

# Applied Cryptography

## Lecture 0

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# What is Cryptography?

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- It's all about **controlling**  
**access to information**



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- Access to learning and/or influencing information



# What is Cryptography?

- It's all about **controlling access to information**
  - Access to learning and/or influencing information
  - Do we know what we are talking about?



# What is information?

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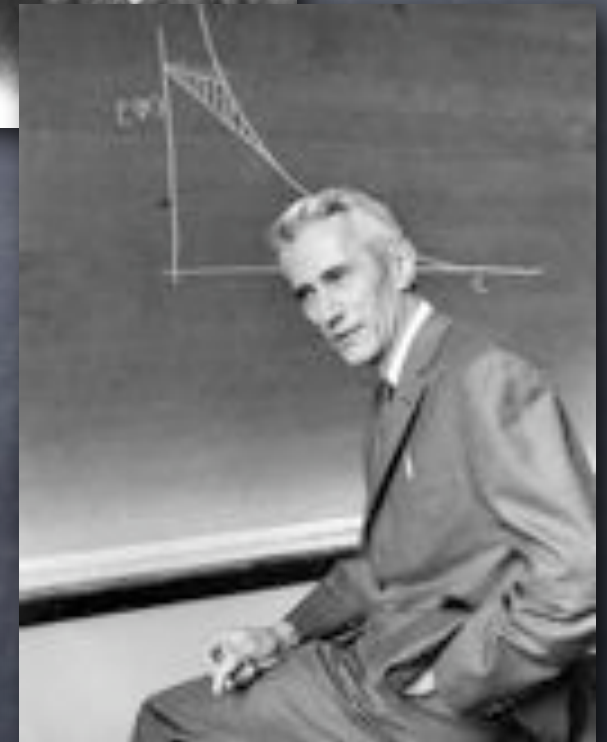


Rudolf Clausius



Ludwig Boltzmann

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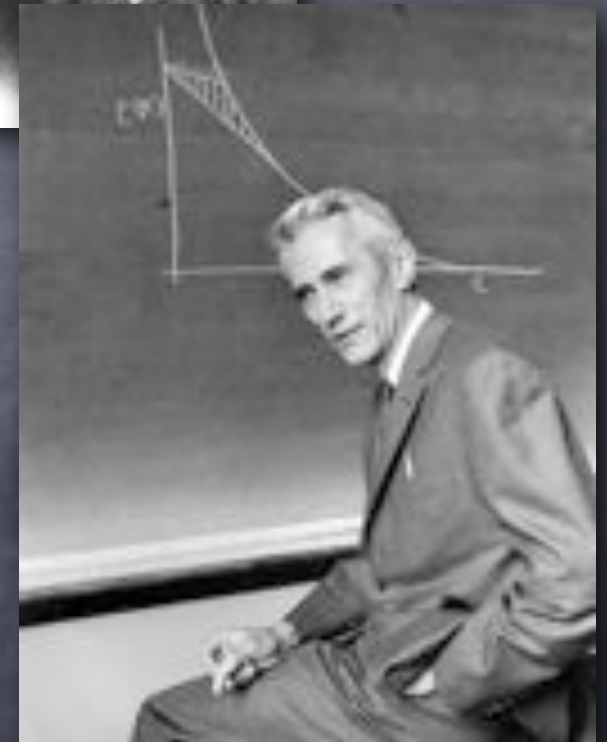
- Or rather the lack of it?
  - Uncertainty
  - The word is **Entropy**
    - Borrowed from thermodynamics
    - An inherently “probabilistic” notion



