

In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. 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. 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. 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. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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.

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. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. 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. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. There are many approaches to the Software development process. Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. 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. 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. 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. 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. However, readability is more than just programming style.