

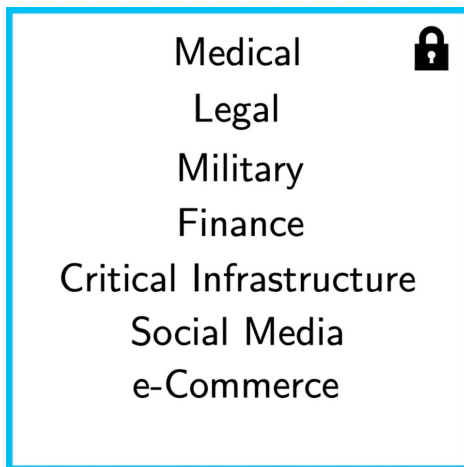
# Public Key Cryptography

Simon Pohmann

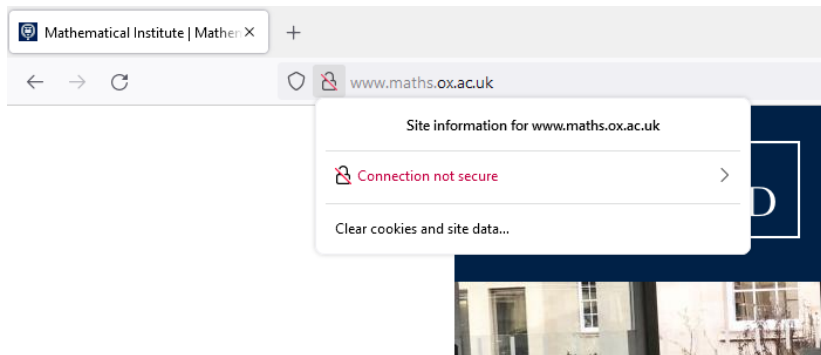
University of Oxford

November 5, 2021

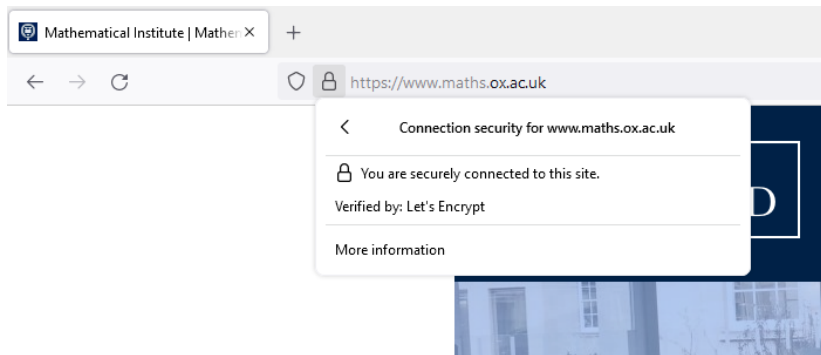
## Remember Patrick's talk...



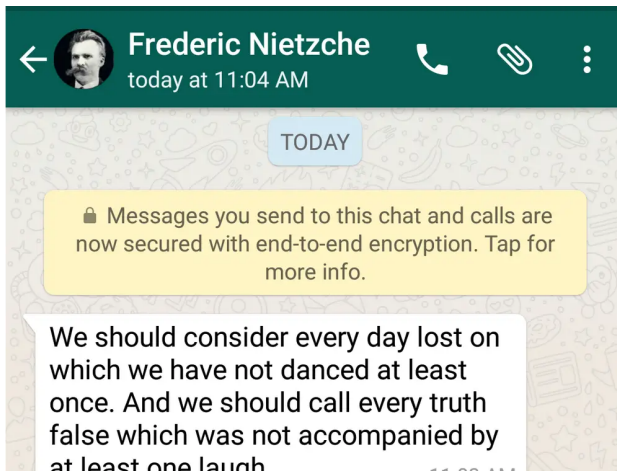
# Where do we encounter cryptography?