Rudolf Clausius



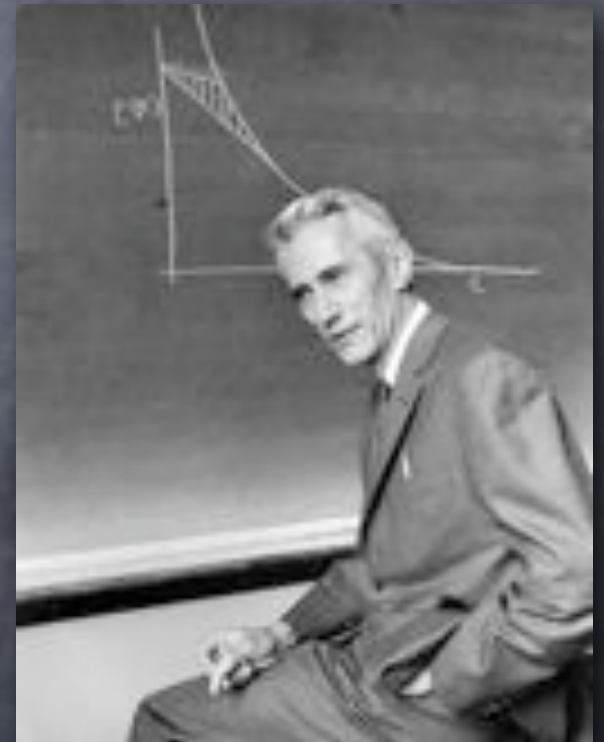
Ludwig Boltzmann



Claude Shannon

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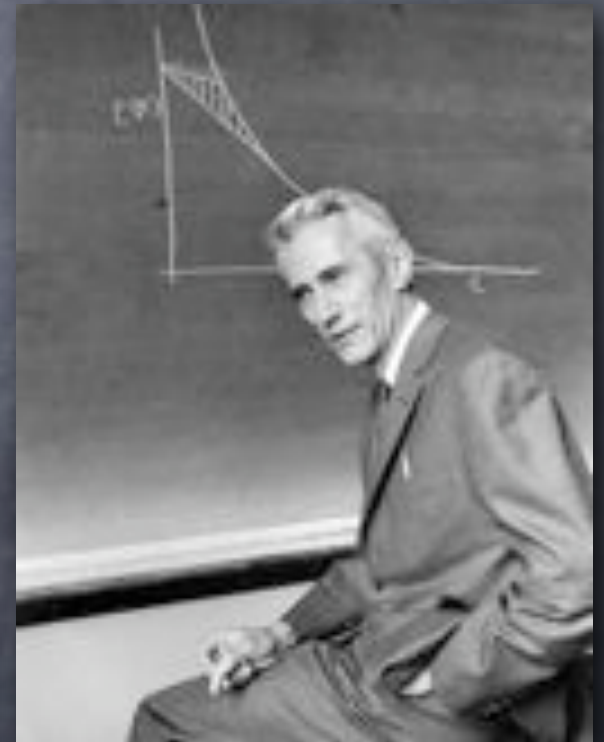
Claude Shannon



# What is information?

- Information Theory: ways to quantify information

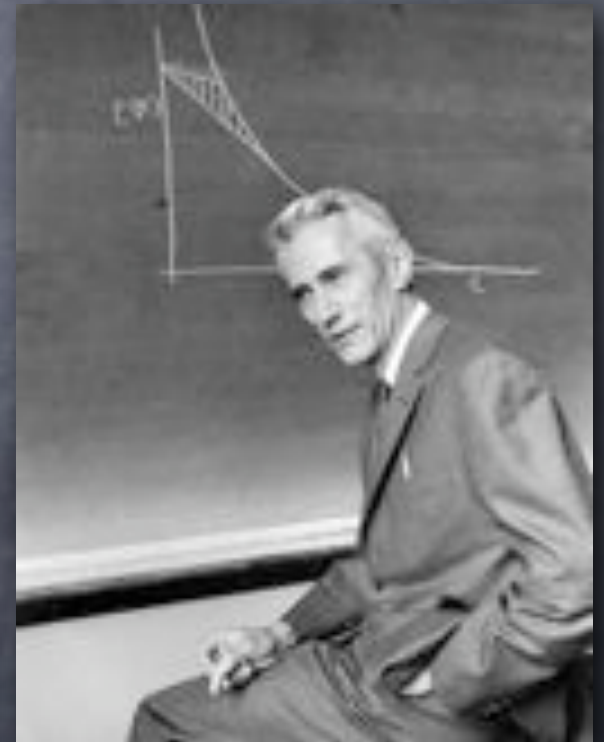
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  - Application 1: to study efficiency of communication (compression, error-correction)

