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The History of Software Engineering

Grady Booch

IBM Fellow & Chief Scientist for Software Engineering

Email: gbooch@us.ibm.com

Twitter: [@grady_booch](https://twitter.com/grady_booch)

Web: computingthehumanexperience.com





Imhotep is considered the first engineer; he lived in Egypt around the 27th century BCE, and served as the chancellor to the pharaoh Djoser, architect of the step pyramid, and high priest of the sun god Ra.

In the 19th century BCE, the Code of Hammurabi had this to say: *If a builder erect a house or a man and do not make its construction firm, and the house on which he built collapse and cause the death of the owner of the house, that builder shall be put to death.*





Ismail al-Jazari is another candidate for consideration as the first engineer; he lived in Turkey around the 12th century CE, during the Islamic Golden Age. Author of *The Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices*, he is also considered the father of robotics.

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WYOMING

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BOARD OF EXAMINING ENGINEERS

Charles E. Hayden
Conrad J. Hulst





The term *systems engineering* dates back to Bell Telephone Laboratories in the early 1940s, with major applications of systems engineering during World War II.



Worldwide, engineering is largely an occupational closure, requiring graduation from an accredited college or university, the passing of a standard examination, and experience working as an apprentice under other licensed engineers.





Annie Cannon

The first computers were human (and, for the most part, women).



George Stibitz

A pioneer in Boolean logic circuits, Stibitz coined the term *digital* around 1942.



John Tukey

Co-inventor of the Fast-Fourier Transform algorithm, Tukey coined the term *software* in 1952.



Prompted by the so-called software crisis - marked by the rapid rise of computational power together with the growing complexity of problems to be addressed - NATO held a Software Engineering Conference in 1968 and again in 1969. Bauer proposed the term *software engineering* to mean the “establishment and use of sound engineering principles to economically obtain software that is reliable and works on real machines efficiently.”



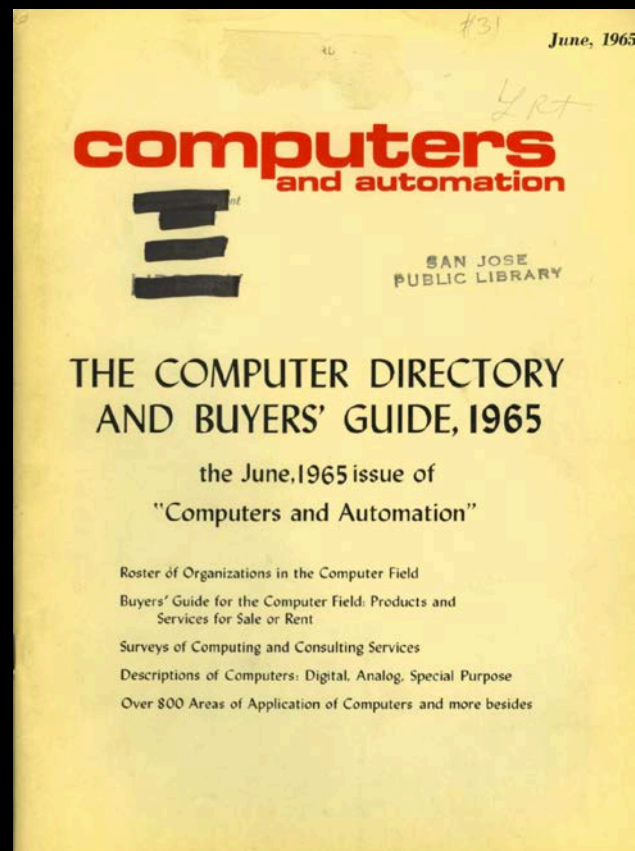


Anthony Oettinger

In the August 1966 issue of *Communications of the ACM*, Oettinger had this to say: “A concern with the *science* of computing and information processing, while undeniably of the utmost importance and an historic root of our organization is, alone, too exclusive. We must recognize ourselves as members of an *engineering* profession, be it hardware engineering or software engineering, a profession without artificial and irrelevant boundaries like that between ‘scientific’ and ‘business’ applications.”

S9. SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Abacus Information Management Co.,
P.O. Box 399, New York, N.Y.
10008 / systems software engineering / DESCR: computer programming, systems analysis; feasibility, hardware configurations; input output, real time controls / by negotiation / S9





Margaret Hamilton

First a developer for SAGE and then the lead developer for the Skylab and Apollo flight software, Hamilton coined the term *software engineering* around 1963 or 1964 while working at the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory at MIT.



Grace Hopper

“To me programming is more than an important practical art. It is also a gigantic undertaking in the foundations of knowledge.”



Edsger Dijkstra

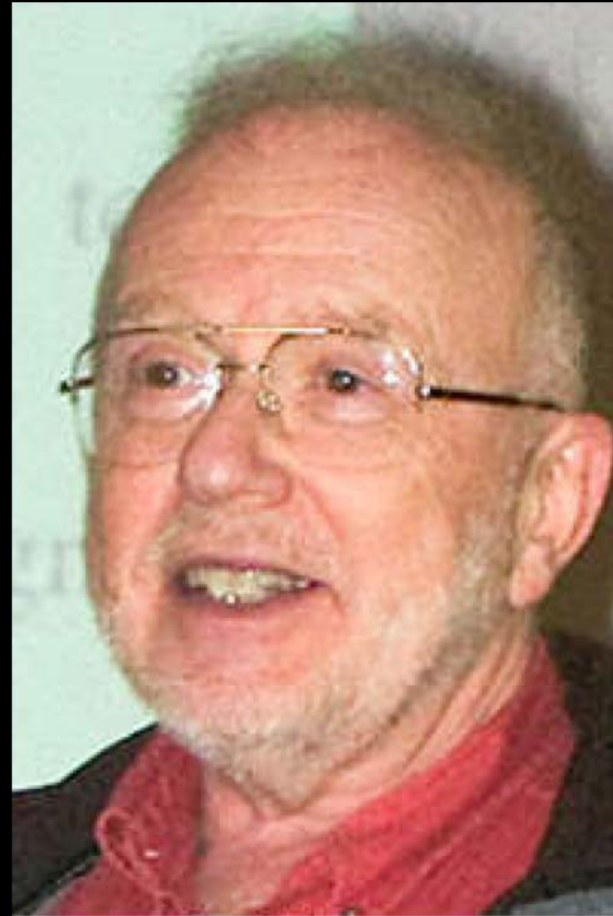
“The art of programming is the art of organizing complexity.”