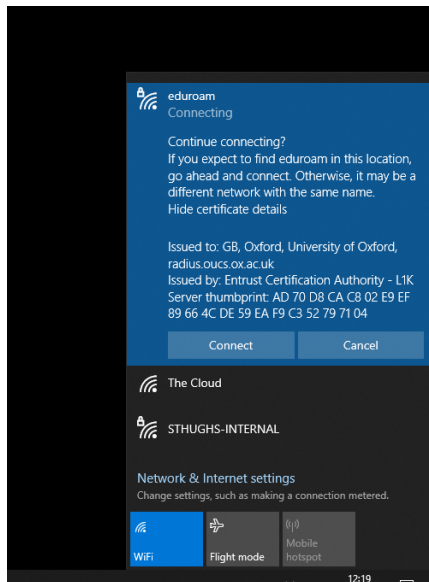
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# Beginnings of cryptography

## Caesar's cipher

H E L L O  
↓ +3  
K H O O R

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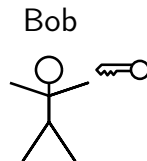
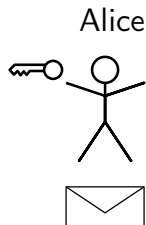
## Caesar's cipher

H E L L O  
↓ +3  
K H O O R

- Very insecure (even if shift is unknown)
- Symmetric cipher



# Symmetric cryptography



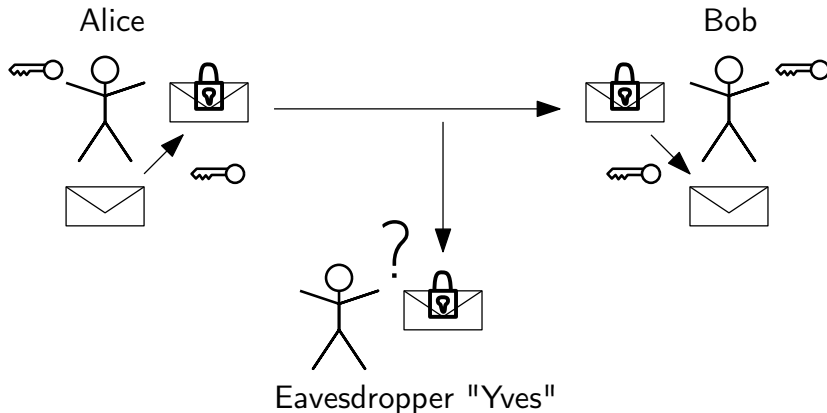
# Symmetric cryptography



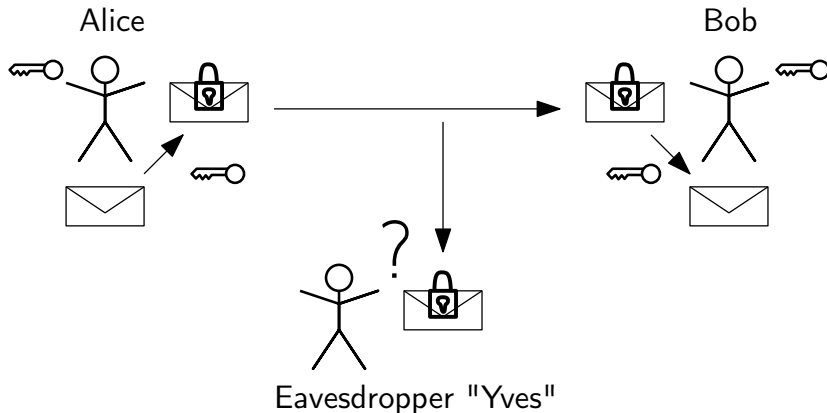
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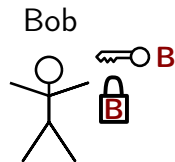
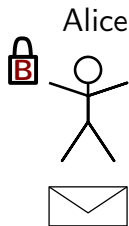


# Symmetric cryptography



Problem: Key Exchange!

