

Ross Anderson's PhD ancestors

Compiled by Frank Stajano

University of Cambridge

Sir Maurice Wilkes, who led the effort to built EDSAC (the first stored-program computer to go into regular use), was the Head of our Department from 1945 to 1980. Ross Anderson, like a majority of our faculty members until at least the turn of the millennium, was an academic descendant of Sir Maurice, in his case through David Wheeler and Roger Needham. But from whom did Sir Maurice himself descend? From no less than Galileo and Newton, it turns out, which means that so did Ross—as well as all of his former students listed in the previous chapter, together with their own students.

The following information comes from the database of the Mathematics Genealogy Project at <https://mathgenealogy.org>.

- Ross John Anderson's advisor was Roger Michael Needham.
- Roger Michael Needham's advisor was David John Wheeler.
- David John Wheeler's advisor was Maurice Vincent Wilkes¹.
- Maurice Vincent Wilkes's advisor was John Ashworth Ratcliffe.
- John Ashworth Ratcliffe's advisor was Edward Victor Appleton².
Edward Victor Appleton's advisors were Joseph John Thomson³ and Ernest Rutherford⁴ (Now we're branching out non-linearly... We follow Joseph John Thomson for brevity.)
- Joseph John Thomson's advisor was John William Strutt (Lord Rayleigh)⁵.
- John William Strutt (Lord Rayleigh)'s advisors were Edward John Routh, George Gabriel Stokes and James Clerk Maxwell. (We follow James Clerk Maxwell.)
- James Clerk Maxwell's advisor was William Hopkins.
- William Hopkins's advisor was Adam Sedgwick.
- Adam Sedgwick's advisors were Thomas Jones and John Dawson. (We follow Thomas Jones.)
- Thomas Jones's advisors were Thomas Postlethwaite and John Cranke. (We follow Thomas Postlethwaite.)
- Thomas Postlethwaite's advisor was Stephen Whisson.
- Stephen Whisson's advisor was Walter Taylor.
- Walter Taylor's advisor was Robert Smith.
- Robert Smith's advisor was Roger Cotes.
- Roger Cotes's advisor was **Isaac Newton**.

¹ Turing Award.

² Nobel Prize in Physics.

³ Nobel Prize in Physics.

⁴ Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

⁵ Nobel Prize in Physics.

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- Isaac Newton’s advisors were Isaac Barrow and Benjamin Pulleyn. (We follow Isaac Barrow.)
- Isaac Barrow’s advisors were Vincenzo Viviani and Gilles Personne de Roberval. (We follow Vincenzo Viviani.)
- Vincenzo Viviani’s advisors were **Galileo Galilei** and Evangelista Torricelli. (We follow Galileo Galilei.)
- Galileo Galilei’s advisor was Ostilio Ricci.
- Ostilio Ricci’s advisor was Niccolò Fontana Tartaglia.
- The advisor of Niccolò Fontana Tartaglia is unknown.

Those of a curious nature might now backtrack, exploring the other branches of the graph we did not visit, and discover other famous academic ancestors of Ross.