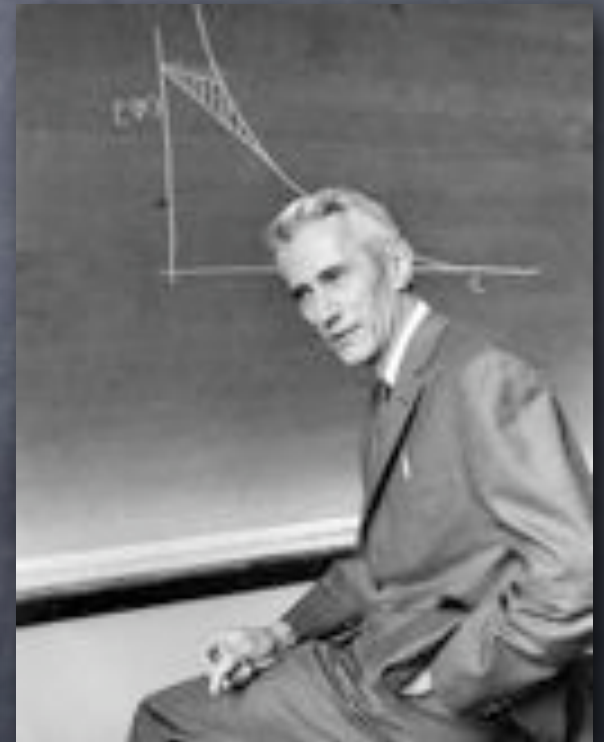
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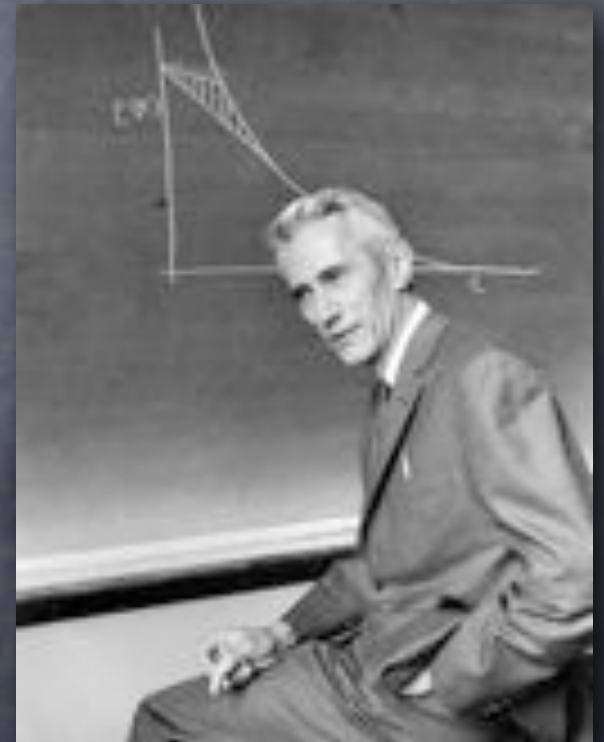
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# What is information?

- Information Theory: ways to quantify information
  - Application 1: to study efficiency of communication (compression, error-correction)
  - Application 2: to study the possibility of secret communication
    - The latter turned out to be a relatively easy question! Secret communication possible only if (an equally long) secret key is shared ahead of time

Claude Shannon



# Access to Information

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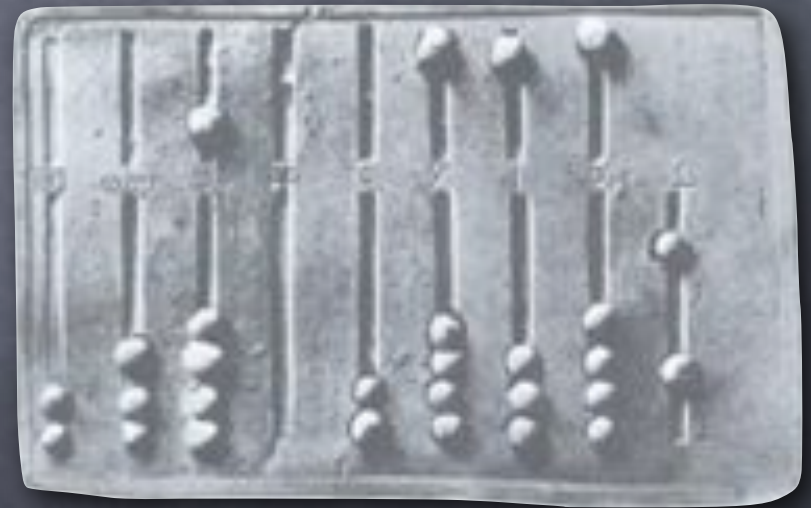
- A second look

