

Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. Their jobs usually involve: Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. Their jobs usually involve: Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference. Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances. 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. 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). 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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.