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Chapter 9. Acknowledgements

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(when computers did not actually exist): my grandmother was occasionally taking me to her work in a bank, and I happily struck complicated balances with astronomical numbers. At the age of 5 or 6 I was declared to have sufficient qualification to work in the bank, so I decided that calculating things could be my future job—along with the job of a detective, traveler and ballerina. (You must be laughing at this point, but my mom was an amateur ballet dancer, so I sometimes walked that special way, hoping that someone might suspect I am a ballerina. Now I hope nobody did! ③). A programmable calculator I got as a present a few years later made me forget about the ballet and detectives: simulating the motion of stars and sledges and forests and Bob knows what was so exciting that whatever I did in the future was inclined to computer simulations. (Now I am amazed that it was possible without a 4 GHz processor and a 500 Gb hard drive!)

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