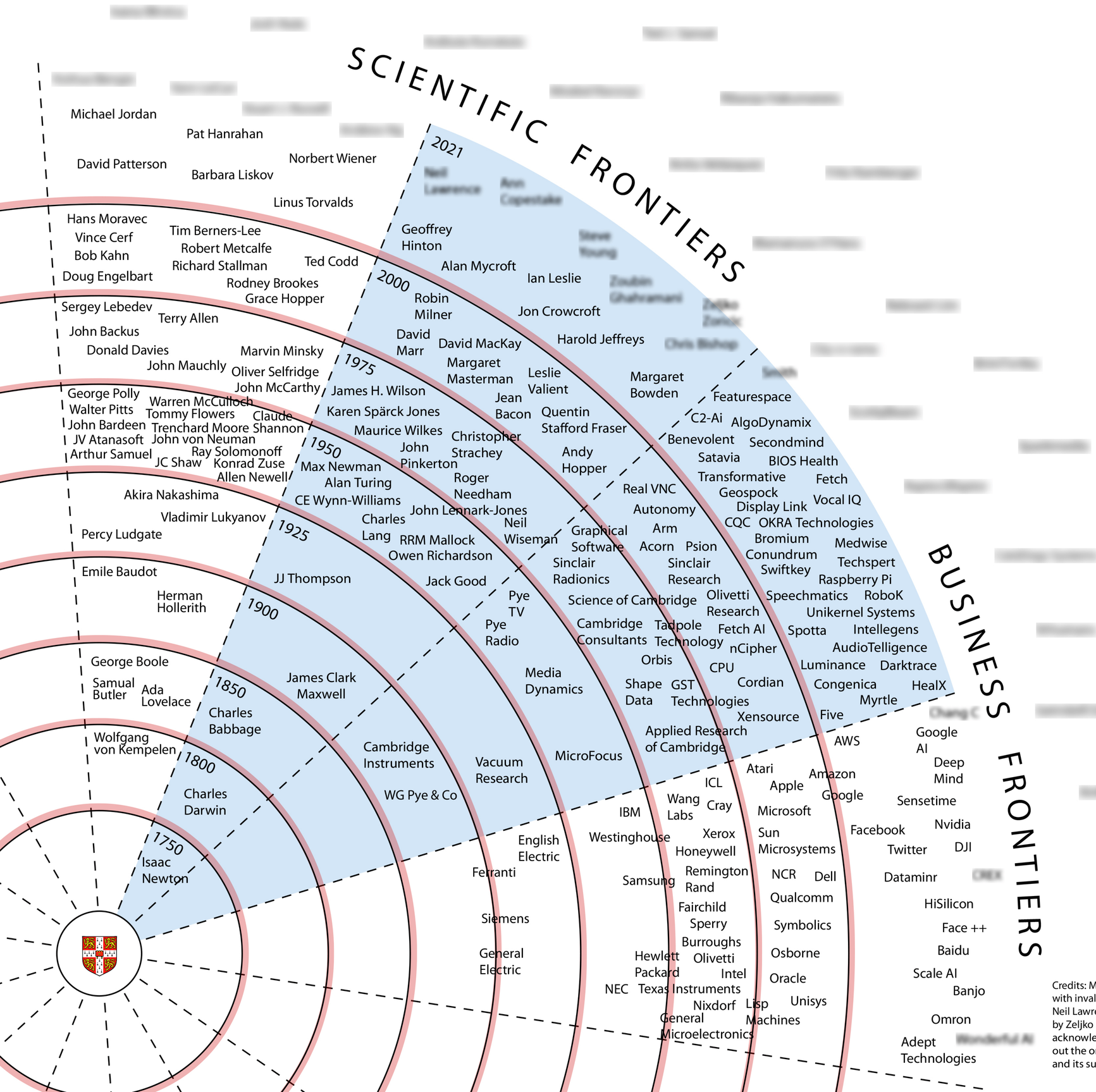

Credits: Map concept and creation by Richard Watson with invaluable help from Bruno Cotta, Ann Copestake, Neil Lawrence and Quentin Stafford Fraser. Final design by Zeljko Zoricic. Version 1.1, October 2021. This chart acknowledges the work of SQW Limited who carried out the original 1985 Cambridge Phenomenon study and its subsequent 2011 update.

The Evolution of Computing @ Cambridge

This chart shows a snapshot of firms associated with the computing phenomenon at Cambridge, along with a small selection of academics pushing the field forwards (both in Cambridge blue). These are both bookended by a selection of other pioneering thinkers and companies worldwide. As for the future, below is a modest list of present, probable and possible applications of computer science and technology. This is intended to be illustrative (and speculative) rather than definitive (or exhaustive).

Present applications
Spell checking
Spam filtering
Fraud detection
Interactive maps
Movie recommendations
Web searching
Image recognition
Voice recognition
Online shopping
Personalised advertising
Self-driving cars
Face recognition
Automated recruitment
Language translation
Digital assistants
Precision farming
Companion robots

Probable applications
Brain-computer interfaces
Lifelong avatar assistants
Decoding of human intent
Lip reading CCTV
AI board members
Real-time crime prediction
Computers with feelings
Self-writing software
Autonomous robotic surgery
Smart energy grids & appliances
Drone to drone combat
Modelling of crowd behaviour
National mood prediction
Longevity forecasting at birth
Detection of algorithmic biases
Amplification of IQ
Design of 'impossible' buildings
Acceleration of drug discovery
Personalised medicine
Volcano forecasting

Possible applications
Inner speech recording
Artificial curiosity
Artificial creativity
Dream recording
Amplification of EQ
Automated insights
Decision-making apps
Software that rusts
Foreign policy algorithms
Dynamic allocation of tax revenues
Crisis forecasting
Fake memory implants
Earthquake prediction
Dispute resolution algorithms
Whole planet simulation
AI to AI negotiation
Animal communication
Reanimation of the deceased
VR games based on known fears
Pilotless commercial aircraft
Fully immersive virtual realities

Entrepreneurship Centre
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Judge Business School

"One day ladies will take their computers for walks in the park and tell each other, "My little computer said such a funny thing this morning". ~ Alan Turing