The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems..  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly.