



Ada Lovelace was born in 1815 in London. Although it was highly unusual for the time, Ada's mother insisted that Ada have tutors in math and science. When Ada was 17, she met mathematician Charles Babbage, a professor at the University of Cambridge. Charles was impressed by Ada's mathematical mind and called her an "enchantress of numbers." Ada and Charles remained lifelong friends.

In 1837, Charles had an idea for a new kind of machine called the "analytical engine." Although it was never built - it is considered to be the ancestor of the modern computers used today. Ada saw the potential of the idea, and in 1843 she translated a description of the engine from French to English. As she translated, she corrected mistakes that Charles had originally made and added her own notes to the translation - they were three times longer than the original! Her notes included the first published computer algorithm: it broke down how the machine could be used to compute a complex sequence of numbers. Because of this algorithm, Ada Lovelace is often called the world's first programmer.