

Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL). It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years. Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. 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. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. While these are sometimes considered programming, often the term software development is used for this larger overall process – with the terms programming, implementation, and coding reserved for the writing and editing of code per se. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. 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. Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL).