

Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. 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. Programming languages are essential for software development. 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). Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. 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. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). 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. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation). 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. 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. 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. 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. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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.