Programmable devices have existed for centuries..  
 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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
 Allen Downey, in his book How To Think Like A Computer Scientist, writes:  
 Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries.  
 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.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
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.  
He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.