

Proficient programming usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, details of programming languages and generic code libraries, specialized algorithms, and formal logic. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory. Programming languages are essential for software development. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Debugging is often done with IDEs. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. Programming languages are essential for software development. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.