

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honored to receive the 2012 Turing Award, and I am deeply touched that so many prior recipients and all of you have chosen to be here on this occasion.

If I am in front of you today, it is because I have many thanks to give. First of all, thanks to my family: papa', mamma, Aurea, Amore Mio, Stefano, and Enrico, GRAZIE DI TUTTO!

Thanks for my scientific education. To Corrado Böhm, my undergraduate adviser in Rome, for leading me from Mathematics to Computer Science; to Shimon Even for introducing me to algorithms; and to the University of California at Berkeley for my graduate education. At the time of my arrival, Berkeley was to theoretical computer science what Göttingen must have been to mathematics at the beginning of last century. With Manuel Blum, Dick Karp and Andrew Yao, I found myself at a place and a time of revolutionary progress. Thank you Manuel, Dick, and Andy for being such a great source of knowledge and inspiration.

Thanks to my fellow graduate students. To David Lichtenstein and Mike Sipser for welcoming me to Berkeley by smartly decoding my Italian, and kindly ignoring my English. To Shafi, Mike Luby and Vijay Vazirani, for forming a band of brothers, and confirming that COLLABORATION wins over COMPETITION any time, and is much more fun too! Most of all, I wish to thank my best friend, Shafi, for many years of wonderful and inspiring collaboration. Together we have put forward a new theory of human interaction. And we have put it to practice too. Thanks to Shafi's multiple personalities we could have more interaction in a single day of joint work than less fortunate souls could hope to have in a year. We have been fortunate in our scientific quest. Fortune, they say, favors the prepared. If so, then She must have made a HUGE exception. In our case, She has favored the naïve and the shameless, but also the fearless. Indeed, I must confess that we were TOTALLY UNprepared to achieve the goals that we set forth for ourselves. I thus feel doubly fortunate that we have actually managed to ACHIEVE them.

Thanks to that special place that is MIT. To Ron Rivest for his scientific mentorship, and Ron AND Gayle for having de facto adopted me in their family. To Barbara Liskov for being so cheerful and yet so protective guardian angels. Thanks to all my colleagues, the best colleagues one could hope for, for their brilliance and their friendship. To our administration for taking a bet with Shafi and me, and for sustaining us all along. When other academic institutions had no courses in cryptography, MIT offered two, giving us the privilege of educating scores of magnificent students. Thanks to my stupendous students for injecting so many ideas in my mind and so much warmth in my heart.

Thanks to my wonderful neighbors, Michael Rabin, Les Valiant, and Leonid Levin, and my wonderful neighbors-in-spirit, Charlie Rackoff, Oded Goldreich and Avi Wigderson, for so much science and fun together, truly a heavenly combination.

Finally, thanks to our GREAT field. Computer science is marking an epochal change in human history. We are conquering a new and vast scientific continent, unstoppably, with the cunning and the impetus of modern *conquistadores*. We are defiantly ignoring traditional borders. Virtually ALL areas of human activity, from communication to business, virtually ALL areas of human knowledge, from biology to

economics to quantum mechanics, are benefitting from our technical and conceptual contributions. But no matter how talented, a collection of individuals risks remaining just that, a COLLECTION. I thus wish to thank our association, the ACM, for its leadership in turning a collection of talented individuals into a formidable scientific COMMUNITY. I am mighty proud to belong to this EXTRAORDINARY, generous, and INSATIABLE community.

Today, *it is both just and proper that we should* celebrate our collective accomplishments and enjoy a moment of relaxation together. On Monday, we shall go back to our battle posts, for new and formidable challenges must be met. And meet them we shall, in our usual fashion: without fear, but with great enthusiasm and unwavering determination. We shall prevail.

Long Live Computer Science!

Silvio Micali

San Francisco, 15 June 2013