

Ada Lovelace's Computer Program

Apple Time

Elsa Gonsiorowski

June 6, 2025

Apple Time

20 Min	Short Talk
15 Min	Discussion / Breakout
10 Min	Prizes!

- Links are in orange
- Full screen is recommended
- Slides available at gonsie.com/talks

Elsa Gonsiorowski



- HPC I/O Support Specialist in Livermore Computing since 2016
- LC Hotline technical consultant, focused on user engagement and communication
- Working remotely in RI
- Excited about emacs, org-mode, static websites, fish shell, cmake, documentation, crossfit, rowing, knitting

LC: Livermore Computing



HPC Up Close poster session

Join us on June 17, 2pm at the Central Cafe

World's First Computer Program



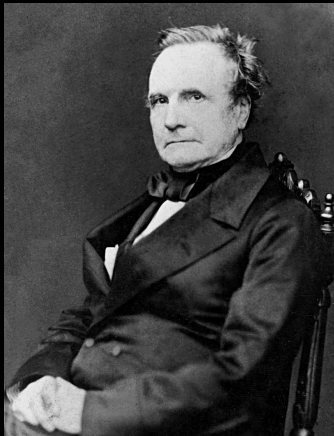
- History of the first computer
- Brief bio for Ada Lovelace
- Overview of some math
- Hypothesis: *Ada Lovelace was the first computer programmer*

Mathematical Tables – 200 years ago

Logarithmi.	Logarithmi.	3	Lo
1 0000000000000000	34 5514,78917,04116	67 10 16	
2 0010,29999,66398	35 5540,00044,15118	68 10 32	
3 0077,11154,71966	36 5571,02100,06729	69 10 48	
4 0010,19991,11796	37 5582,01724,06700	70 10 48	
5 0089,70004,11601	38 5597,83596,61681	71 10 48	
6 0077,11154,71966	39 5591,04607,01610	72 10 48	
7 0010,19991,11796	40 5600,19991,11796	73 10 48	
8 0089,70004,11601	41 5612,83596,61681	74 10 48	
9 0077,11154,71966	42 5612,83596,61681	75 10 48	
10 0010,19991,11796	43 5612,83596,61681	76 10 48	
11 0089,70004,11601	44 5612,83596,61681	77 10 48	
12 0077,11154,71966	45 5612,83596,61681	78 10 48	
13 0010,19991,11796	46 5612,83596,61681	79 10 48	
14 0089,70004,11601	47 5612,83596,61681	80 10 48	
15 0077,11154,71966	48 5612,83596,61681	81 10 48	
16 0010,19991,11796	49 5612,83596,61681	82 10 48	
17 0089,70004,11601	50 5612,83596,61681	83 10 48	
18 0077,11154,71966	51 5612,83596,61681	84 10 48	
19 0010,19991,11796	52 5612,83596,61681	85 10 48	
20 0089,70004,11601	53 5612,83596,61681	86 10 48	
21 0077,11154,71966	54 5612,83596,61681	87 10 48	
22 0010,19991,11796	55 5612,83596,61681	88 10 48	
23 0089,70004,11601	56 5612,83596,61681	89 10 48	
24 0077,11154,71966	57 5612,83596,61681	90 10 48	
25 0010,19991,11796	58 5612,83596,61681	91 10 48	
26 0089,70004,11601	59 5612,83596,61681	92 10 48	
27 0077,11154,71966	60 5612,83596,61681	93 10 48	
28 0010,19991,11796	61 5612,83596,61681	94 10 48	
29 0089,70004,11601	62 5612,83596,61681	95 10 48	
30 0077,11154,71966	63 5612,83596,61681	96 10 48	
31 0010,19991,11796	64 5612,83596,61681	97 10 48	
32 0089,70004,11601	65 5612,83596,61681	98 10 48	
33 0077,11154,71966	66 5612,83596,61681	99 10 48	
34 0010,19991,11796	67 5612,83596,61681	100 10 48	

- Calculated values of logarithmic and trigonometric functions
- Built by hand by human "computers"
- Used to do rapid multiplication, division, and exponentiation

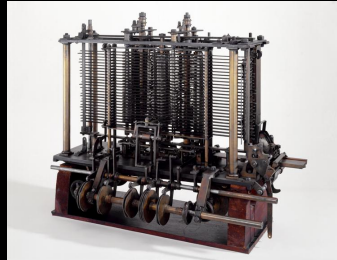
Charles Babbage and the Difference Engine



- 1791–1871
- Idea for a *Difference Engine* to mechanically do the work of human computers
 - Began development in 1822
 - would have composed 25,000 parts, weighed 15 tons, stood 8 feet tall

Analytical Engine

- Design began in 1833, described in 1837
- General purpose, i.e., Turing Complete
- Arithmetic logic unit, control flow (conditional branching and loops), memory, printer, and bell



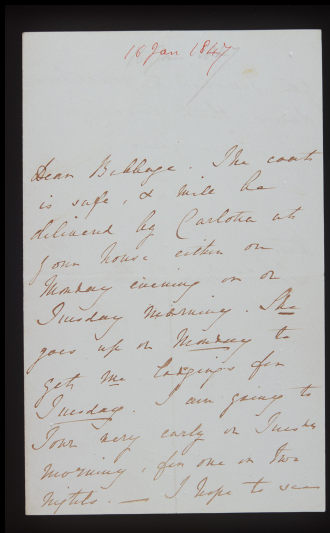
Augusta Ada King (née Byron), Countess of Lovelace

- Dec. 10, 1815–Nov. 27, 1852
- Child of poet Lord Byron and Lady Byron
- 1833: Met Charles Babbage at a party
- 1835: Married William King who became Earl of Lovelace



Babbage and Young Lady Byron

- 1833: Met at a party (Babbage age 41, Ada age 17)
- Ada had extensive mathematics education to "ward off wild, romantic sensibility" of her father
- They were in the same social circle and wrote each other frequently



Sketch of the Analytical Engine

SCIENTIFIC MEMOIRS,

SELECTED FROM

THE TRANSACTIONS OF

FOREIGN ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE

AND LEARNED SOCIETIES,

AND FROM

FOREIGN JOURNALS.