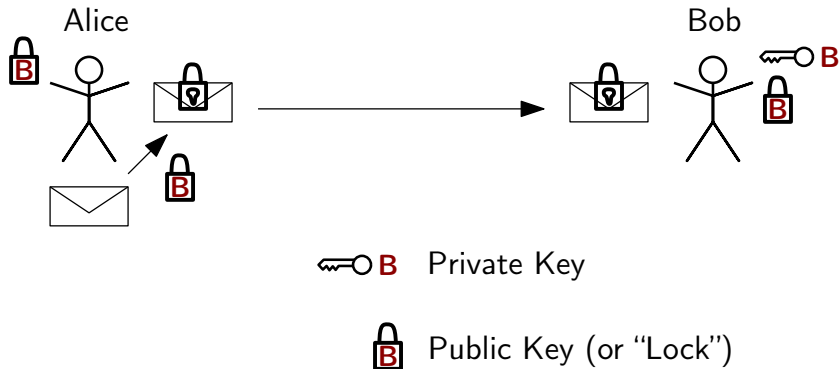
# Asymmetric cryptography



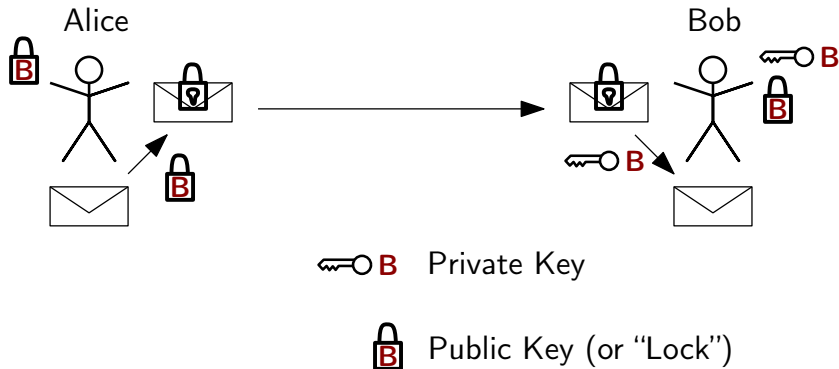
 Private Key

 Public Key (or “Lock”)

# Asymmetric cryptography

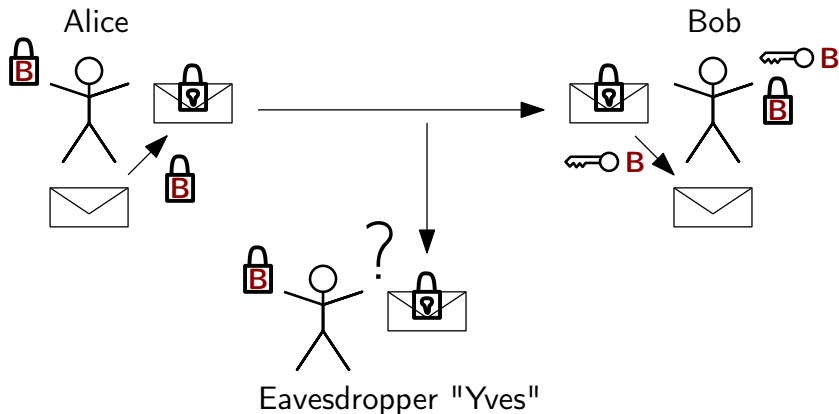


# Asymmetric cryptography





# Asymmetric cryptography



# An issue in Public Key Crypto

- Symmetric cryptography can (in principle) be “perfectly secure”
- Asymmetric cryptography cannot

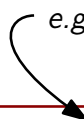
For all possible messages do

- Encrypt the message using the public key
- If the result matches the cipher, we are done

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*e.g. all 1000-character sequences*



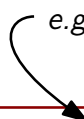
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*e.g. all 1000-character sequences  
there are  $9.4 \cdot 10^{1414}$  of them*



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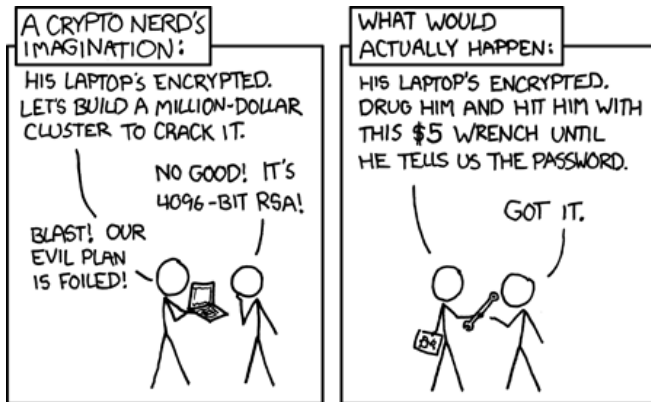
- Usually problems with mathematical structure
- Currently: Prime factorization and discrete logarithm

Asymmetric cryptography relies on problems, that cannot be solved **efficiently** or within **reasonable time**

- Usually problems with mathematical structure
- Currently: Prime factorization and discrete logarithm
- In the future: Quantum-computer safe problems



# Thank you for listening!



Source: [www.xkcd.com](http://www.xkcd.com)