# Access to Information

- A second look
- Information at hand may still not be “accessible” if it is hard to work with it

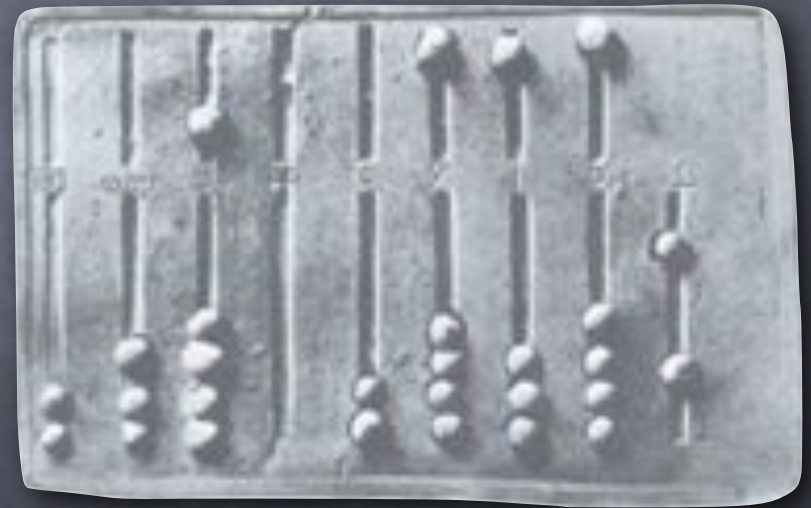
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- A second look
- Information at hand may still not be “accessible” if it is hard to work with it
  - Computation!
- Shannon’s information may reduce uncertainty only for computationally all-powerful parties



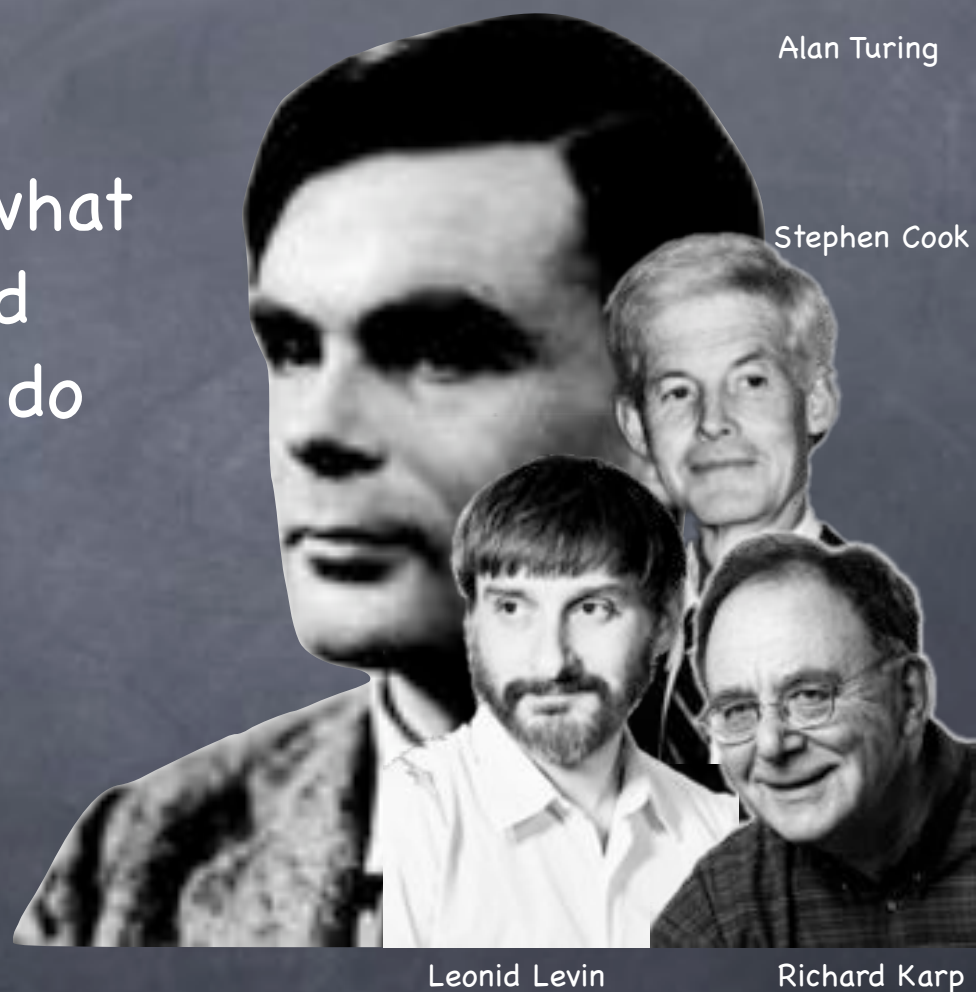
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Alan Turing

