Cryptology is the science of both hiding information, and overcoming methods for doing so. Modern cryptography plays an integral, if largely unseen, role in current culture and is hugely dependent on mathematics for strength and speed. In particular, mathematics is what makes implementation of public key cryptography possible.

We will introduce the basics of cryptography using illustrative historical examples. We will then examine more recent developments focusing on the mathematics behind RSA and the Diffie-Hellman key exchange, the two most common public key algorithms.

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