

MATHEMATICIAN, SCIENTIST

Alan Turing

Alan Turing was an English mathematician, computer scientist, codebreaker, and philosopher. He is known both for his Turing Test, an imitation game, and his 1936 paper on the “Turing Machine.” Turing is widely considered to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence, providing a formalization of the concepts of algorithm and computation with the Turing machine, which can be considered a model for a general-purpose computer.

Turing helped decode encrypted messages intercepted by the Allies during WWII, which were thought to have shortened the war in Europe by two years and saved up to 14 million lives.

In 1952, Turing was prosecuted for homosexual acts. He accepted “chemical castration” as an alternative to prison, now believed to have caused his death from cyanide poisoning, aged 41. Following a campaign in 2009, British prime minister Gordon Brown made an official public apology for “the

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