Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation..  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
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.  
 These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics.  
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.  
 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.