

The Ada Lovelace Bicentenary Lectures on Computability, December 2015 – January 2016

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Proving the Church-Turing Thesis

Monday, 25 January, 11:15-12:15

Ada Lovelace wrote presciently about the possibilities and limitations of digital numerical calculations. She recognized that Babbage's Analytical Engine was sui generis and wrote that "the engine [is] the material expression of any indefinite function of any degree of generality and complexity." This we now know was overstating her case. I will discuss the recent formalization of the notion of effective computation and some of its consequences vis-à-vis computability and complexity of computation.



Watch the video

