Programmable devices have existed for centuries..  
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.  
As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices.  
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.  
 After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug.  
 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).  
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).  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
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 applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
 Debugging is often done with IDEs. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.