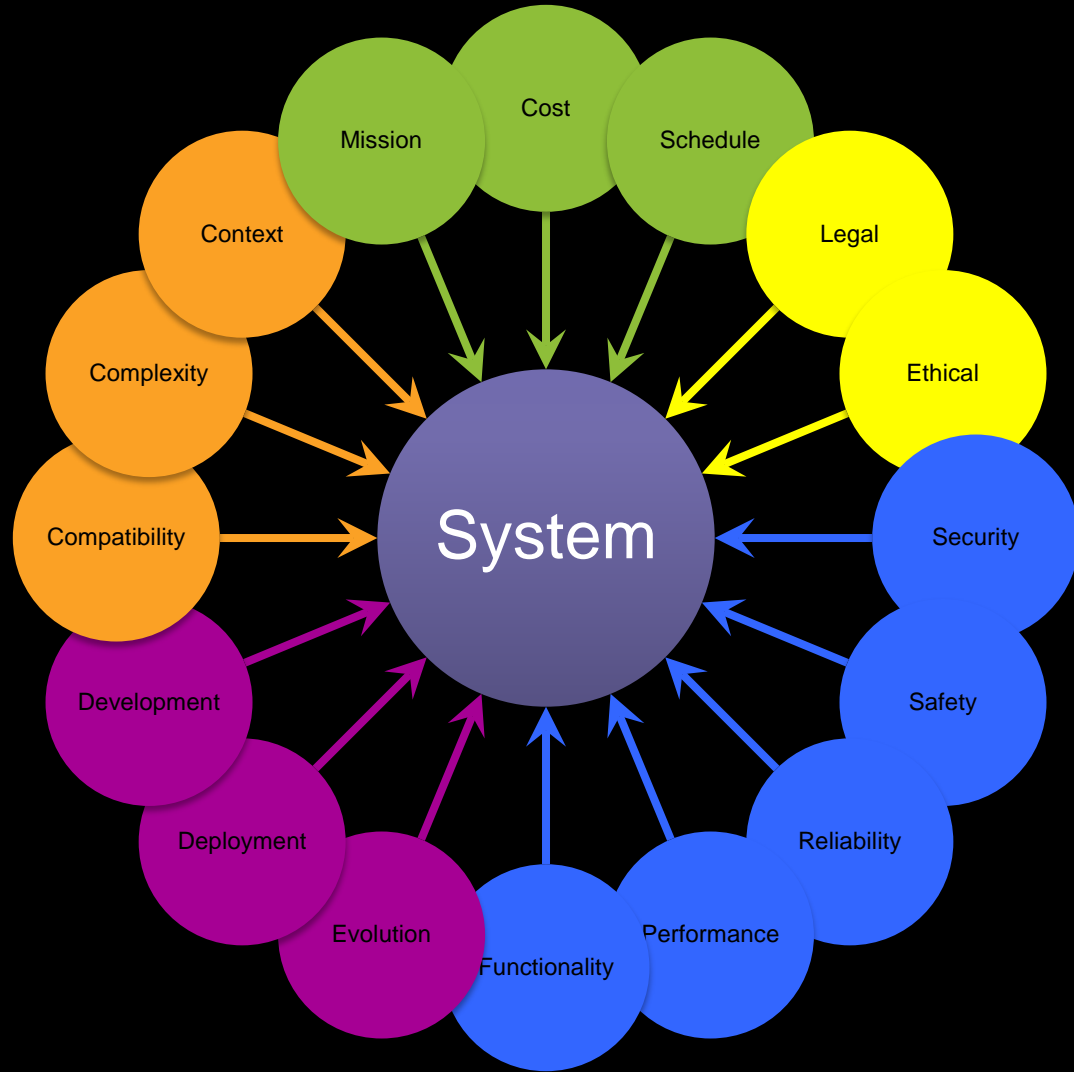
Donald Knuth

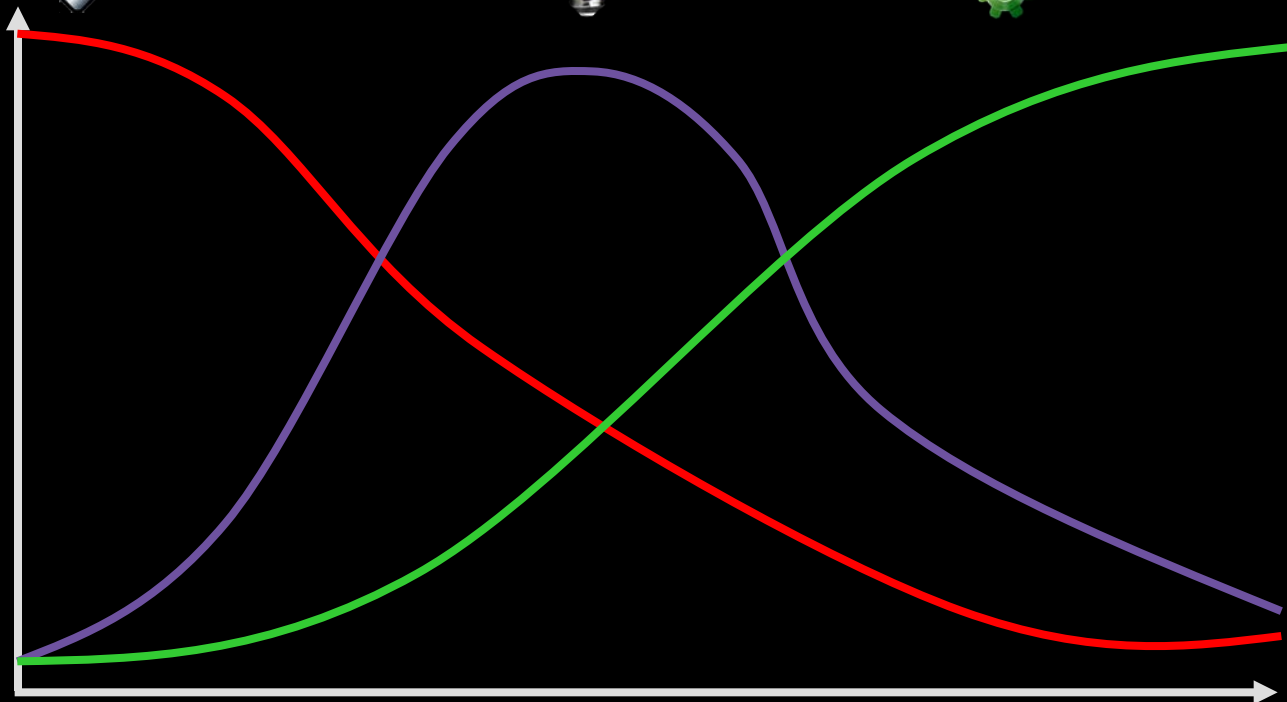
“Computer programming is an art, because it applies accumulated knowledge to the world, and especially because it produces objects of beauty.”

“Software engineering is often treated as a branch of computer science. This is akin to regarding chemical engineering as a branch of chemistry. We need both chemists and chemical engineers but they are very different. Chemists are scientists, chemical engineers are engineers. Software engineering and computer science have the same relationship.”



