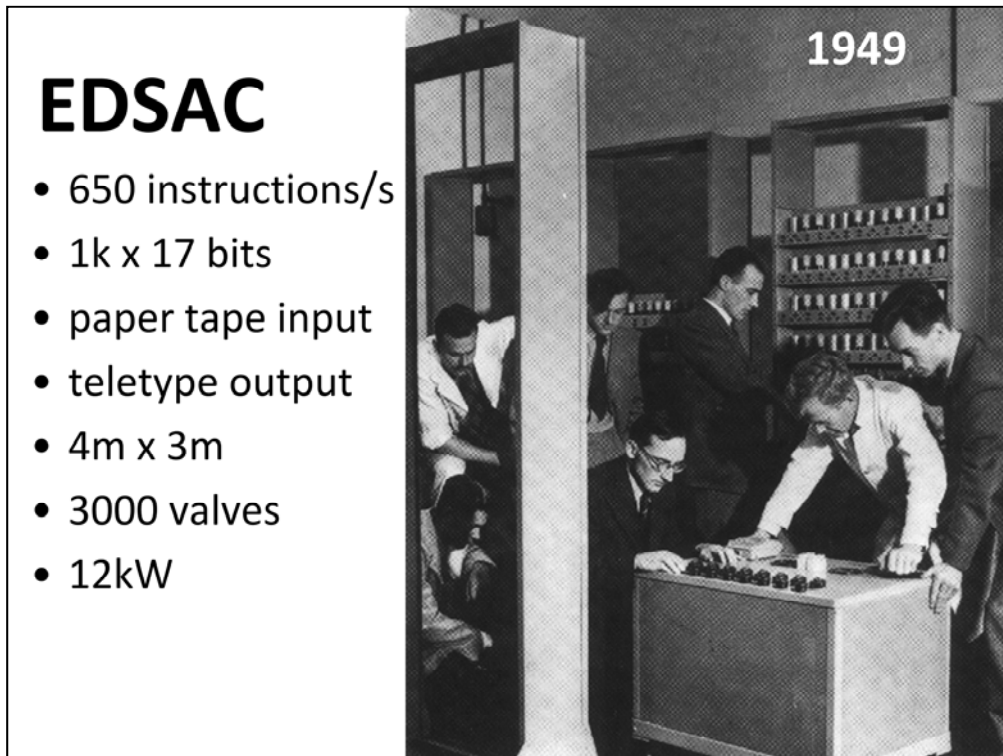


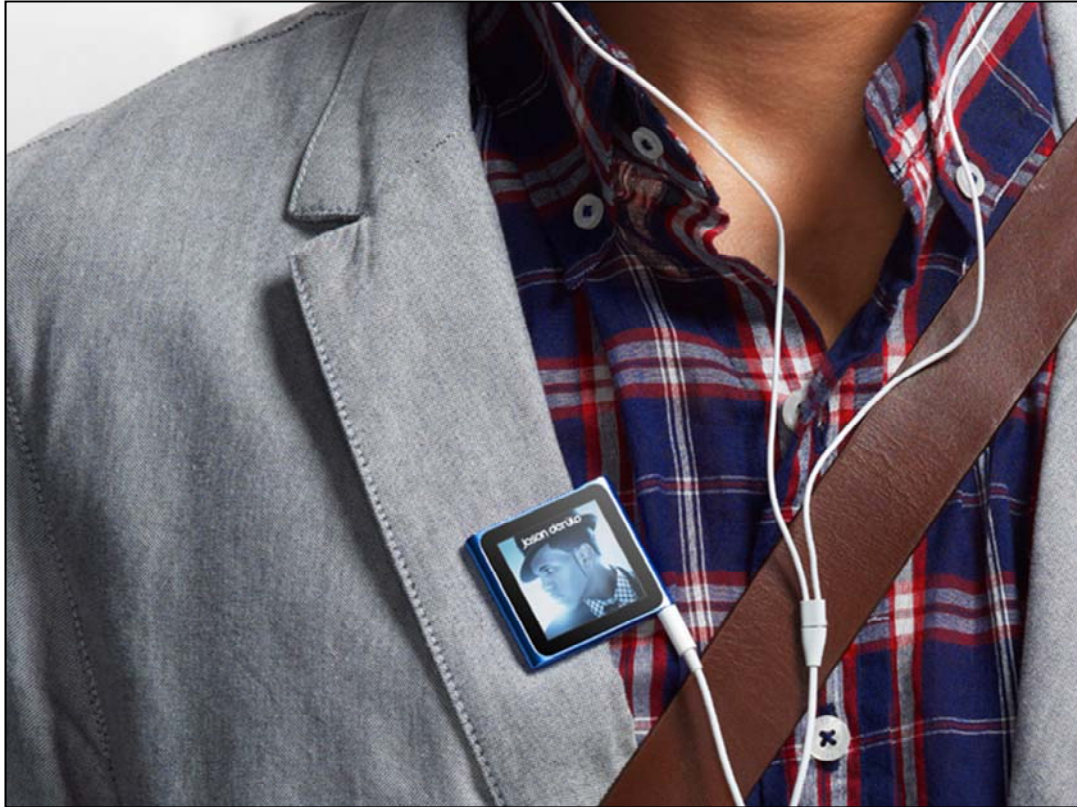
Good afternoon. I am Neil Dodgson, chairman of the Graduate Education Committee. I am going to take you quickly through an overview of the Lab's research degrees that are available to you.



As you know, the Lab was founded 73 years ago. Back then, there were no electronic computers. The department was dealing with mechanical computation. The man at the right is Maurice Wilkes. He was not much older than you are now. He went on to become the first full-time director of the Lab, which he ruled with an iron fist for thirty years.



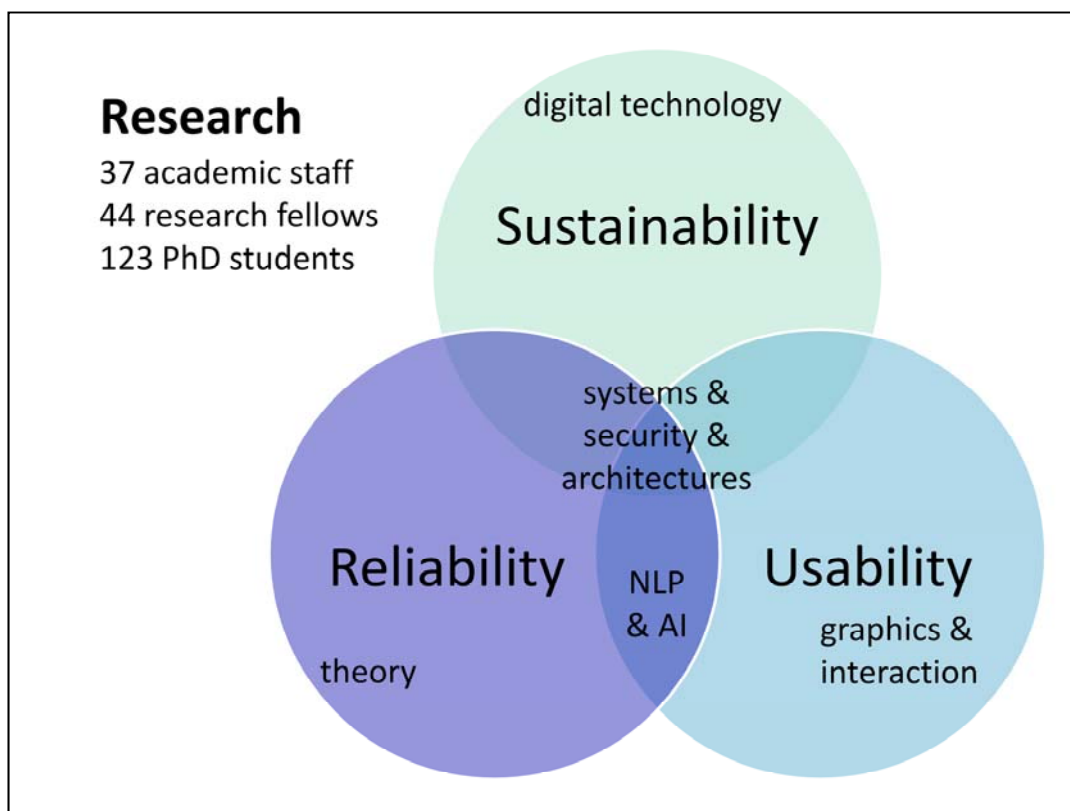
Wilkes was the driving force behind EDSAC. The world's first fully-operational, stored-program computer. It ran at 650 instructions per second, had two kilobytes of memory, and filled a large room. Despite this, it helped analyze the data that allowed Cambridge to win at least two Nobel prizes.



The world has changed dramatically in the last 61 year. This is the iPod Nano 6. It has ten million times the memory of EDSAC, runs ten million times faster, and is one ten millionth of the size. But it doesn't win Nobel prizes. All it can do is play music. For sixty years, Cambridge has been at the forefront of research in computer science, driving forward the massive changes in technology and society.



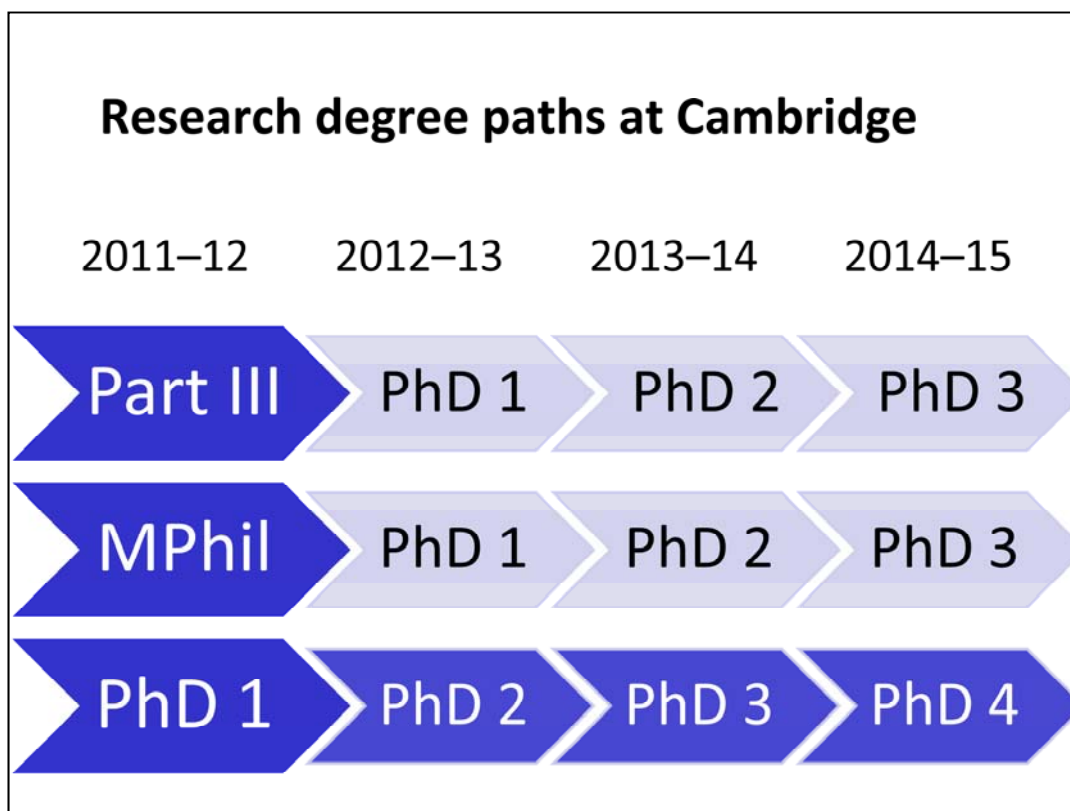
Indeed, we have changed things over and over again. This is a good advertising slogan. It's also true that things just keep changing.



You want to be part of that exciting world that creates the change. So let's look at the Computer Lab today. We have about 200 researchers who are working across the spectrum of computer science. We advertise ourselves to non-experts as doing three things: sustainability, reliability, usability. [click] That hides the truth that we have eight world class research groups in various areas. And even that hides the truth that we have about eight world-leading individuals who are all doing their own thing. The Lab is an exciting place.



Research is great fun. Don't underestimate the excitement of doing something that no-one else has ever done before.



So how can you be a part of this?

We have three paths available to you:

Part III of the Computer Science Tripos. Which leads to an MEng.

The MPhil in Advanced Computer Science.

Or straight onto the PhD programme.

We recommend that potential PhD students take one of the masters courses first. We don't insist on it, but let me explain why we recommend it.

- (1) You don't know what research is yet, and you may not like it. The Masters courses give a safe, self-contained environment in which to try your hand at it. If you don't like it, you can leave after one year with a Masters degree.
- (2) You aren't sufficiently trained yet to do research. If you go straight into the PhD you will be learning on the job, and it will likely take you four years to finish. If you do a Masters course first, you can hit the ground running and will likely finish your PhD in three years. That means you take the same time whichever way you go, plus you get a better initial training going down the masters route.

What is a PhD?

- An apprenticeship in research
- Judged on a dissertation that
 - pays due account to previous work in the field
 - is clearly written
 - represents a significant, original contribution to learning

OK. So what is a PhD? [talk about these things on the slide]

Masters courses

MEng (Part III of the Computer Science Tripos)

MPhil in Advanced Computer Science

	MEng	MPhil 'A'	MPhil 'B'
Status	Undergrad	Postgrad	Postgrad
Taught modules	6	9	6
Project	3 module project	3 module essay	6 module project
Who for?	available only to Cambridge undergrads	People who are theory-oriented	People who want a big research project

So let's look at the two Masters courses: the MEng and the MPhil.

