

In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. Some of these factors include: The presentation aspects of this (such as indents, line breaks, color highlighting, and so on) are often handled by the source code editor, but the content aspects reflect the programmer's talent and skills. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. 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. 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. 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. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. 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. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.