David Parnas





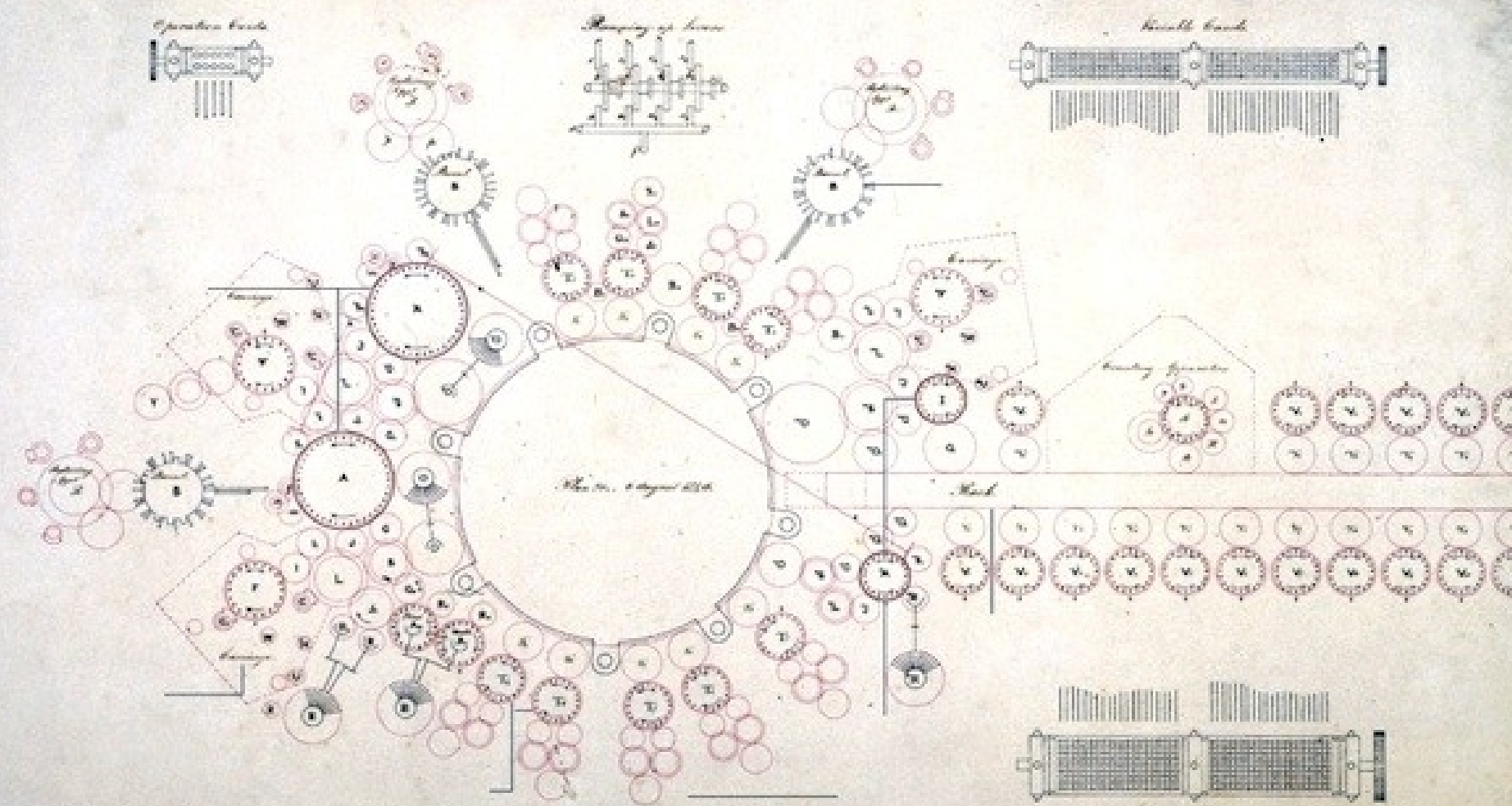
Operator's bench



Reaping up line

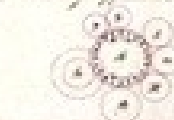


Knuckle bench

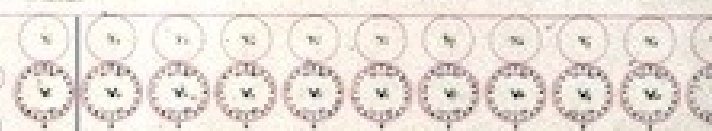


The No. 1 August 1850

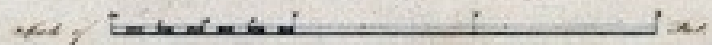
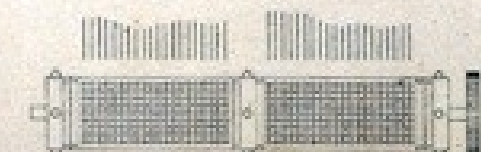
Knocking operator



Knocking bench



Knocking bench





programming (1842)



Boolean algebra (1847)





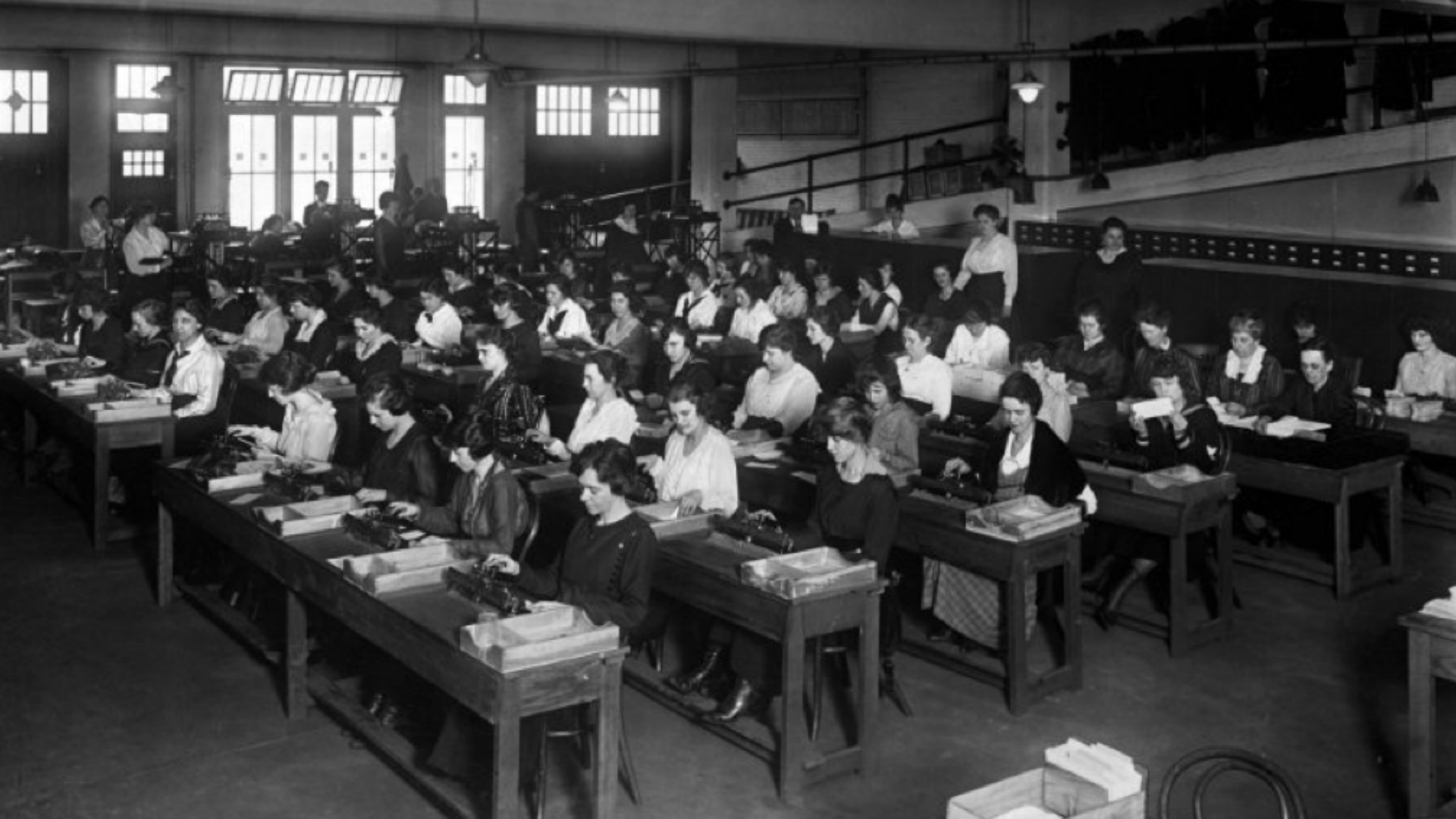
Annie Cannon

human computing (1896)



Henrietta Leavitt

human computing (1896)





Frank&Lillian Gilbreth

process charts (1921)



Edith Clarke

analysis (1921)





Gertrude Blanch

human computing (1938)



J. Presper Eckert

punch card methods (1940)





George Stibitz

relay logic (1937)



John von Neumann

theoretical computer science
(1944)



