Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users..  
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.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
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.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
 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.  
 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.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.