

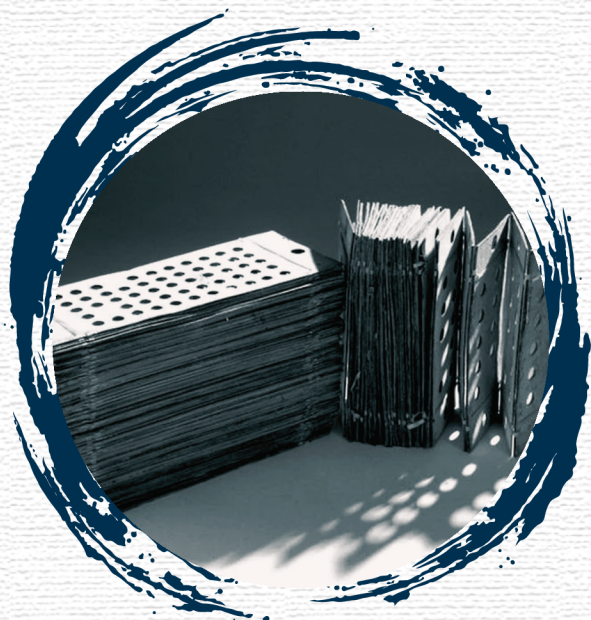
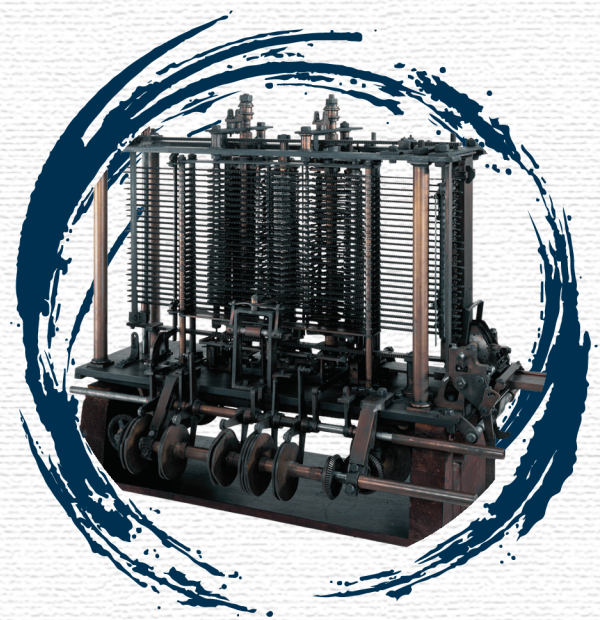


Ada Lovelace

1815 - 1852

The World's First Mechanical Brain

Long before iPads or laptops existed, an inventor named Charles Babbage designed a gigantic machine made of brass gears and wheels called the Analytical Engine. While most adults just saw a giant calculator for math problems, Ada Lovelace saw something magical. She realized that if you could teach this machine how to follow rules, it could be used to create art, write words, and even make music!



Talking to Machines with Paper

To tell this giant machine what to do, Ada used long strips of thick paper with holes punched into them, called punch cards. By arranging these holes in a specific order, she wrote a secret code of step-by-step instructions. This became the very first computer program ever written! Ada proved that with the right instructions, a machine could "think" and solve problems all on its own.

Algorithm (al-go-rith-um): A fancy word for a step-by-step recipe or list of instructions that tells a computer exactly what to do. Ada was the master of writing these!