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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.

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 text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. However, readability is more than just programming style. 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. The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. 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. 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. 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. 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). Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).