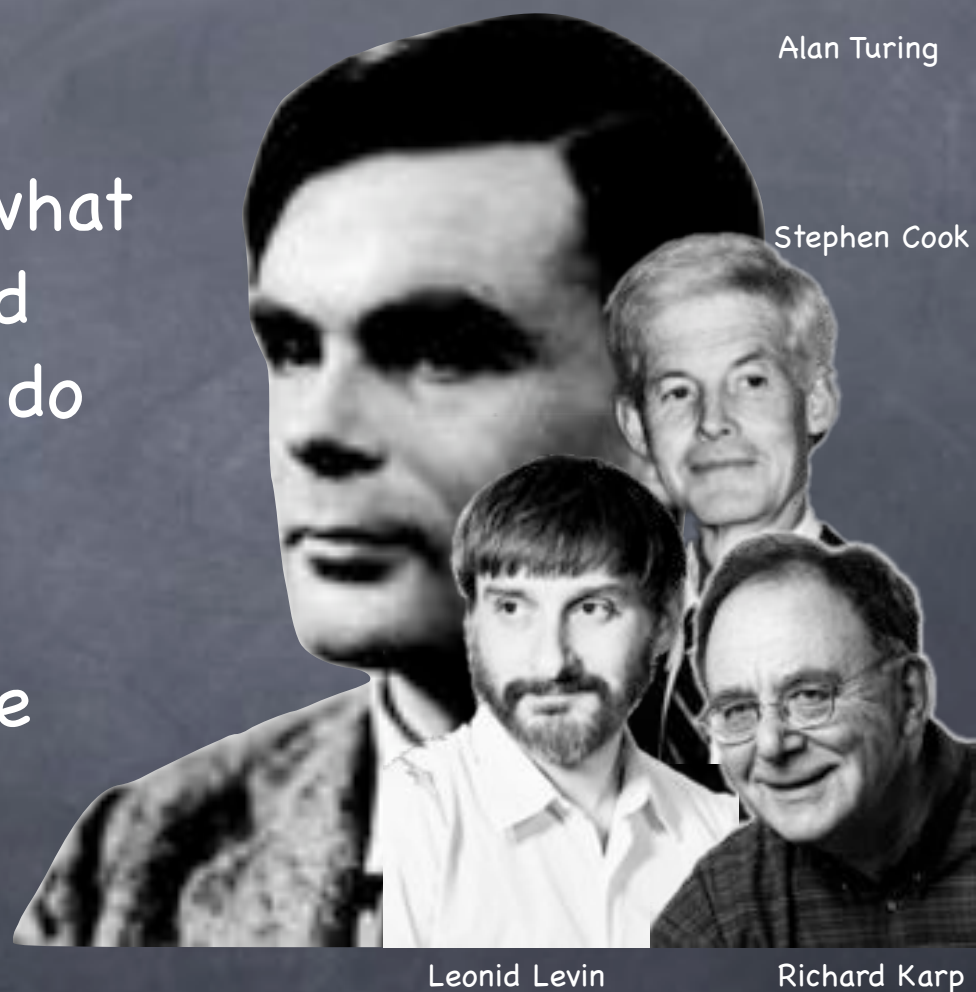
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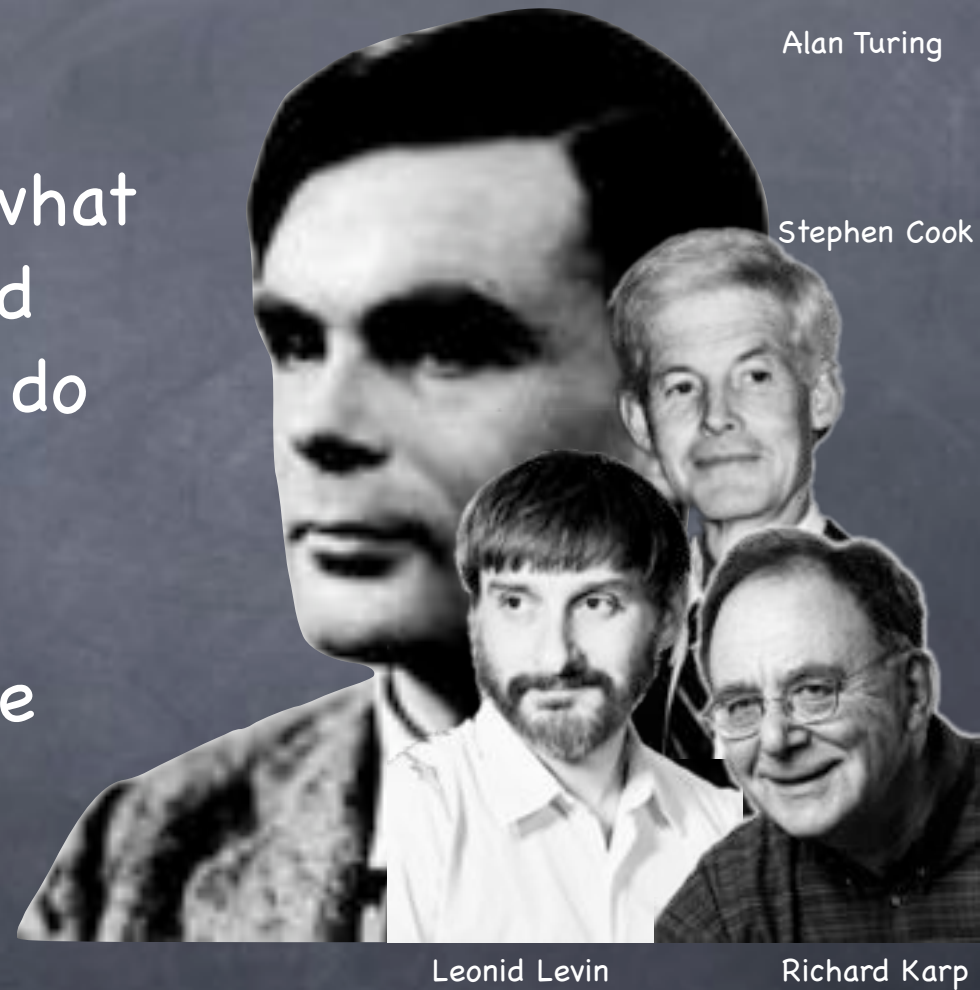
