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..  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
 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.  
The following properties are among the most important:  
  
 In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code.  
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).  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.