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March 2005

Issue 34

The tsunami of December 26th 2004 has focused the world's attention on this terrifying consequence of an underwater earthquake. **Michael McIntyre** explores the underlying wave mathematics.



Cracking codes

In the first of two articles, **Artur Ekert** takes a tour through the history of codes and the prospects for truly unbreakable quantum cryptography.



Exploring the Enigma

During the Second World War, the Allies' codebreakers worked at Bletchley Park to decipher the supposedly unbreakable Enigma code. **Claire Ellis** tells us about their heroic efforts, which historians believe shortened the war by two years.



Ada Lovelace – visions of today

Rachel Thomas looks at the life and work of pioneering woman mathematician Ada Lovelace, who foresaw computer–generated music and graphics, despite living long before the computer era.



Career interview: Project finance consultant

Nick Crawley had recently set up his own financial consultancy firm in Sydney, Australia, offering advice on large-scale financing deals. He tells *Plus* about the challenges and rewards of working in an incentive-driven environment.



Plus is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the NRICH and MOTIVATE sites.