiotemporality the representation of mental plans of movement movement notation including stave notation Labanotation and such contemporary forms of notation as Choreographic Language Agent and the impact of digital technology on contemporary representations of movement in particular motion capture technology and Internet transfer protocols Motion and Representation offers a unique cultural theory of movement and of the ever changing ways of representing movement

A Companion to the Philosophy of Technology Jan Kyrre Berg Olsen, Stig Andur Pedersen, Vincent F. Hendricks, 2012-10-01 Drawing on essays from leading international and multi disciplinary scholars *A Companion to the Philosophy of Technology* is the first comprehensive and authoritative reference source to cover the key issues of technology's impact on society and our lives Presents the first complete authoritative reference work in the field Organized thematically for use both as a full introduction to the field or an encyclopedic reference Draws on original essays from leading interdisciplinary scholars Features the most up to date and cutting edge research in the interdisciplinary fields of philosophy technology and their broader intellectual environments

Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Electrical Engineering and Control Applications Sofiane Bououden, Mohammed Chadli, Salim Ziani, Ivan Zelinka, 2020-09-29 This book gathers papers presented during the 4th International Conference on Electrical Engineering and Control Applications It covers new control system models troubleshooting tips and complex system requirements such as increased speed precision and remote capabilities Additionally the papers discuss not only the engineering aspects of signal processing and various practical issues in the broad field of information transmission but also novel technologies for communication networks and modern antenna design This book is intended for researchers engineers and advanced postgraduate students in the fields of control and electrical engineering computer science and signal processing as well as mechanical and chemical engineering

Edmund Berkeley and the Social Responsibility of Computer Professionals Bernadette Longo, 2015-09-01 Edmund C Berkeley 1909 1988 was a mathematician insurance actuary inventor publisher and a founder of the Association for Computing Machinery ACM His book *Giant Brains or Machines That Think* 1949 was the first explanation of computers for a general readership His journal *Computers and Automation* 1951 1973 was the first journal for computer professionals In the 1950s Berkeley developed mail order kits for small personal computers such as Simple Simon and the Braniac In an era when computer development was on a scale barely affordable by universities or government agencies Berkeley took a different approach and sold simple computer kits to average Americans He believed that digital computers using mechanized reasoning based on symbolic logic

could help people make more rational decisions The result of this improved reasoning would be better social conditions and fewer large scale wars Although Berkeley s populist notions of computer development in the public interest did not prevail the events of his life exemplify the human side of ongoing debates concerning the social responsibility of computer professionals This biography of Edmund Berkeley based on primary sources gathered over 15 years of archival research provides a lens to understand social and political decisions surrounding early computer development and the consequences of these decisions in our 21st century lives

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The Universal History Of Computing From The Abacus To The Quantum Computer Introduction

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