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..  
Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
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.  
 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.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 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.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
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.  
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.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.