Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. 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. 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. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks.

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. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. 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.