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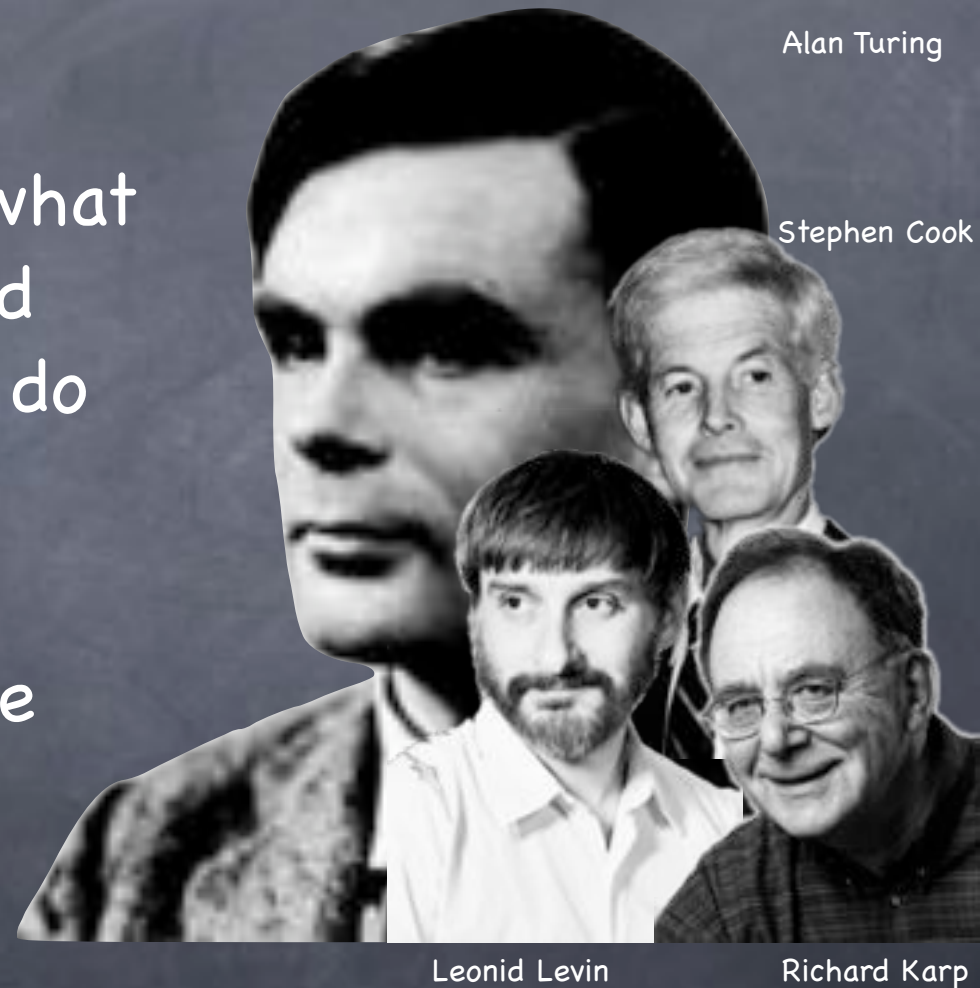
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# Computational Complexity

