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. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. 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. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. 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. Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. 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.

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. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. 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. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation). Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. 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. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).