



There is an interesting anecdote that appeared in Neal Stephenson's spectacular work of fiction, *The Cryptonomicon*, in which Turing plays a supporting role. It seems that Alan Turing had a bicycle with a problematic chain. He discovered that the chain would dislodge itself from the gears after a regular, repeatable, number of revolutions. Young Alan started counting the revolutions of the gears throughout his ride until it was time for the chain to be forced to derail. He would then get off his bike and re-adjust the chain. As this was tedious over longer treks, he finally rigged a mechanical device that would maintain the count and readjust the chain itself. It is said that, it never occurred to him to just buy a new chain to solve the problem.