- A systematic study of what computationally bounded parties can and cannot do
- A young and rich field
- Much known, much more unknown
  - Much “believed”
- Basis of the Modern Theory of Cryptography



Alan Turing

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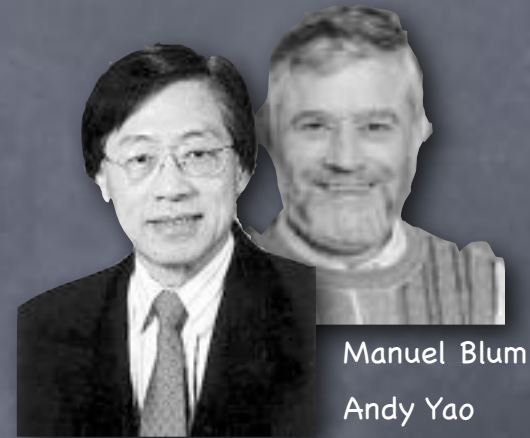
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# Compressed Secret-Keys

- Pseudo-random number generator
  - a.k.a Stream Cipher
  - Generate a long string of random-looking bits from a short random seed
- Impossible in the information-theoretic sense
  - But possible against computationally bounded players!



Manuel Blum

Andy Yao

# The Public-Key Revolution

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- “Non-Secret Encryption”

# The Public-Key Revolution

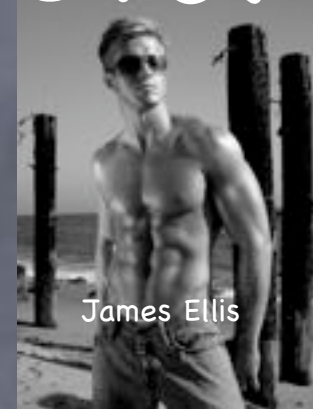
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Merkle, Hellman, Diffie



Shamir, Rivest, Adleman

# The Public-Key Revolution



Malcolm Williamson

James Ellis

Clifford Cocks

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- Publicly verifiable digital signatures
- Forms the backbone of today’s secure communication



Merkle, Hellman, Diffie



Shamir, Rivest, Adleman

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- Public-Key cryptography and beyond!
- Secret computation: collaboration among mutually distrusting parties
  - Compute on distributed data, without revealing their private information to each other
  - Compute on encrypted data
- And other fancy things... with sophisticated control over more complex "access" to information
- Do it all faster, better, more conveniently and more securely (or find out if one cannot). And also make sure we know what we are trying to do.

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- S  
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- 

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Independence, Indistinguishability,  
Infeasibility, Zero-Knowledge, ...



