

Programming languages are essential for software development. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). 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. 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. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software. 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. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. The following properties are among the most important: In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.