Well, really, there are three Masters courses because the MPhil has option 'A' and option 'B'.

The MEng counts as an undergrad degree, the MPhil as a post-grad. That is only relevant to how you get funded.

You take either 6 or 9 of the taught modules

All three options use the same set of modules: almost all MPhil modules are available on the MEng, and almost all MEng modules are available on the MPhil

You do a project or essay worth 3 more, or 6 more, modules. So option B people, their project is worth half their mark, MEng a third, option A a quarter.

The MEng is available only to Cambridge undergrads: you people. Option A is aimed at theory-minded people: those who need lots of mathematics-type courses. Option B is aimed at everyone else: those who want to do a big research project.

Entry requirements

MEng *or* MPhil *or* PhD

First in Part II of CST

- *or* well-defined exceptional criteria that demonstrate that you could have got a First



How do you get onto any of these courses: you put in an application.

You have to meet both academic and financial criteria.

The academic criterion is pretty much the same for all the courses: you need to get a First.

Funding requirements

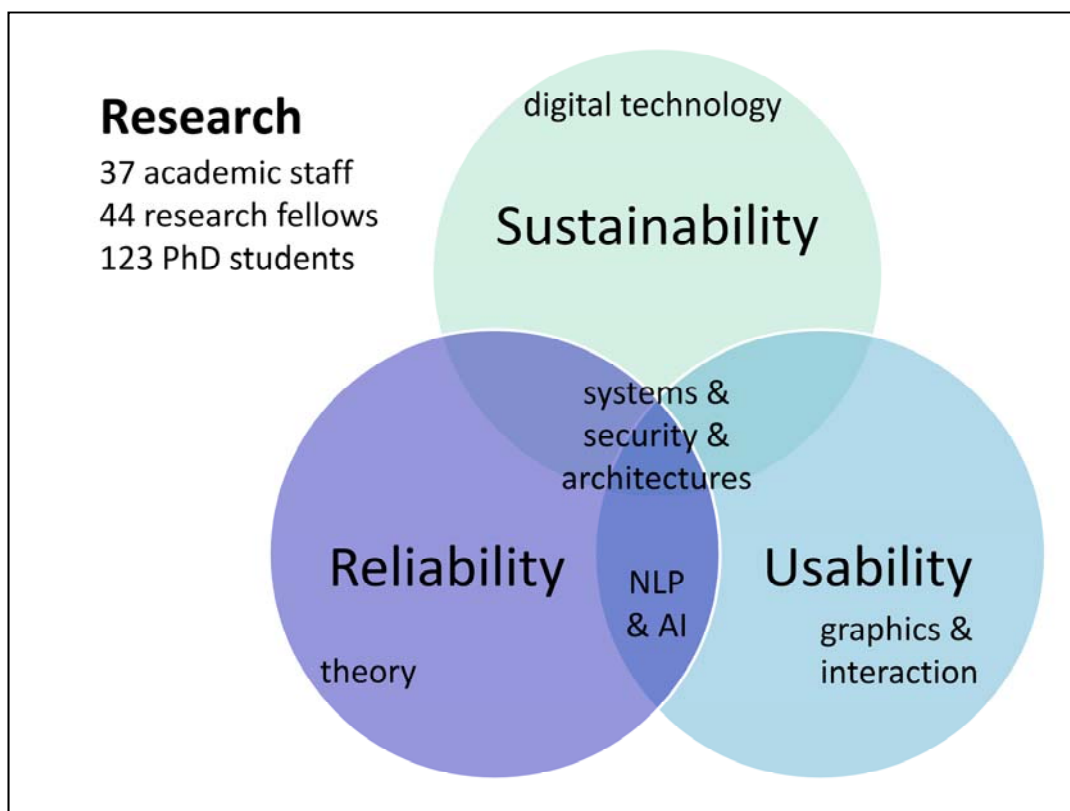
- MEng
 - undergraduate funding from LEA
- MPhil
 - very difficult to get funding
- PhD
 - a range of studentships are available
 - a high First needed to get one of them



So, why are there three different courses? Well, you've heard the academic argument as to why a Masters courses is a good precursor to a PhD. Let's now look at the financial arguments for the three courses.

[read through slide]

So, you can apply for all three courses, you can apply for any two, you can apply for just one.



OK. That's an overview. You can get more information from the Lab website or from the University post-grad prospectus. We are now going to get representatives of each of the eight groups to explain what they all do. But first: any questions?