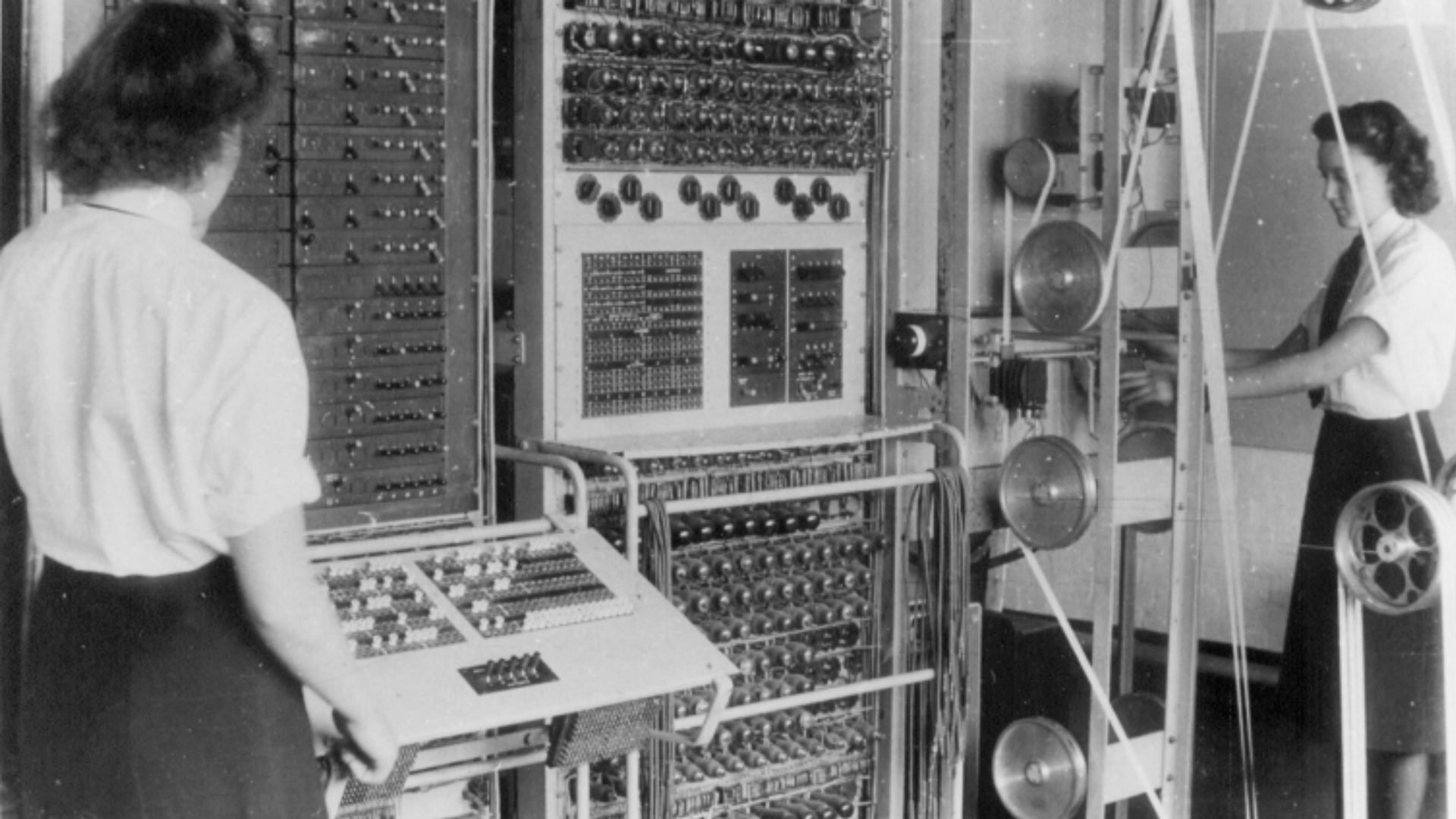
Howard Aiken

electromechanical
computation (1944)



Grace Hopper

machine-independent
programming (1952)





theoretical computer
science (1936)



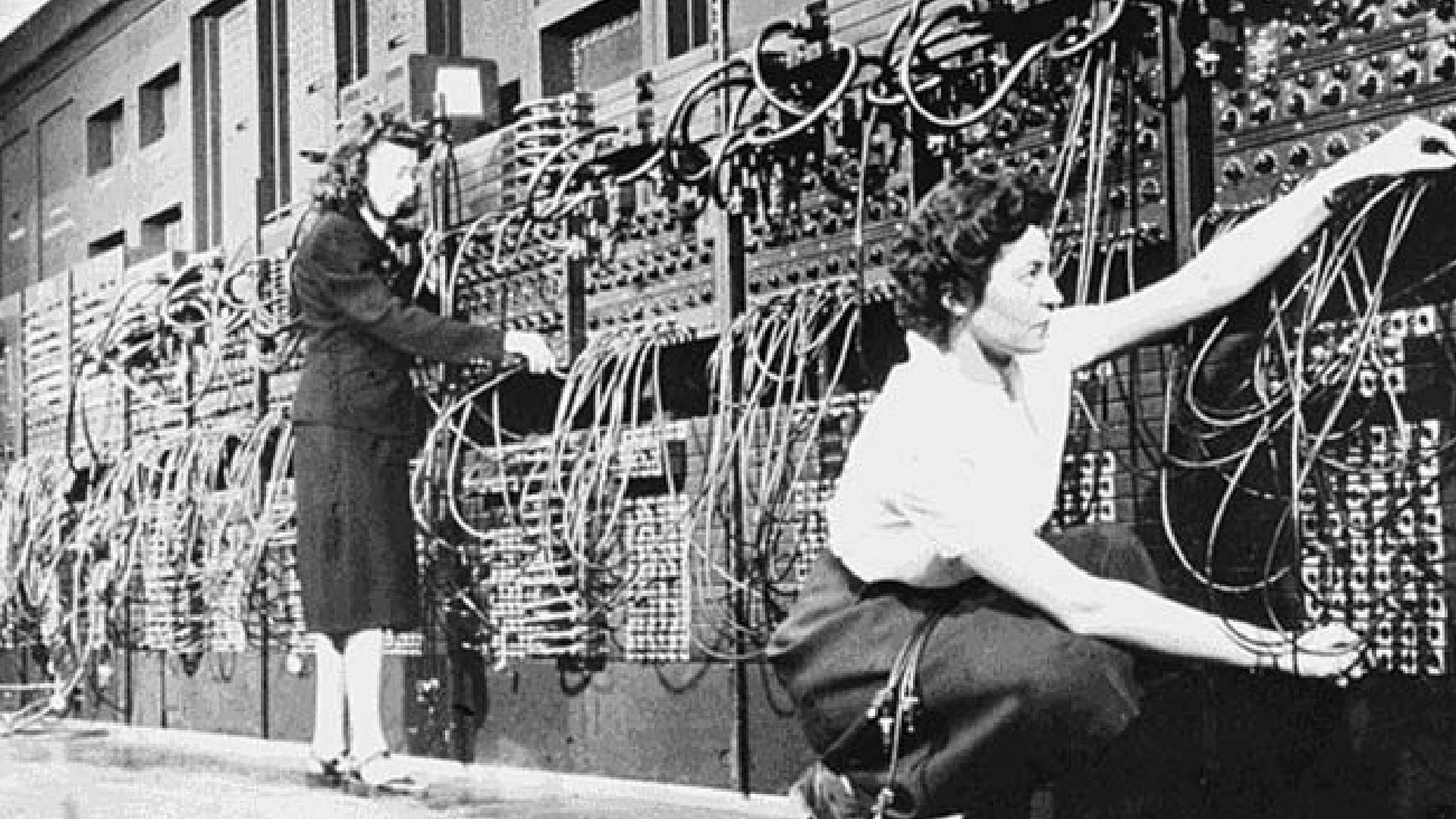
programmable computation
(1943)



workflow (1943)



high order languages (1936)





programming (1946)



programming (1946)



programming (1946)



programming (1946)



programming (1946)



Tom Kilburn

programming (1948)



Maurice Wilkes

subroutine (1949)



Stanley Gill

subroutine (1949)



