

# Cholesky, Taussky, Todd, Toeplitz and Turing: A story of love, death, wars, and matrix factorisations

NUI Galway Mathematics Society, 25 Nov 2011







**Andre-Louis Cholesky,**  
15 Oct 1875 – 31 Aug 1918





**Andre-Louis Cholesky,**  
15 Oct 1875 – 31 Aug 1918





**Andre-Louis Cholesky,**  
15 Oct 1875 – 31 Aug 1918





$$Mx = b \quad M \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, m > n$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} & m_{23} \\ m_{31} & m_{32} & m_{33} \\ m_{41} & m_{42} & m_{43} \\ m_{51} & m_{52} & m_{53} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \\ b_5 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$Mx = b \quad M \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, m > n$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} & m_{23} \\ m_{31} & m_{32} & m_{33} \\ m_{41} & m_{42} & m_{43} \\ m_{51} & m_{52} & m_{53} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \\ b_5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$r = b - Mx.$$

Find  $x$  that minimises  $\|r\|_2 = \sqrt{r^T r} \iff M^T Mx = M^T b$ ,

Because:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \lim_{e \rightarrow 0} \frac{(M(x+e) - b)^T (M(x+e) - b) - (Mx - b)^T (Mx - b)}{\|e\|} \\ &= \lim_{e \rightarrow 0} \frac{2e^T (M^T Mx - M^T b) + e^T M^T M e}{\|e\|} \end{aligned}$$



$$A = M^T M \iff \begin{cases} A \text{ is symmetric positive definite (spd)} \\ x^T A x > 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}. \\ Ax = \lambda x \implies \lambda > 0. \\ f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T A x - x^T b \text{ is strictly convex for all } b. \\ A^{(k)} = A_{1:k, 1:k}, k = 1, 2, \dots, n \text{ is spd} \end{cases}$$





$$A = M^T M \iff \begin{cases} A \text{ is symmetric positive definite (spd)} \\ x^T A x > 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}. \\ Ax = \lambda x \implies \lambda > 0. \\ f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T A x - x^T b \text{ is strictly convex for all } b. \\ A^{(k)} = A_{1:k, 1:k}, k = 1, 2, \dots, n \text{ is spd} \end{cases}$$

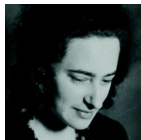
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{12}^T & A_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{a_{11}} & 0 \\ \frac{A_{12}^T}{\sqrt{a_{11}}} & \tilde{A}_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{a_{11}} & \frac{A_{12}}{\sqrt{a_{11}}} \\ 0 & \tilde{A}_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$



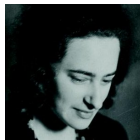




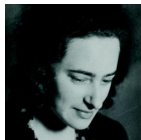
**Olga Taussky,**  
30 Aug 1906 – 7 Oct 1995



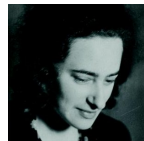
**Olga Taussky,**  
30 Aug 1906 – 7 Oct 1995



**Olga Taussky,**  
30 Aug 1906 – 7 Oct 1995

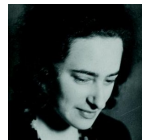


**Olga Taussky,**  
30 Aug 1906 – 7 Oct 1995

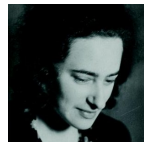




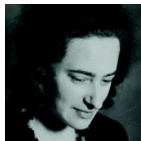
**Olga Taussky,**  
30 Aug 1906 – 7 Oct 1995

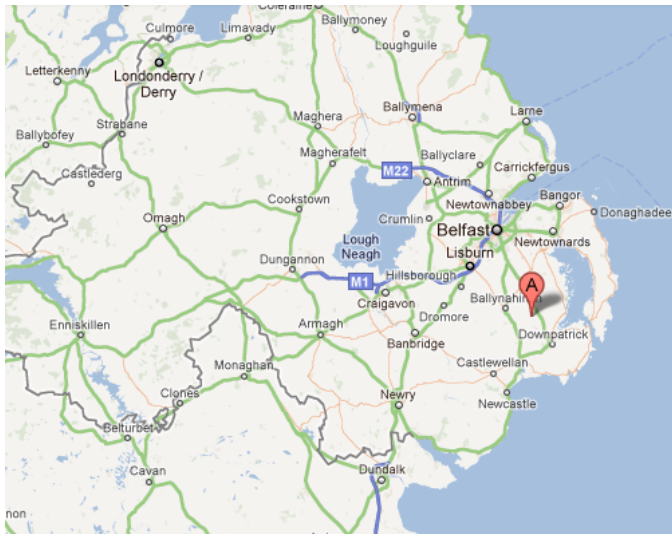


**Olga Taussky,**  
30 Aug 1906 – 7 Oct 1995



**Olga Taussky,**  
30 Aug 1906 – 7 Oct 1995





**John (“Jack”) Todd,**  
16 May 2011 – 21 June 2007



**John (“Jack”) Todd,**  
16 May 2011 – 21 June 2007



**John (“Jack”) Todd,**  
16 May 2011 – 21 June 2007



**John (“Jack”) Todd,**  
16 May 2011 – 21 June 2007





**John (“Jack”) Todd,**  
16 May 2011 – 21 June 2007

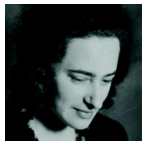


**John (“Jack”) Todd,**  
16 May 2011 – 21 June 2007



**John (“Jack”) Todd,**  
16 May 2011 – 21 June 2007





## Matrices with finite period

By OLGA TAUSKY and JOHN TODD.

