

High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. 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. Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages. 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. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. 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 a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. 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. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. 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. 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, 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 factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory. Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code. 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. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.