

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. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. 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. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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 study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. However, readability is more than just programming style. Programming languages are essential for software development. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Their jobs usually involve: Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. There are many approaches to the Software development process. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.