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DES, AES,  
SHA, HMAC

Encryption,  
Authentication

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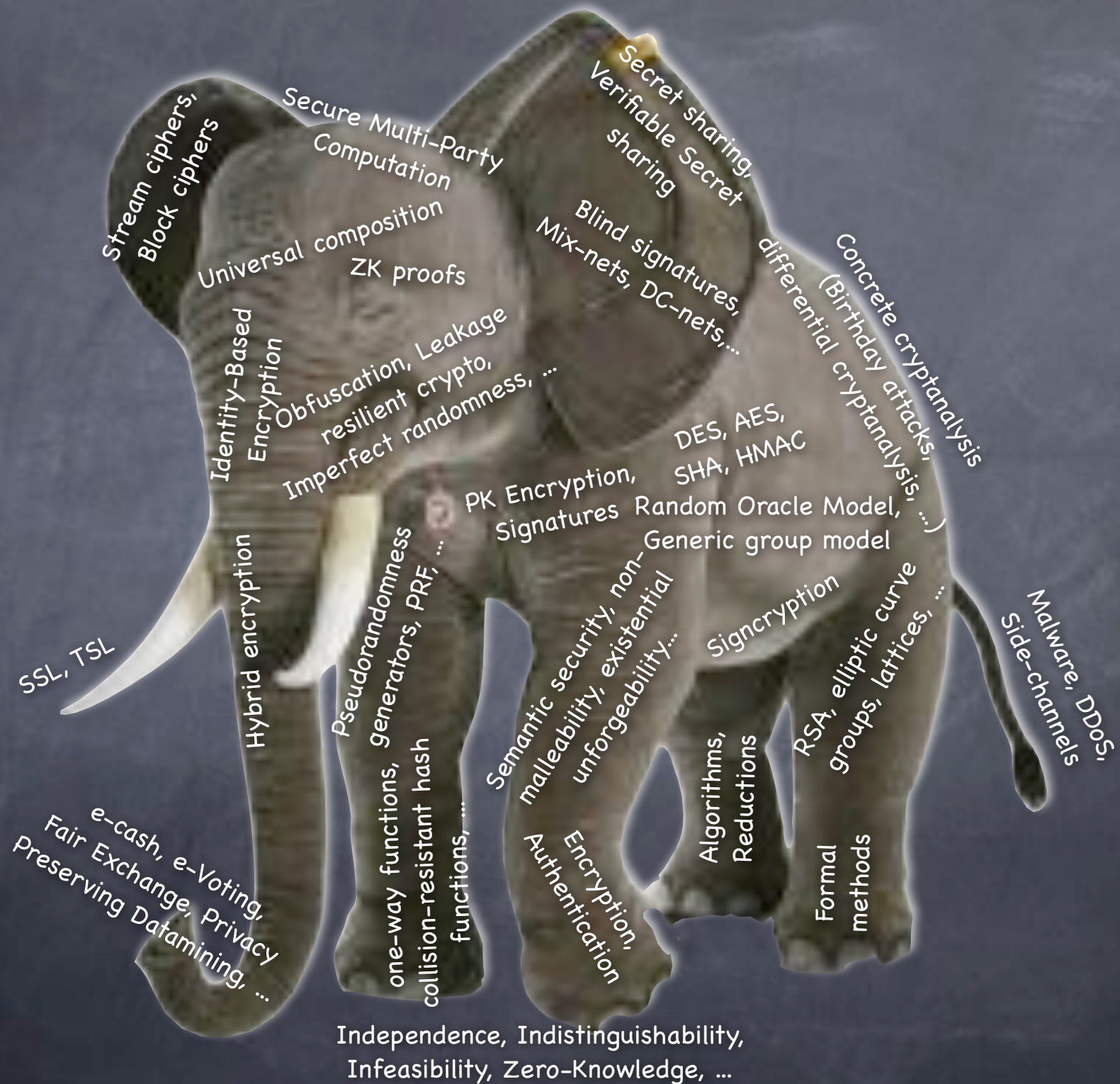


DES, AES,  
SHA, HMAC

RSA, elliptic curve  
groups, lattices, ...

Encryption,  
Authentication

Independence, Indistinguishability,  
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# In This Course

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(how to tame the elephant...)



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- A few assignments

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