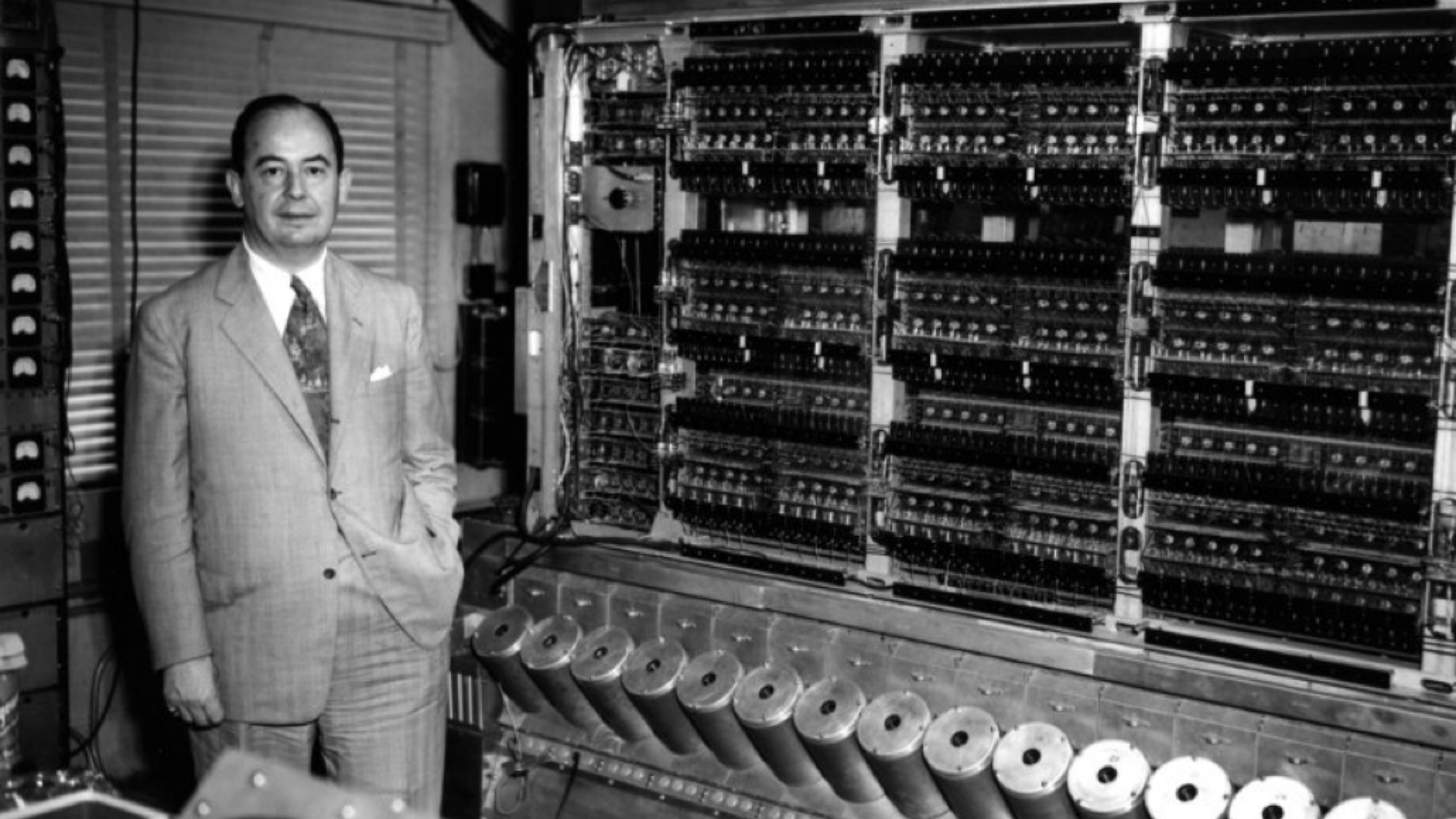
J Presper Eckert

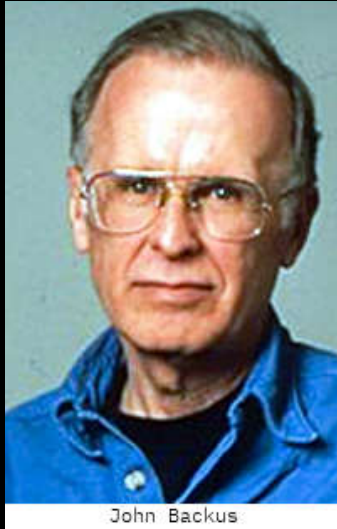
programming (1949)



John Mauchley

programming (1949)





John Backus

imperative
programming (1946)



Herman Goldstein

flowchart (1947)



John von Neumann

flowchart (1947)



1955



John Pinkerton

operating system (1951)



Grace Hopper

imperative
programming (1960)



Robert Bemer

imperative
programming (1960)



Jean Sammet

imperative
programming (1960)





real time computing
(1951)



program management (1957)



time sharing (1959)



programming services (1959)





Fred Brooks

project management (1964)



Larry Constantine

modular
programming/coupling &
cohesion/data flow (1968)



Edsger Dijkstra

structured programming
(1969)



Robert Floyd

formal systems (1967)



Ole-Johan Dahl

object-oriented
programming (1967)



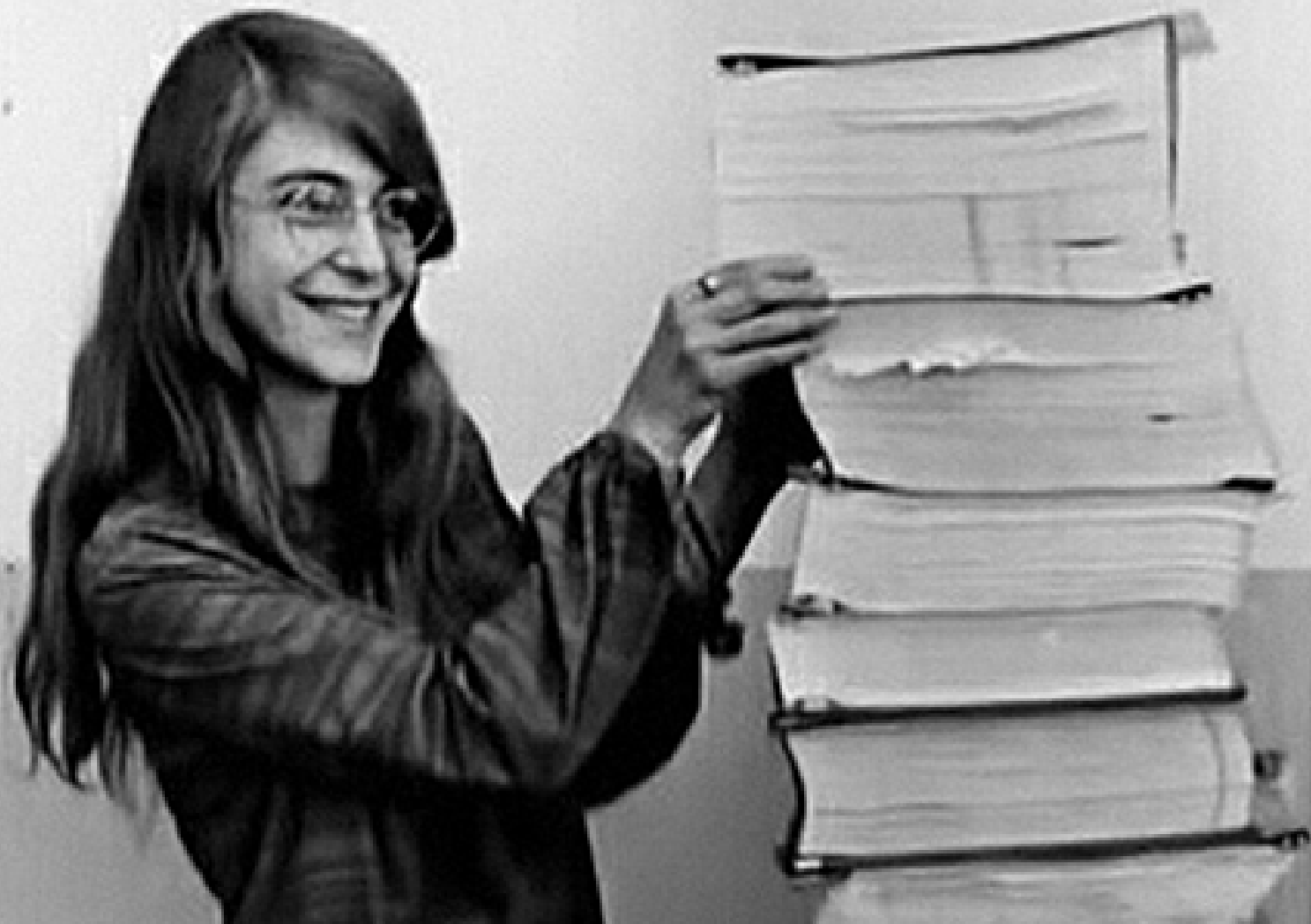
Kristen Nygaard

object-oriented
programming (1967)



