

They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in *A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages*. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. 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. 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). 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. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Programming languages are essential for software development. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. 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. 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. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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. Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers. 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.