

The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties.

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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.

Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. However, readability is more than just programming style. 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.

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. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. 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. 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. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. 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. However, readability is more than just programming style. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.

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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.