Tony Hoare

formal systems (1969)



“Software during the early days of this project was treated like a stepchild and not taken as seriously as other engineering disciplines, such as hardware engineering; and it was regarded as an art and as magic, not a science. I had always believed that both art and science were involved in its creation, but at that time most thought otherwise. Knowing this, I fought to bring the software legitimacy so that it (and those building it) would be given its due respect and thus I began to use the term ‘software engineering’ to distinguish it from hardware and other kinds of engineering; yet, treat each type of engineering as part of the overall systems engineering process. When I first started using this phrase, it was considered to be quite amusing. It was an ongoing joke for a long time. They liked to kid me about my radical ideas. Software eventually and necessarily gained the same respect as any other discipline.”

<https://medium.com/@verne/margaret-hamilton-the-engineer-who-took-the-apollo-to-the-moon-7d550c73d3fa>





Winston Royce

process (1970)



Nicklaus Wirth

stepwise
refinement/abstraction
(1971/1976)



David Parnas

information hiding
(1972)



Barbara Liskov

abstract data types
(1974)



Peter Chen

entity-relationship
modeling (1976)



Douglas Ross

SADT (1969)



Larry Constantine

structured design
(1972)



Ed Yourdon

structured design
(1972)



Michael Jackson

Jackson structured
design (1975)

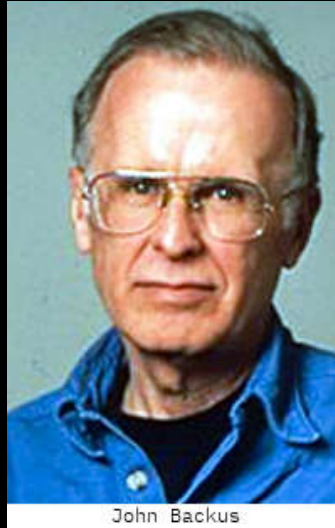


Tom Demarco

structured analysis
and system specification
(1978)



software inspection (1976)



functional programming
(1977)



distributed computing (1978)





1997



Booch method (1986)



OMT (1990)



Objectory (1990)



Stephen Mellor

object-oriented
analysis (1988)



Ed Yourdon

structured analysis (1989)



Rebecca Wirfs-Brock

Responsibility
driven design (1989)



Peter Coad

object-oriented
analysis and design (1990)



Barry Boehm

software engineering
economics (1981)
spiral model (1988)



Victor Basili

empirical software
engineering (1986)



Brad Cox

component based
software engineering
(1986)



Harlan Mills

clean room software
engineering (1987)



Watts Humphrey

capability maturity
model (1988)

Structured Systems
Analysis and Design
Methodologies (1981)

Defense Systems
Software Development
(1985)



1984



1993



James Martin

Information engineering/CASE
(1981)



John Zachman

Zachman framework (1987)



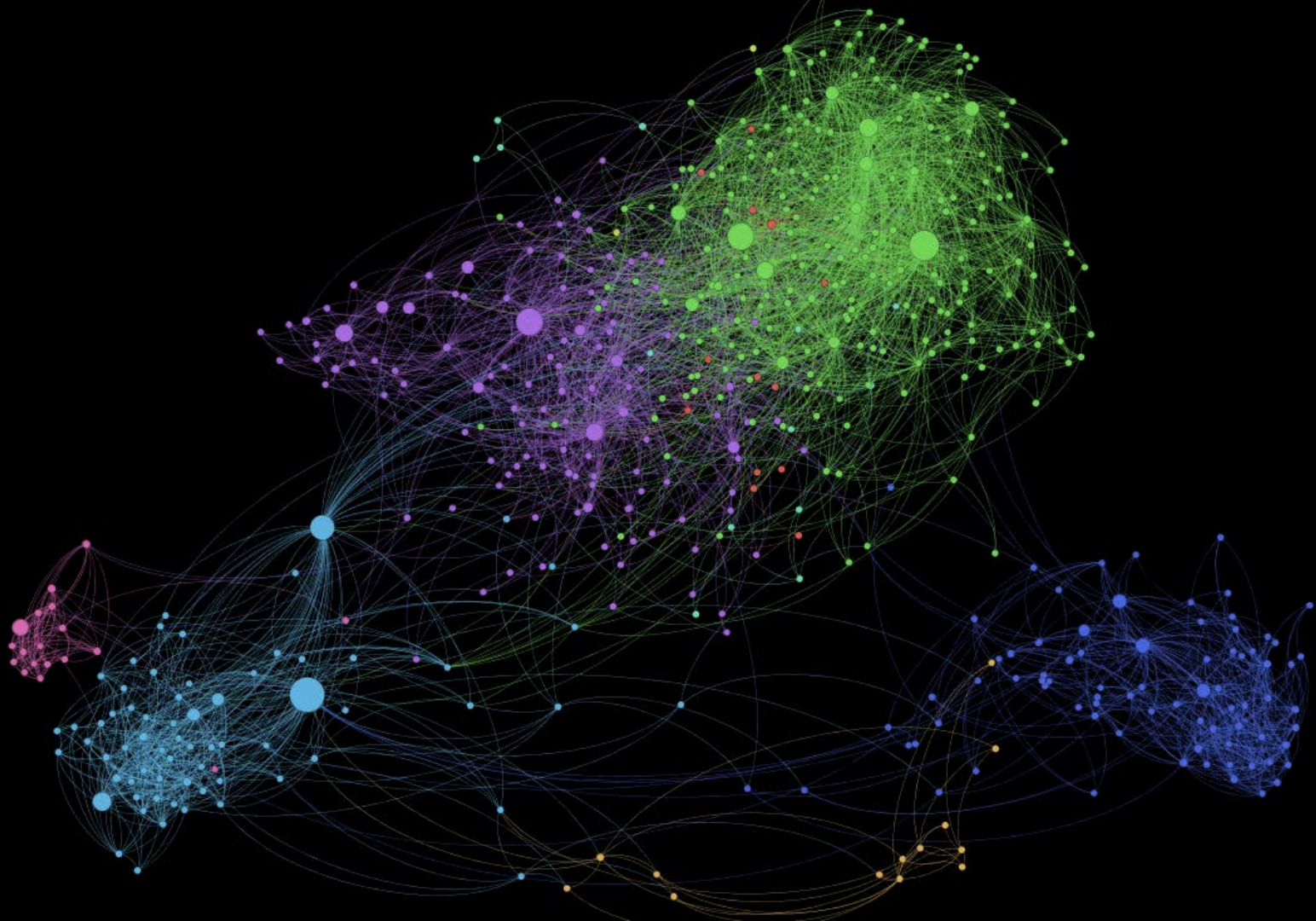
Literate programming (1983)



free software (1983)



visual programming (1991)





SCRUM (1995)



extreme programming (1996)



refactoring (1999)



Rational Unified Process
(2000)

1993



Design patterns (1994)



Rational Unified
Process/software architecture
(1995)



software architecture (1996)



configuration management
(1997)



open source (1997)



outsourcing (2001)





2001



Linus Torvalds

git (2005)



Jim Coplien

organizational patterns
(2005)



Jeannette Wing

computational
thinking (2006)



Joel Spolsky

Stackoverflow (2007)



