The source code of a program is written in one or more languages that are intelligible to programmers, rather than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
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 usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
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.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.  
To produce machine code, the source code must either be compiled or transpiled.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
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 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly.  
For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
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.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.