

Today in Math History...

-4 October 1903

John Atanasoff born.

Together with Clifford Berry he designed the first electronic digital computer.



The Atanasoff-Berry Computer (ABC) was the first electronic digital computing device. Conceived in 1937, the machine was capable of solving up to 29 simultaneous linear equations and was successfully tested, though its input/output mechanism was still unreliable in 1942 when its inventors left Iowa State College for World War II assignments. The ABC pioneered important elements of modern computing, including binary arithmetic and electronic switching elements, but its special-purpose nature and lack of a changeable, stored program distinguish it from modern computers.