Robert Martin

clean code (2008)





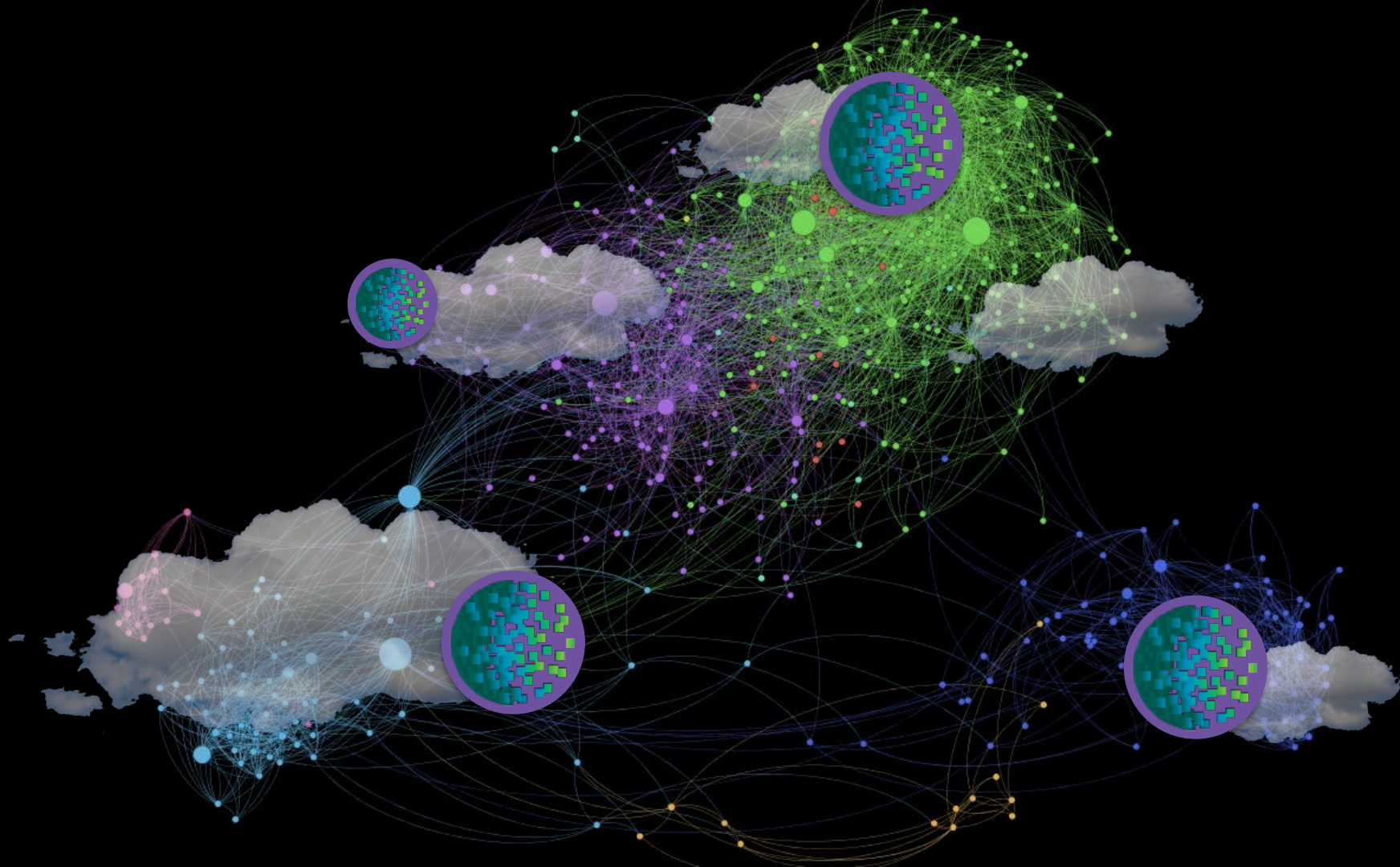
Andrew Shafer

devops (2008)



Patrick Debois

devops (2008)





platform computing (2000)



platform computing (2006)





Physics

Algorithm

Architecture

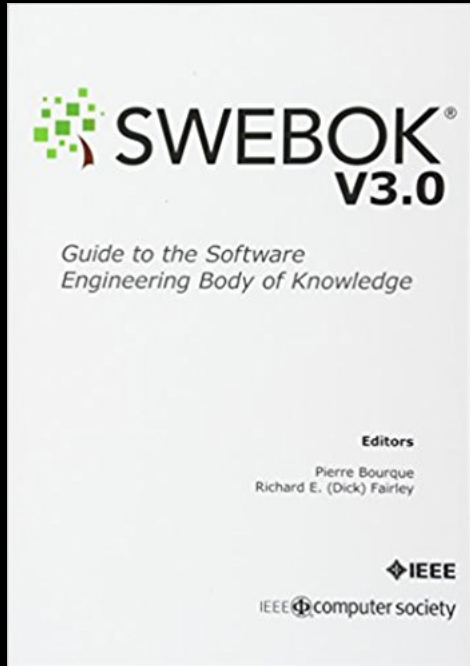
Organization

Economics

Human

Computer science

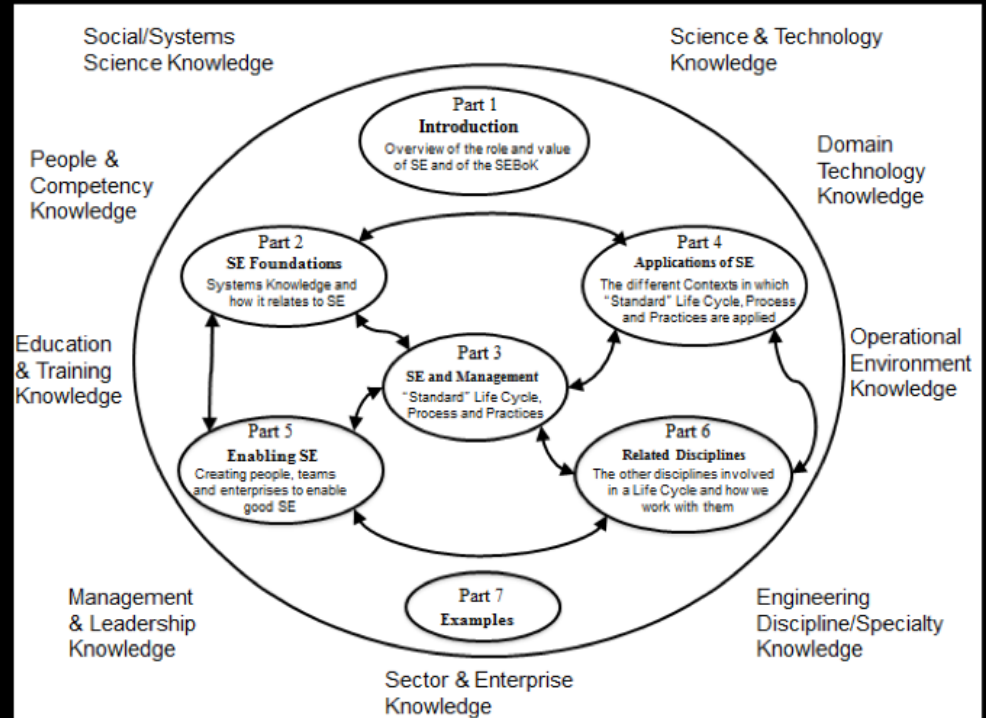
Software engineering



The *Software Engineering Body of Knowledge* was first released in 2004 (its current version was published in 2014), and addresses

- Software requirements
- Software design
- Software construction
- Software testing
- Software maintenance
- Software configuration management
- Software engineering management
- Software engineering process
- Software engineering models and methods

The *Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge* is an effort by the International Council of Systems Engineering (INCOSE), the Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC), and the IEEE Computer Society to codify the best practices of systems engineering.





