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IS303 Section 3

Extra Credit Movie – “The Imitation Game”

The movie that I watched was, “The Imitation Game.” The movie is about a mathematical & cryptographical genius, Alan Turing. He is nicknamed by many as the father of modern computers. During WWII, he was recruited to a top-secret project whose aim was to crack the Enigma Code – a German device used to decrypt their messages so that they could transmit them over any radio frequency without fear of exposing their secrets. The main problem was that the key was changed daily, so if you broke one day’s messages, it was too late to make any meaningful contributions to cracking it. Alan, despite making many enemies and offending many people, planned & designed a machine that was capable of going through each possibility of the code key so that no matter the day, the Allies would be able to decrypt any message and gain many advantages in the war. That machine was considered one of the first computers ever made and computers today are Turing machines themselves.

It was a great movie. The ending wasn’t exactly happy either (which I think is a good mark of some movies since not everything can be rainbows and unicorns). Just because they broke the code, they still had to withhold the information in those messages from many people so that the Germans never became suspicious & stop using the Enigma machines altogether. It is estimated that the cracking of the Enigma Code shortened the war by a few years and saved as many as 14 million lives. I have a newfound respect for Alan Turing and his contributions to mathematics, computer science, and the basis for artificial intelligence.