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Her research areas are cryptography and number theory. She received her undergraduate degree summa cum laude from Harvard University, a Masters degree and PhD from Princeton University, and a Master of Advanced Studies degree from the University of Cambridge. Before joining UCI she was a Professor of Mathematics at the Ohio State University. Professor Silverberg has been awarded Humboldt, Sloan, IBM, Bunting, and National Science Foundation Fellowships, and she has held visiting positions at industrial labs and international research centers. She consulted for the TV show NUMB3RS, and occasionally writes mathematically-inspired Scottish country dances.