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graph LR; A[Mathematical] --> B[Symbolic]; B --> C[Personal]; C --> D[Distributed & Connected]; D --> E[Imagined Realities];
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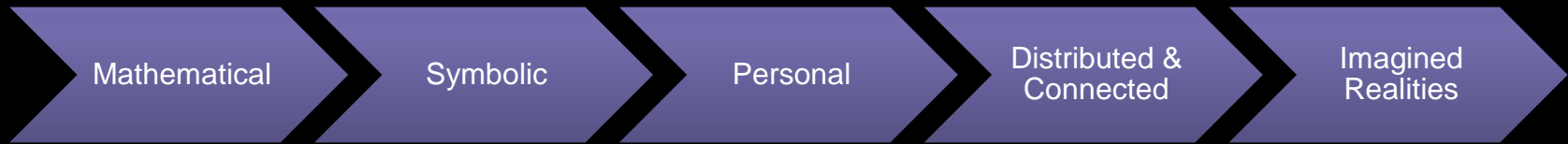
Mathematical

Symbolic

Personal

Distributed &
Connected

Imagined
Realities



Fundamentals

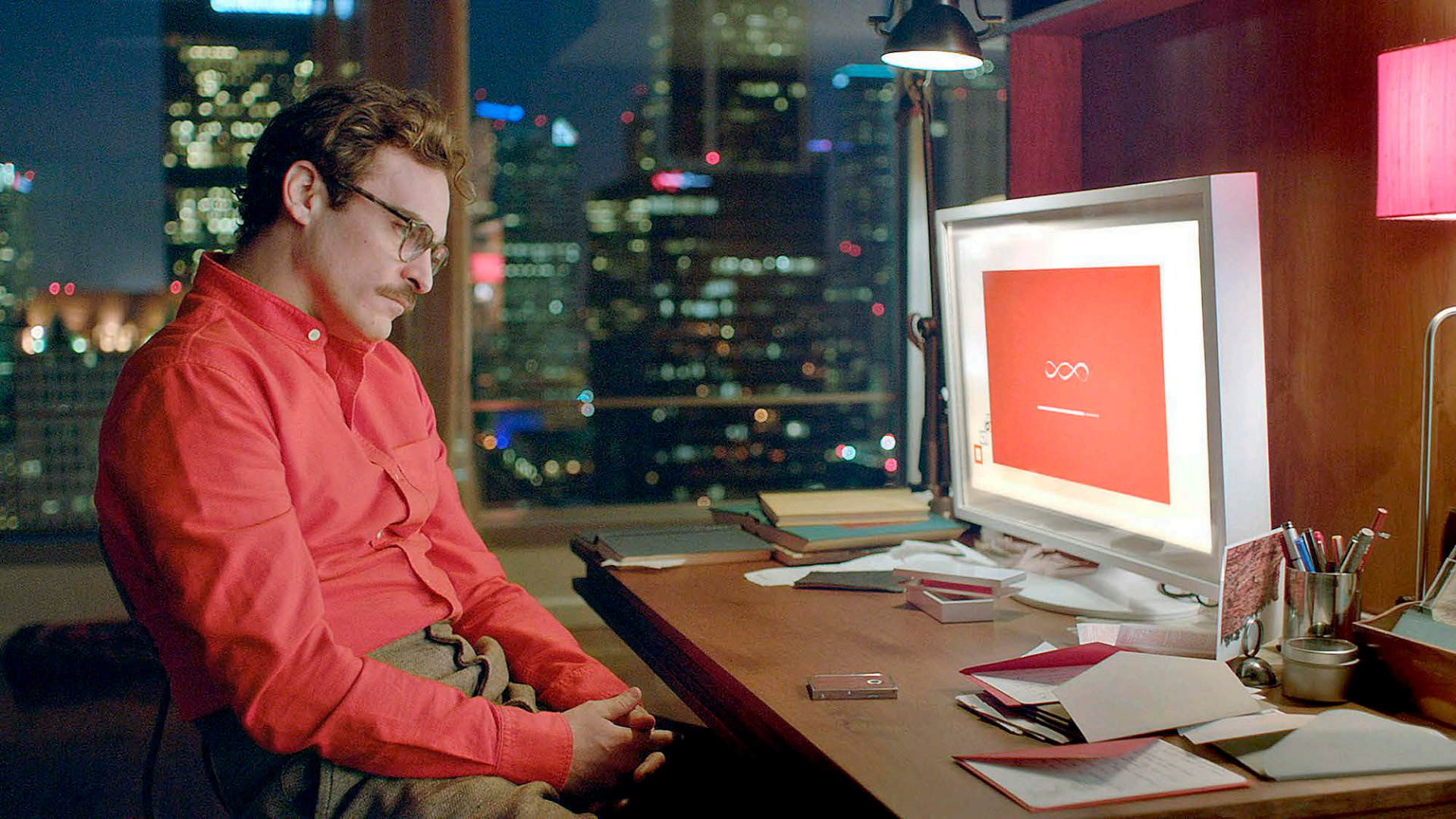
Managing complexity

Human/computer interaction

Managing scale

Ethical and moral issues







The fundamentals always apply:

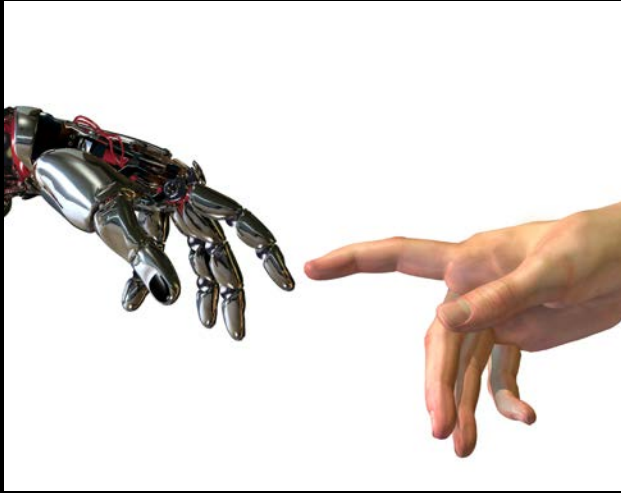
- Crisp abstractions
- Clear separation of concerns
- Balanced distribution of responsibilities
- Simplicity

Grow a system through the iterative, incremental, and continuous release of its executable architecture.

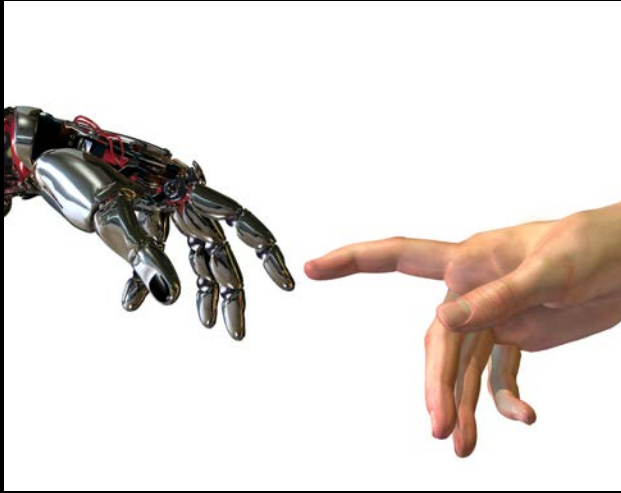
Still, there is work to be done:

- Orchestrating hybrid symbolic, connectionist, and quantum models of computation
- The architectural pendulum
- The edge/cloud pendulum
- Scale, in the presence of untrusted components, legacy of considerable inertia, and the general public





Software is the invisible writing that whispers
the stories of possibility to our hardware...



...and you are the storytellers.

Grady Booch

IBM Fellow & Chief Scientist for Software Engineering

Email: gbooch@us.ibm.com

Twitter: [@grady_booch](https://twitter.com/grady_booch)

Web: computingthehumanexperience.com



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