

# RSA - Rivest, Shamir and Alderman

Key Size	1024 - 4096
Speed	~ factor of $10^6$ cycles / operation
Mathematical Foundation	Prime number theory

Most widely used to secure network traffic

Adopted in 1977

# Computational Complexity

## **Easy problems** with prime numbers

- Generating a prime number  $p$
- Addition, multiplication, exponentiation
- Inversion, solving linear equations

## **Hard problem** with prime numbers

- Factoring primes  
e.g. given  $n$  find  $p$  and  $q$  such that  $n = p \cdot q$