

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). However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. 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 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. 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. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. When debugging the problem in a GUI, the programmer can try to skip some user interaction from the original problem description and check if remaining actions are sufficient for bugs to appear. 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. 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. 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. 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. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). However, readability is more than just programming style. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. 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. 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). Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.