

The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). Allen Downey, in his book *How To Think Like A Computer Scientist*, writes: Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries. 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. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. 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). Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. However, readability is more than just programming style. Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. 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. 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. The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.