A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling)..  
In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years.  
Their jobs usually involve:  
 Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
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.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
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.