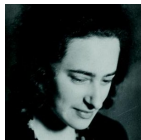
(Received 8th September, 1939. Read 25th November, 1939.)

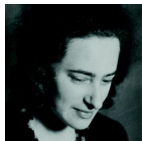
1. The study of the primitive solutions of the equation

$$(1) \quad A^r = 1,$$

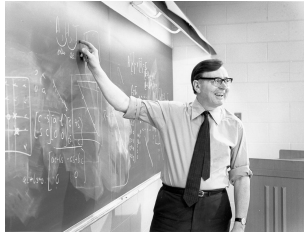
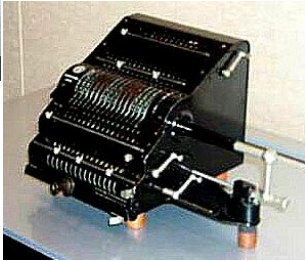
where  $A = (a_{ij})$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix whose elements are rational integers, was begun a long time ago<sup>1</sup>. In most cases this equation occurred incidentally in another theory; for instance Jordan encountered it in connection with linear differential equations having algebraic solutions, Minkowski in connection with quadratic forms and Turnbull in geometry. An important fact about these matrices is that any unimodular matrix can be represented as the product of matrices with finite period.

In this note we point out a connection between (1) and algebraic number fields generated by roots of unity. The methods we adopt can be applied to the study of a much larger class of matrices. In §2 we summarise those parts of Algebraic Number Theory which we require<sup>2</sup>.



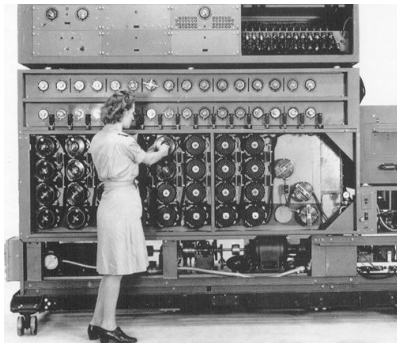


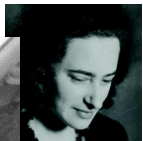
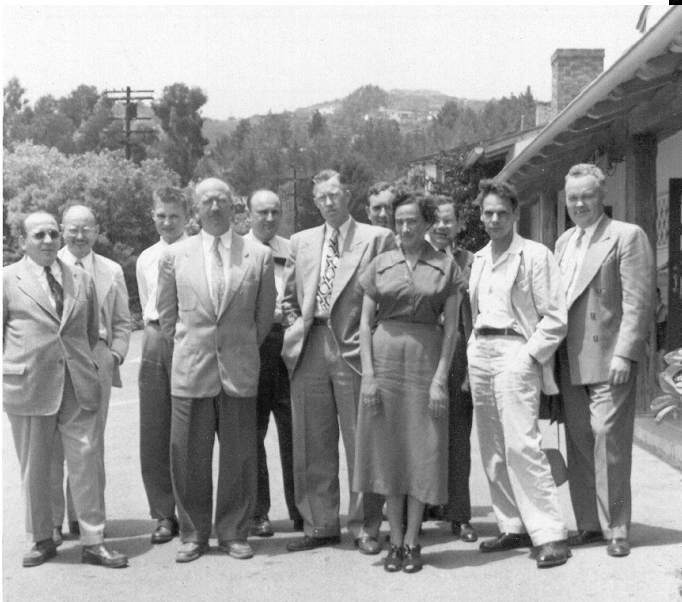






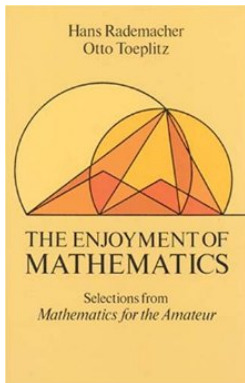
**Alan Turing,**  
23 Jun 1912 – 7 Jun 1954





## Otto Toeplitz

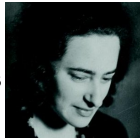
1 Aug 1881 – 15 Feb 1940





Numerical Algorithms (2006) 41: 197–202  
DOI: 10.1007/s11075-005-9012-4

© Springer 2006



## Cholesky, Toeplitz and the triangular factorization of symmetric matrices

Olga Taussky and John Todd

*California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, USA*

Received 1 October 2005; accepted 10 November 2005

Communicated by C. Brezinski and R. S. Varga

*In memory of Hans Zassenhaus, 1912–1991, who turned to computational mathematics after  
distinguished work in algebra*

The triangular factorization of symmetric matrices, usually ascribed to A. L. Cholesky, was (essentially) explicitly given by O. Toeplitz earlier, but rather parenthetically. Actually, the word ‘matrix’ does not appear in the report on Cholesky’s process; the matrix formulation seems due to Henry Jensen.

**Keywords:** linear systems, Cholesky method, Toeplitz, triangular factorization, symmetric matrices





$$D_0 := 0, \quad D_k = \det(A^{(k)}), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

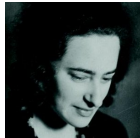
### Theorem (O. Toeplitz, 1907)

If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix, and  $D_1, \dots, D_n$  are all different from zero.

Then  $A = LL^T$  where

$$l_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{D_{j-1}} \det(A_{1:i, \{i:i-1, j\}}), & i = j, j + 1, \dots, n, j = 1, 2, \dots, n. \\ 0 & i < j \end{cases}$$





The aim of this has been:

- ▶ To present an account of an important but sometimes overlooked idea on linear algebra;
- ▶ To provide a carrier for some mild propaganda for numerical analysis;
- ▶ To put on record some of the important contributions to mathematics, and numerical mathematics in particular, made by John Todd.

Thank you!