EDITED BY

RICHARD TAYLOR, F.S.A.,

FELLOW OF THE LINNEAN, GEOLOGICAL, ASTRONOMICAL, ANATOMIC, STATISTICAL
AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETIES OF LONDON;

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MOSCOW.

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—DOBSON, PHILADELPHIA;—AND GOODRICH, NEW YORK.

1843.

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ARTICLE XXIX.

Sketch of the Analytical Engine invented by Charles Babbage
Esq. By L. F. MENABREA, of Turin, Officer of the Military Engineers.

[From the Bibliothèque Universelle de Genève, No. 82. October 1842.]

[BEFORE submitting to our readers the translation of M. Menabrea's memoir 'On the Mathematical Principles of the ANALYTICAL ENGINE' invented by Mr. Babbage, we shall present to them a list of the printed papers connected with the subject, and also of those relating to the Difference Engine by which it was preceded.

For information on Mr. Babbage's "Difference Engine," which is but slightly alluded to by M. Menabrea, we refer the reader to the following sources:—

1. Letter to Sir Humphry Davy, Bart., P.R.S., on the Application of Machinery to Calculate and Print Mathematical Tables. By Charles Babbage, Esq., F.R.S. London, July 1822. Reprinted, with a Report of the Council of the Royal Society, by order of the House of Commons, May 1823.

2. On the Application of Machinery to the Calculation of Astronomical and Mathematical Tables. By Charles Babbage, Esq.—Memoirs of the Astronomical Society, vol. 1. part 2. London, 1822.

3. Address to the Astronomical Society by Henry Thomas Colebrooke, Esq., F.R.S., President, on presenting the first Gold Medal of the Society to Charles Babbage, Esq., for the invention of the Calculating Engine.—Memoirs of the Astronomical Society. London, 1822.

4. On the Determination of the General Term of a New Class of Infinite Series. By Charles Babbage, Esq.—Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society.

5. On Mr. Babbage's New Machine for Calculating and Printing Mathematical Tables.—Letter from Francis Bailey, Esq., F.R.S., to M. Schumacher. No. 46, Astronomische Nachrichten. Reprinted in the Philosophical Magazine, May 1824.

6. On a Method of expressing by Signs the Action of Ma-

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Bernoulli Numbers

$$\sum n = \frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{1}{2}n$$

$$\sum n^2 = \frac{1}{3}n^3 + \frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{1}{6}n$$

$$\sum n^3 = \frac{1}{4}n^4 + \frac{1}{2}n^3 + \frac{1}{4}n^2$$

$$\sum n^m = \frac{1}{m+1} (B_0 n^{m+1} \pm \binom{m+1}{1} B_1 n^m + \binom{m+1}{2} B_2 n^{m-1} + \dots)$$

$$B_7 = -1(A_0 + B_1 A_1 + B_3 A_3 + B_5 A_5)$$

$$A_0 = -\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2n-1}{2n+1}$$

$$A_1 = \frac{2n}{2}$$

$$A_3 = \frac{2n(2n-1)(2n-2)}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}$$

$$A_5 = \frac{2n(2n-1)(2n-2)(2n-3)(2n-4)}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6}$$

Notes from the Translator

Note A Promise of a machine that can perform arbitrary mathematical operations

Note G *Lady Lovelace's Objection* – despite its power, the machine does not "think"

Note D "Diagram of development" for calculating
$$B_7 = -1(A_0 + B_1 A_1 + B_3 A_3 + B_5 A_5)$$

[illegible]

Number of Operation.	Nature of Operation.	Variables acted upon.	Variables receiving results.	Indication of change in the value on any Variable.	Statement of Results.	Data.										Working Variables.										Result Variables.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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Program Snippet ([GitHub Gist](#))

```
// ----- A0 -----  
/* 01 */ v4 = v5 = v6 = v2 * v3;           // 2n  
/* 02 */ v4 = v4 - v1;                     // 2n - 1  
/* 03 */ v5 = v5 + v1;                     // 2n + 1  
  
// In Lovelace's diagram, the below appears as v5 / v4, wh  
/* 04 */ v11 = v4 / v5;                    // (2n - 1) / (2n +  
  
/* 05 */ v11 = v11 / v2;                   // (1 / 2) * ((2n -  
/* 06 */ v13 = v13 - v11;                  // -(1 / 2) * ((2n -  
/* 07 */ v10 = v3 - v1;                    // (n - 1), set coun  
  
// On the first loop this calculates B3A3 and adds it on t  
// On the second loop this calculates B5A5 and adds it on  
while (v10 > 0)  
{  
    // ----- B3A3, B5A5 -----
```

Resources

- *What Did Ada Lovelace's Program Actually Do?*
TwoBitHistory.org
- Sketch of the Analytical Engine
- Translation of Note D to C. (gist)
- Wikipedia

Breakout Discussions

- Introduce yourself to your group; what are you working on this summer?
- What is the most difficult bug you've encountered?
- What is the best thing you've attended so far this summer?
And/or what are you most looking forward to?

Prizes!

A prize will be awarded to anyone who shares their bug story at the end of the hour

Tools

Created with [Emacs](#), [Org Mode](#), and \LaTeX /Beamer.
View the [source](#).